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08 MAY 2023 [08:00 am]

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FINANCIAL TIMES

[COP28 team marshals oil and gas industry alliance ahead of climate summit](#)

By: Attracta Mooney and Camilla Hodgson

A new alliance of the oil and gas sector is being marshalled by the COP28 team behind the UN climate summit in the United Arab Emirates, but early outlines of its goals aimed at tackling global warming do not include the bulk of emissions that arise from the use of fossil fuels.

INTERAKSYON

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By: CBCP News

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By: Joel Tansey

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MANILA STANDARD

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Japan and UNDP have joined forces for another set of funding to support climate action, drive green transformation and ensure climate-resilient sustainable development.

PANAY NEWS

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President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. wants battery manufacturing facilities to be put up in the Philippines to support the local value chain and address the country’s energy issues.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[DBM chief enjoins gov’t agencies to bolster climate change programs](#)

By: Sofia Abrogar

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Saturday called on colleagues in government service to “intensify climate change planning and programming” as the nation marked Earth Day.

[‘French Spiderman’ takes climate campaign to new heights](#)

By: France Agenc Presse

An urban stunt climber known as the “French Spiderman” for his daring ascents conquered another landmark by scaling a 166-meter (381-foot) Barcelona skyscraper on Friday in a bid to raise awareness about climate change and drought.

[Mapping the investment ecosystem: Mining the sweet spots](#)

By: Alfredo E. Pascual

There are four industry clusters in which the Philippines has already developed some of the requisite competencies.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Germany, GIZ endorse digital tools to Popcom](#)

Local government units (LGUs) nationwide are now better-equipped to analyze internal and external movements of people, especially in the light of climate change, as the Commission on Population and Development (Popcom) now has full ownership of digital knowledge portals from the German government.

[\[Opinion\] Why climate alarmists switched brands from 'global warming' to 'climate change'](#)

By: Yen Makabenta

First word

It's important amid the noise about the climate, for both climate alarmists and climate skeptics to know precisely what they mean when they wave the terms in public, either in advocacy or opposition.

[Toyota pushes for carbon neutrality on Earth Month](#)

A GROUP of volunteers led by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) headed to the coast of Lian, Batangas for a mangrove-planting activity as part of the "All-Toyota Green Wave Project" (Green Wave).

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR chief meets with US council on climate change](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga has met with officials of the United States Council on Environmental Quality to explore possible areas of cooperation between the Philippines and the US on climate change.

[E-motorcycles inclusion in import tax breaks to be considered, says NEDA chief](#)

The inclusion of e-motorcycles in the import tariff incentives will take center stage once the mandatory review of Executive Order No.12 series of 2023 takes effect nine months from now, an economics official said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Earth Day: CCC calls for investment vs. climate change](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Saturday urged the public to make an investment in the environment to fight climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Vietnam reports record-high temperature

Vietnam has reported a record-high temperature, with climate experts warning such extreme weather events would continue.

The country's scientists have warned that global warming is exacerbating adverse weather, with the region sweltering under a heatwave in April -- when neighboring countries also registered record temperatures.

A temperature of 44.1 degrees Celcius (111.38 degrees Fahrenheit) was measured in Vietnam Saturday, the National Centre for Hydro Meteorological Forecasting said, breaking the 2019 record of 43.4 degrees Celsius.

Farmer Nguyen Thi Lan told AFP that temperatures in the central city of Danang had been increasingly hot, forcing workers to start earlier than ever.

"We have had to finish before 10:00 am to avoid the heat," she said.

Lan said forecasters said temperatures had risen to nearly 40 degrees Celsius.

"But at lunchtime, I think it was much hotter."

Vietnam's weather varies from north to south, but the entire country is now entering its hottest summer months.

The record temperature was measured indoors at Hoi Xuan station in northern Thanh Hoa province. It topped the previous high of 43.4 degrees Celsius, recorded in April 2019 at Huong Khe District in central Ha Tinh Province.

"This is a worrying record in the context of climate change and global warming," climate change expert Nguyen Ngoc Huy told AFP from the capital Hanoi.

"I believe this record will be repeated many times," he said. "It confirms that extreme climate models are being proven to be true."

Across the country, weather experts and authorities had warned the population to remain indoors during the hottest parts of the day.

Danang has asked Vietnam's industry and electricity ministries to "cooperate to effectively deal with the heat, possible drought, lack of water," according to state media.

Officials have also told the city's water supply company to ensure that there are adequate "supplies of water for domestic use".

At midday Saturday, Hanoi city center was almost empty as many remained indoors to avoid the sun.

- Intense heat -

In April, Asian countries sweltered under hot conditions -- posting record or near-record temperatures.

The Thai meteorological department reported a record-equaling 44.6 degrees Celsius in western Tak province, while Myanmar media said a town in the country's east reported decade-highs of 43.8 degrees.

While both countries typically endure a hot period before the rainy season, the intensity of the heat has exceeded previous records.

Further west, the capital of Bangladesh -- long dramatically impacted by climate change -- recorded its highest temperature since the 1960s.

At the same time, Indian weather authorities said parts of the country were experiencing temperatures roughly three to four degrees above normal.

A recent report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that "every increment of global warming will intensify multiple and concurrent hazards".

FINANCIAL TIMES

[COP28 team marshals oil and gas industry alliance ahead of climate summit](#)

By: Attracta Mooney and Camilla Hodgson

A new alliance of the oil and gas sector is being marshalled by the COP28 team behind the UN climate summit in the United Arab Emirates, but early outlines of its goals aimed at tackling global warming do not include the bulk of emissions that arise from the use of fossil fuels.

Billed as a flagship COP28 initiative, the provisionally named Global Decarbonization Alliance will set a goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2050 from direct emissions and emissions derived from the energy the companies purchase, known as scope 1 and 2, an initiating letter seen by the Financial Times says.

However, the framework as it is outlined in the letter does not include a target for so-called scope 3 emissions, or the indirect emissions that make up by far the biggest proportion of the sector's pollution.

The central question of these emissions was addressed by Sultan al-Jaber, president-designate of COP28 and head of the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, in a speech to the CERAWEEK energy conference in March.

He told the gathering that the oil and gas industry "has the capacity and the resources to help everyone address scope 3 emissions". The sector "needs to up its game, do more and do it faster".

Companies responsible for just under half of global oil and gas production have individually announced plans or targets to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions, "only a fraction" of which were sufficiently ambitious, according to the International Energy Agency.

"It's hard to see much decarbonisation in the Global Decarbonization Alliance," said Thomas Hale, director of the independent research group Net Zero Tracker, adding that any "credible" oil and gas COP initiative must address scope 3 emissions.

"The UAE as an oil and gas producer has a major opportunity to be the transformative force to bring together the whole industry to take this challenge seriously."

A private workshop is expected to take place next week in the UAE where the alliance and provisional framework will be discussed.

COP28 said it would not comment on leaked documents.

The recent letter outlining the goals was addressed to COP industry partners and sent by Samir Elshihabi, COP28 energy transition lead, who has worked at Occidental Petroleum in Abu Dhabi. “We aim to reach net zero emissions (Scope 1 and 2) under our control, and work with partners to achieve the same in non-operated assets, by or before 2050,” it said.

While it does not include reference to a quantifiable target for scope 3 emissions, it says that supporters of the planned alliance will be asked to back an “ambition” to work with customers, partners and other energy intensive industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It does set out progressive targets for methane in upstream production. Methane is the main component of gas and a potent contributor to global warming that can leak during production and distribution. It is estimated to account for about 30 per cent of the global temperature rise since the industrial revolution, with the energy industry making up about a third of human-induced methane.

The letter proposed a goal to end all routine flaring, where gas produced during oil production is burnt off rather than collected.

“We aim for zero routine flaring and near-zero methane emissions by 2030 on our upstream operations,” it said, without making reference to methane in midstream or pipeline operations.

The Oil and Gas Climate Initiative, launched in 2014, which is backed by Saudi Aramco, BP, ExxonMobil and other big oil and gas companies, already has a similar stated target of zero methane emissions.

The UAE-backed initiative includes the proposal that oil and gas companies in the alliance should aim to measure, verify and report their progress on cutting emissions and investment plans on how to do so, initially focused on 2030.

The petrostate has consistently said it wants to bring fossil fuel producers into the heart of efforts to tackle climate change.

At the Petersberg climate talks in Germany in the past week, attended by more than 40 country representatives, Jaber said fossil fuels would “continue to play a role in the foreseeable future”, and emphasised the use of carbon capture and storage to collect emissions from highly polluting industries, a technology yet to be proven at scale.

An official summary of the talks from Berlin said there had been “much debate” among the representatives about the extent to which carbon capture and storage should be deployed in the energy sector. “Caution” was voiced by some about “the cost, unclear timescales, potential to delay the transition, and environmental impacts” of pairing CCS with fossil fuels, it said.

In discussions about increasing renewable energy, “some” countries had stressed the need to “substitute” fossil fuels for clean sources of power, the summary noted.

INTERAKSYON

[Church groups lead call for Marcos to declare 'climate emergency'](#)

By: CBCP News

Several Catholic organizations submitted a petition urging President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to recognize the country's urgent situation and declare a climate emergency.

Various climate activists marched in Manila on Thursday to hand over to Malacañang their petition to place the nation under such a state of emergency.

The march, however, failed to reach Mendiola after they were blocked by riot police at corner of Legarda and Figueras streets.

Some of their leaders were instead allowed to enter the Palace compound to formally submit their petition to the government.

Fr. Tony Labiao, Caritas Philippines executive secretary, said they want "a swift transition to a low-carbon economy, the protection of natural habitats and ecosystems, and the adoption of just, pro-people, and sustainable economic development practices across all sectors".

"We invite everyone to join us calling-out our leaders and to raise our voices for the dignity of our common home and for our future generations," Labiao said.

According to them, the declaration of a climate emergency would signal that the government acknowledges the gravity of the situation and is willing to take bold action to mitigate its effects.

Among those who attended the rally were Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, president of Caritas Philippines, a number of religious missionaries, and representatives of various civil society organizations.

Saying that climate change is becoming an existential issue globally, Columban lay missionary John Din stressed that all citizens should take action.

"Immediate actions to address the climate emergency should be our utmost concern," said Din, who is also the national coordinator of Laudato Si Movement–Philippines.

Over 160 institutions — dioceses, schools, parishes, non-government organizations, and people's organizations have already declared a climate emergency.

They have committed to take concrete steps to address it and challenge the government to do the same at this most critical time.

They also called on Marcos to urgently implement policies and programs that will address the root causes of climate change.

“We are declaring that we are now in a state of climate emergency and we commit to do sustained and bold actions to help slow down environmental deterioration, with sustained regenerative actions to restore ecological balance,” said Yolanda Esguerra, national coordinator of Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc.

“Likewise, we shall challenge the government to declare a climate emergency and take the lead in fulfilling its mandate to protect the well-being of both nature and people, ensuring that a clear and comprehensive plan containing strategic and urgent actions are put in place to address climate change impacts,” she added.

The declaration of climate emergency is a campaign initiated by the “Rights of Nature PH” with other civil society groups to mobilize Filipinos to an “all of nation approach” in addressing the climate crisis.

JAPAN TIMES

[In G7 host Hiroshima, a climate disaster in all but name](#)

By: Joel Tansey

As the leaders of the world's leading rich nations meet in Hiroshima with the twin crises of energy security and climate change looming large, they won't need to look far for an example of how a warming planet's effects are already wreaking havoc on even the wealthiest economies.

Hiroshima Prefecture, the capital of which will host the Group of Seven leaders from May 19 to 21, was one of the hardest-hit areas of Japan when torrential rain engulfed a large swath of the country in the summer of 2018, causing flooding, landslides, debris flow and erosion that left over 230 dead and cost ¥1.16 trillion (about \$10 billion at the time), or roughly 2.6% of the country's nominal gross domestic product in 2018.

The rain disaster was immediately followed by a calamity of another sort: a deadly heat wave, with temperatures in Celsius soaring into the upper 30s in many parts of the country and even into the low 40s in some areas.

With the G7 representing seven of the top 21 carbon emitters in 2021 and historically having contributed an even larger share of planet-warming greenhouse gases, the more vulnerable nations in the "Global South" — from flood-ravaged Pakistan to countries like the Marshall Islands, whose very existence is at stake — will be looking for the wealthy nations to provide leadership on climate change.

But the uneven climate record of host Japan — seen as largely responsible for the failure to agree on a phaseout of coal at the G7 environment ministers meeting in Sapporo last month — should stop them from setting their hopes too high, with its policies emerging from a context of political and public reluctance to fully recognize how global warming is already wreaking havoc on Japanese cities.

In fact, Hiroshima itself serves as a reminder that climate change — like the COVID-19 pandemic — doesn't recognize national borders and even the world's richest nations won't be able to spend their way out of climate-linked disasters.

And Japan, despite recent destruction brought by floods, heat waves, landslides and typhoons, may need that reminder more than most: While the effects of climate change have created anxiety in many corners of the world, surveys show that Japanese are curiously far less concerned about warming than citizens of other nations, and the country's much-criticized climate policies appear to bear that out.

‘Stronger and stronger’

Yoko Iwamoto, an associate professor at Hiroshima University, recalls working late on a Friday night in July 2018 when an alarm went off on her smartphone.

The downpour that had been falling on the school’s main campus in mountainous Higashihiroshima, part of an extended period of heavy rain resulting from a stationary seasonal front across much of Japan — and enhanced by a typhoon that swept through the Tsushima Strait — was turning into something more dangerous.

“The rain was becoming stronger and stronger,” Iwamoto says. “I felt very scared, so I decided to go home.”

She trekked through a parking lot that by then was “almost a pond” and managed to drive home.

Iwamoto, whose research focuses on oceans and the atmosphere and how climate change is impacting both, considers herself lucky. While her home was undamaged, residents of an adjacent district were not so fortunate. Her brother’s family, living in neighboring Kure, was without water services for two weeks, just as a deadly heat wave arrived that a study by the Meteorological Research Institute (MRI) later showed could not have happened without human-caused warming.

Altogether, 1,243 landslides occurred in Hiroshima Prefecture in 2018 — many of them in Higashihiroshima — more than the annual average for the entire country through 2017, according to land ministry data.

Across the country from June 28 to July 8, 24-hour rainfall records were broken at 77 weather stations out of 1,300, 48-hour records at 125 stations and 72-hour records at 123 stations, according to a 2018 report by the land ministry.

Other instances of record-breaking rains have struck Japan in recent years, triggering landslides and floods that have left a trail of death and destruction: Sixty-five dead in Kumamoto Prefecture in 2020 and over two dozen dead in Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, a year later.

Scientists say torrential rain disasters are both becoming more severe and occurring more frequently as the planet warms.

Hiroaki Kawase, a senior researcher with the MRI’s Department of Applied Meteorology Research, says that, based on 1 degree Celsius of warming since preindustrial times, the 2018 rains were 6% to 7% more severe and three times more likely to occur. That’s

because warmer air can hold more water vapor, leading to more precipitation, raising the key question of how high that percentage might go if the world doesn't curb emissions.

And that's particularly concerning for a country like Japan given its geography.

"Japan is located in the mid latitude and is (surrounded) by the ocean, so there is a lot of moisture from the south tropics, and then we have ... many mountains which cause heavy rainfall," Kawase says. "This causes a lot of river discharge and sometimes leads to flooding."

Vulnerable land

Flooding, however, is only one side of the issue.

The 2018 disaster was particularly damaging because of the number of landslides triggered by the heavy rains.

Here, too, the makeup of the Japanese archipelago makes the country vulnerable, and that goes beyond the simple fact that large numbers of people live on or near steep slopes.

"One of the reasons for the increasing risk of landslides is the geology," says Shuji Moriguchi, an associate professor at Tohoku University's International Research Institute of Disaster Science and an expert on slope disasters.

Large areas of Japan, particularly in the west, are covered with a weak layer of granite soil, Moriguchi explains, with hard bedrock lying underneath.

"Granite soil is a very problematic soil and it has a very high risk of landslide," he adds, noting that this was believed to be the culprit for many of the landslides that hit Hiroshima Prefecture in 2018.

The landslides are made worse because that solid granite rock underneath the weaker soil layer can also come down during a landslide.

"In that case, the debris flow should have a very high energy and impact," Moriguchi says.

His latest research focuses on projections for when mountainsides might give way. While the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) already produces real-time landslide hazard maps, the data isn't granular enough to warn residents of homes on individual

slopes of impending danger. Moriguchi hopes to change that and eventually give people precise alerts telling them when it's time to evacuate.

Whether they choose to do so is another matter.

One of the factors behind the high death toll in the 2018 floods was a failure by residents to evacuate safely. For some, the country's warning system activated too late at night or wasn't clear enough (The JMA revamped its warning system a year after the disaster, with the most severe level urging people to do whatever it takes to save one's own life.) For others, particularly the elderly, evacuating in treacherous conditions wasn't a realistic option.

But some simply chose to stay put, perhaps believing that the storm would pass without major incident or that their home offered them all the protection they needed.

"From researchers' perspectives, we have to develop science. For me that's the prediction method," Moriguchi says. "One more important point is to change people's minds (toward) evacuation.

"I think this is the most important thing, but it's a really difficult problem."

Mild concern

With Japan having experienced deadly torrential rain disasters and heat waves made worse by climate change — and that's to say nothing of powerful typhoons that are also exacerbated by warming — one might expect the population to be anxious about what will happen in a world that's even hotter than it is now.

Surveys, however, reveal only a mild level of concern.

A 2021 survey by the Pew Research Center showed that only 26% of Japanese respondents were "very" concerned about how climate change would affect them personally, down 8 percentage points from the previous survey in 2015, making Japan the only nation among 16 advanced economies polled to show a significant decline.

For some G7 peers, the share of those who are very concerned shot up significantly: by 19 points to reach 37% in Germany and 18 points in the U.K. to also hit 37%. While Japan's 26% share placed it last in the G7, the country did nonetheless have the highest share of people who said they were "somewhat" concerned about climate change.

A 2022 survey by Ipsos Global Advisor showed similar results, with just 34% of Japanese answering they had worried “a great deal” about climate change over the past two to three weeks, compared with the global average of 48%. Only the Netherlands, Russia and China had a lower rate.

One study, by Yale University in 2022, did put the level of Japanese respondents’ concerns in line or even beyond those in other developed nations. But even then, compared with other Asia-Pacific economies, a lower share of Japanese respondents expected global warming to be personally harmful: A total of 33% of respondents felt they would experience “a great deal” of harm due to climate change, while 43% expected “a moderate amount.”

Yasuko Kameyama, a professor with the University of Tokyo’s Graduate School of Frontier Sciences and a senior researcher with the state-run National Institute of Environmental Studies, believes the lack of concern among many Japanese comes in part from how disasters are reported by major media outlets.

The Yale study would seem to bear that out. The survey showed that only 21% of people in Japan reported hearing about climate change at least once a week, compared with 48% and 41% in Canada and the United States, respectively, at least 50% in France, Australia and the U.K., and over 60% in Germany and Sweden.

“Japanese people know as a part of education and a part of basic learning that (carbon dioxide) will warm up the world, and everybody has heard of global warming or climate change. They know it’s there,” Kameyama says.

“Newspapers or TV news, whenever they explain the extreme weather events they do not explain the (links) between such extreme weather events and climate change, and I think that has really affected people’s understanding or misunderstanding of climate change in Japan.”

But in a democracy with a highly educated population, it’s perhaps nonetheless fair to point the finger at the public for not demanding more from their elected leaders.

The study by Yale showed that just 17% of Japanese believe climate should be a “very high” priority for the government, last in the G7 by 12 percentage points.

“Whenever I have a chance to talk with people who are aware of climate change and who are worried about climate change, they tend to ask me, ‘What can we do to save the climate?’” Kameyama says. “So I recommended them to reach out to other people and try to convey messages that they are worried about climate change. And that’s the only way to change the mindset of political leaders, even at a local level.”

Indeed, Kameyama also contrasted the way Japanese leaders speak about disasters compared with their counterparts in other countries.

When U.S. President Joe Biden visited California in January after deadly storms lashed parts of the typically dry state, he opened his remarks by saying, “If anybody doubts that climate is changing, then they must have been asleep for the last couple of years.”

In his remarks during his visit to western Japan in the aftermath of the 2018 floods, then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe didn’t mention climate change at all, although he did refer to the link between the disaster and climate later that year — albeit in an English-language op-ed for the Financial Times. Other top lawmakers have referred to the link between recent disasters and climate change — including Fumio Kishida before he became prime minister — but not as forcefully as Western leaders and in government meetings where the messaging might not be as impactful.

“Whenever there is a flood or extreme weather events in his or her own country, (other G7 leaders) will go to the place and they will talk about climate change,” Kameyama says. “And everybody’s watching (them) talk about or relate the loss and damage to climate change.

“In Japan, we never see that happen.”

JOURNAL ONLINE

[PBBM looks forward to 'follow through' of PH, US teams on areas of cooperation identified in Washington visit](#)

Describing his high-level discussions with United States officials as “productive,” President Ferdinand R. Marcos on Thursday said he looks forward to the accomplishment of the partnerships and agreements sealed between Manila and Washington.

“I look forward to having our respective teams follow through on the many areas of cooperation that we have identified, which will help advance our key priorities with respect to agriculture and food security, promoting energy security as we transition to clean energy, and boost trade and build resilience of our supply chains, enhancing connectivity and digitalization, also climate change mitigation and adaptation,” Marcos told the media in his post-visit report.

In his visit to Washington, the President also met a number of US companies—“both those looking to further expand their... presence and operations in the Philippines and those looking to invest for the first time.”

“Together, we will be working on addressing some of our key economic challenges, particularly food, energy, and health security, digital connectivity, and the cross-cutting issues of climate change and pandemic preparedness,” Marcos said.

The chief executive also welcomed the initiatives of the US government and its business leaders to “expand collaboration with the Philippine government and our universities to support the continued growth of local talent.”

Complemented by game-changing economic reforms, this will serve as a firm foundation for an indomitable partnership, he said.

In his speech, the President also thanked the Filipino community in the US for bringing honor to their home country in the practice of their trade and chosen profession. He urged them to “continue to be our partners in promoting the country for tourism and investments.”

MANILA STANDARD

[Japan vows \\$23.6-m climate change fund](#)

Japan and UNDP have joined forces for another set of funding to support climate action, drive green transformation and ensure climate-resilient sustainable development.

The second phase of the Japan Supplementary Budget funds seeks to respond to the growing demand of developing countries supported by UNDP to take climate action and deliver on national climate pledges (also known as NDC), while also addressing complex current crises that pose a critical threat to global human security.

Priorities of the new support package include increasing resilience and adapting to climate impacts on food security, reducing risk from climate-induced events such as floods and mudslides, and driving innovation to urgently advance renewable energy, sustainable transportation, energy efficiency and energy access for the most vulnerable communities.

“The 1.5°C limit of the global temperature rise as set by the Paris Agreement is still within reach. But as the UN Secretary-General said, it will take a quantum leap in climate action. UNDP’s renewed partnership with Japan will serve to make this urgent action possible and tackle multi-faceted crises in many countries,” said Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP’s Bureau for Policy and Program Support.

Japan’s \$23.6-million contribution will assist 16 countries across Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Africa, and Arab State regions through UNDP’s Climate Promise initiative. The countries included in the new phase of support are Armenia, Bhutan, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The first round of funding from Japan enabled countries to advance new clean technologies and practices across different sectors such as in Egypt, Maldives and Bosnia and Herzegovina, develop policies that set ambitious climate action on the ground such as in Indonesia.

In Kenya and Georgia, the initiative improved forest management to increase reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Tajikistan was able to install early-warning systems that strengthen resilience of the local communities.

UNDP’s Climate Promise is the largest global offer of support to countries on their national pledges to the Paris Agreement. Together with its partners, the initiative

currently supports over 120 countries, representing 80 percent of all developing countries worldwide, to define their NDCs, by engaging stakeholders across Government and society. To date, 106 of these countries have submitted NDCs to the UNFCCC and are now working toward their implementation.

At COP26 in 2021, UNDP launched the new chapter of the Climate Promise—From Pledge to Impact—scaling up its support to turn NDC targets into concrete action.

Japan became the largest supporter of this chapter of the global leading initiative and joined the long-standing funding partners Germany, Sweden, EU, Spain, Italy, as well as new funding partners including the United Kingdom, Belgium, Iceland, and Portugal, to accelerate these efforts in collaboration with the NDC Partnership.

PANAY NEWS

[Marcos wants battery production in PH](#)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. wants battery manufacturing facilities to be put up in the Philippines to support the local value chain and address the country’s energy issues.

At his meeting with US business firms, Marcos said technology and industry participants were needed for the battery facility to materialize.

He told US business executives that the Philippines is low in leveraging its mineral resources as he floated the possibility of producing batteries in the country with the availability of green metals such as cobalt and nickel.

“As I said, we would like to go beyond just the phase of just extracting the minerals and to actually go vertically integrate that entire activity all the way down to actual battery production,” Marcos said.

“Since battery production is now going to be or has become such an important part of our businesses with the advent... of climate change and the Philippines being vulnerable to the effects of climate change,” he added.

With the aid of foreign technology and capital, Marcos said local battery production could be a solution for the country’s problems when it comes to energy supply.

Marcos said the government has been working to move the Philippines’ energy mix from traditional fossil fuels to renewables.

“And the part that batteries will play in that whole system cannot be overstated. And that is why it would be very good if we could bring the industry into the Philippines,” Marcos said.

“But to do that we need technology, we need of course the capital and the resources to undertake such activities. They are not small projects and so they require major funding and that again is another part of the situation that we have to deal with,” he added.

During his talk with mining companies, the President said buyers of mineral products insist upon a declaration of proof that the products being sold were built using green energy.

“And that I think is going to be an important part in making hopefully the manufacturing of batteries in the Philippines a success,” he said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[DBM chief enjoins gov't agencies to bolster climate change programs](#)

By: Sofia Abrogar

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Saturday called on colleagues in government service to “intensify climate change planning and programming” as the nation marked Earth Day.

“In our goal of achieving the Marcos administration’s Agenda for Prosperity, I would like to reiterate my call to every national government agency and all stakeholders to intensify our climate change planning and programming,” Pangandaman said in a statement.

“Let us ensure that we identify environment-related programs and projects in our preparation of the national budget in line with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028,” she added.

As part of its response to climate change in the country, Pangandaman reported that the DBM has allocated P2.39 billion for the implementation of the National Greening Program.

The program under the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) aims to reforest “unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands” in the country.

DENR announced in November plans to intensify the program, targeting to plant on over 2 million hectares of land by 2028.

The greening initiative also includes provisions for the Protected Areas Development and Management Program, Manila Bay Rehabilitation, and Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program.

“The serious implications that climate change poses are not just a problem for the next generation but also a present danger that is undeniably felt in our time,” said the state budget secretary.

“We need to act now by protecting our planet and its natural resources before it’s too late.”

'French Spiderman' takes climate campaign to new heights

By: France Agenc Presse

An urban stunt climber known as the “French Spiderman” for his daring ascents conquered another landmark by scaling a 166-meter (381-foot) Barcelona skyscraper on Friday in a bid to raise awareness about climate change and drought.

Sixty-year-old Alain Robert crawled up the exterior of the glass and steel-covered Melia Barcelona Sky Hotel, the Spanish city’s fourth-tallest building, with just a bag of powdered chalk and climbing shoes to aid his ascent.

Mapping the investment ecosystem: Mining the sweet spots

By: Alfredo E. Pascual

There are four industry clusters in which the Philippines has already developed some of the requisite competencies.

Within the industrial, manufacturing and transport cluster, we are eager to attract investments in aerospace, automotive, semiconductors and electronics. For example, our country is home to Collins Aerospace, the world's leading aircraft interiors company, and Lufthansa Technik, a top aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul provider doing the maintenance, repair and overhaul at various aircrafts in the Philippines. In August last year, we witnessed Lufthansa Technik's further expansion in its facilities in Metro Manila.

Our country is eager to join the global electric vehicle value chain as the global shift toward green products, such as electric vehicles (EVs), gains momentum due to climate change concerns. We welcome foreign investments introducing relevant EV technologies and capitalizing on our abundant green metals, such as nickel, copper and cobalt. We can be a critical partner for these essential minerals, not as an exporter of raw ores, but mainly as processor and producer of semifinished and finished products, such as batteries. We're moving in this direction. In the semiconductor and electronics sectors, we seek foreign investments that promote higher value addition, including skills enhancement in research and development, to improve business prospects for firms in the outsourced semiconductor assembly and test operation. We'd like to go up the value chain, up to probably integrated circuit design and others.

Digital economy

Within the technology, media and telecommunications (TMT) cluster, we aim to engage investors in developing our digital economy, information technology-business process management, hyperscale data centers, and products utilizing artificial intelligence, robotics, 5G, and the internet of things. We encourage investors to leverage the majority (82 percent) of our business process outsourcing firms and shared services centers that already cater to global markets.

For investors in our creative industries, in new films, new laws have been passed for the creative industries. The implementation of the law has again been placed at the hands of Department of Trade and Industry. The investors in the creative industry who are also part of the TMT cluster can anticipate the implementation of this law, the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act. This law recognizes creativity as a cornerstone of our national identity. In line with this, we will establish the Creative Venture Fund, which will finance creative enterprises and individuals as they expand their pursuits, fostering

a vibrant and innovative creative sector. I think this has a lot of potential to work to achieve that potential. In the health and life science sector, we are committed to fostering a strategic security role and creating opportunities for our country. We invite investments in pharmaceutical products, medical devices and health management systems. I'm thinking, for example, of getting Japanese pharmaceutical companies — they're running out of working-age people—to bring their manufacturing facility here. We'll provide the raw materials, we'll do the products here and export back to Japan. That's happening in Dubai; what they do is import all the raw materials from what they call ecozones. They import materials from Europe and do the assembly, finished products and manufacturing in Dubai to export back to Europe.

Resilient economy

To achieve the fourth cluster, the modern basic needs of a resilient economy, we must meet the modern ways of a resilient economy. This cluster addresses the essential needs of Filipino consumers, such as food, goods and energy. Food is very important. We're working hard to get a supply chain for food organized, so we won't again suffer from the P800 per kilo price of onion, when the farmgate price is less than P50 per kilo. Moreover, we recognize the critical importance of food security in achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Consequently, we welcome investments in agribusiness, agriculture technology, food processing and packaging and aquaculture. We are moving toward industrialized farming and the challenges of how we consolidate the lands. Hopefully, there is a new law that will focus on land reform that will allow the leasing of land to those who will operate the farm on a big-scale basis.

The Philippines is also dedicated to transitioning to renewable energy (RE) as outlined in the Philippine Energy Plan for 2020 to 2040. Our National RE Program aims for 50 percent RE generation by 2040. With recent reforms allowing foreigners to own up to 100 percent of RE projects in the country, we are working to increase the share of renewables in our national power generation.

We firmly believe that dependable infrastructure is essential for businesses investing in the Philippines. Following the President's directives, we are committed to building better and more extensive infrastructure in transport and logistics; energy, information, communication and technology; and food logistics. Connecting our ecozones, trade centers and manufacturing and logistics hubs will facilitate vibrant trade and balanced growth among regions. This strategy will address transport and logistics constraints, energy shortages and costs, as well as connectivity issues hindering economic activities, particularly investments.

For instance, we are making significant progress on the 147-kilometer commuter rail connecting our technology industrial sites in Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Rizal,

Batangas and Quezon), south of Manila, to Clark Airport, north of Manila. Other noteworthy projects are in other parts of the country in transport infrastructure.

Future of work

Another attractive aspect of investing in the Philippines is our commitment to develop a skilled workforce. Preparing our workforce for the future is crucial, as we encourage employers to upskill workers while also recognizing the importance of aligning our learning systems with learning institutions. With close to 800,000 Filipino graduates annually, companies should find recruiting our intelligent, young, tech-savvy and productive workforce promising. Note that our country has a large and young population, which is a significant attraction to many foreign investors. We have the youngest population in our region. The developed countries have an average age of 40s and high 30s, while we have less than 24 years old in median age.

For example, we support the Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Alliance (AmDev) launched recently by the United States Agency for International Development, which I attended. This five-year, P622-million partnership with Unilab Foundation aims to train Filipino workers to meet the evolving demands of the manufacturing sector. We also support AmDev's goal of improving the capacity of our education system to develop human capital in line with Industry 4.0 requirements.

Investors, especially foreign investors, are crucial in accelerating the Philippine economic development. We aim for them to recognize the potential of our country and support in making our country grow, in our investment landscape. We encourage them to invest in our priority clusters for industrialization, and we pledge to support them as they capitalize on our reforms. Our continuing message and invitation to investors remain steadfast: make it happen in the Philippines. —Contributed INQ

(This was lifted from the keynote speech delivered at the Department of Trade-Board of Investment-Management Association of the Philippines Forum on April 19.. The author is Trade Secretary and a past president of MAP. Feedback at map@map.org.ph).

THE MANILA TIMES

[Germany, GIZ endorse digital tools to Popcom](#)

Local government units (LGUs) nationwide are now better-equipped to analyze internal and external movements of people, especially in the light of climate change, as the Commission on Population and Development (Popcom) now has full ownership of digital knowledge portals from the German government.

Specifically, Popcom has received two vital tools from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the German Agency for International Development or GIZ, which can support LGUs in effective planning and policy-making in their respective areas, with particular focus on climate change-influenced migrations. GIZ officially handed over to Popcom on April 19 the online resources on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (HMCCC).

Accessible via the Popcom website, they include: The Digitalized Registry of Barangay Inhabitants and Migrants (D-RBIM) — a demographic database of residents and migrants of implementing LGUs for analysis, which will be vital for development planning and programming; and the Popcom Knowledge Portal — an open-access platform to the agency's knowledge products on population and development or Popdev, including HMCCC research studies.

According to Popcom, migration is one of the more difficult population statistics to discern, apart from births and deaths, which are available through registries. GIZ Philippines Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Cluster Coordinator Dr. Bjoern Surborg confirmed that the HMCCC resources "will provide clarity on the drivers and decision-making processes of individuals and families and households for migrating."

For Executive Director Lisa Grace Bersales of Popcom, "it would be interesting for LGUs to scrutinize and find out if the prevailing climate in their areas of responsibility can influence in the crafting of pertinent policies that would assist migrating locals, especially those who will require special aid in the long term."

PH migration stats

According to the Manual of Operations for the Establishment of RBIM Database System and the World Bank in 2017, urban population in the Philippines has increased by over 50 million in the last 50 years; and in 2050, 102 million Filipinos, or over 65 percent of the total population, will reside in cities.

Referencing the Philippine Statistics Authority, the main destination for long-distance movers is CALABARZON Region, which absorbs 27.7 percent; followed by Metro Manila (19.7 percent) and Central Luzon (13 percent). The World Bank also reported then that the high volume of migrants to cities has strained housing, infrastructure and basic services in major cities.

As a result, informal settlements have proliferated: the number of informal settlers in the Philippines has increased from 4.1 percent of the total urban population in 2003 to 5.4 percent; and in 2012 when 2.2 million lived in informal settlements, of which 1.3 million were in the National Capital Region (NCR) alone.

The last National Migration Survey (NMS) in 2018 also described Filipinos as "highly mobile," with 40 percent being lifetime migrants, and 57 percent having crossed regional boundaries. Some 55 percent of Filipinos ever migrated for three months or more; and in the last five years since then, 15 percent had migrated.

The NMS also revealed that change in residence most commonly involved movement from one region to another (23 percent), followed by movement from one city or municipality to another within the same province (12 percent).

Regarding interregional migration in the past five years, NCR and Calabarzon remained the most common destination regions but at the same time, also registered the largest number of out-migrants in the same period. Both retained the status for migration within regions in the five years prior to the survey. It also noted that "for major receiving and sending areas, changes in their population due to migration will mean ever-changing service requirements; for economically driven migration, there will be implications to a receiving LGU's capacity to generate jobs, and balance this to the needs of the locals and the migrants."

"Housing-related movements will put pressure on an LGU's land-use and spatial planning to make sure that they can respond in both policy and programs to optimize the economic benefit of these movements and minimize their social cost...Receiving LGUs need to assess their absorptive capacity for in-migration," said the 2018 NMS.

For the United Nations Population Fund or UNFPA, "migration...is a key driving force in development as well as in population change...With the expected fertility decrease in years to come, migration's contribution to population change will become more pivotal than ever."

Climate-driven migration

The 2020 Sub-Committee on Internal Migration Virtual Meeting and Validation Workshop disclosed there were "lower out-migration rates to municipalities with higher levels of rainfall (relative to the municipality of origin)," and that there were "higher migration rates to municipalities with higher number of consecutive dry days."

Popcom also reported that "environmental factors indirectly affect migration to or from a locality by directly affecting economic and social factors and vice-versa," and that "climate-sensitive infectious diseases caused by environmental factors like floods and storm surges would affect human-population health."

The agency also found out that climate events and processes would affect food adequacy, nutritional status and agricultural investments. Moving forward, Popcom Deputy Executive Director Lolito Tacardon confirmed that the HMCCC databases "will undergo further improvement for different population processes, including human mobility, which is the most difficult population metric to ascertain."

[\[Opinion\] Why climate alarmists switched brands from 'global warming' to 'climate change'](#)

By: Yen Makabenta

First word

It's important amid the noise about the climate, for both climate alarmists and climate skeptics to know precisely what they mean when they wave the terms in public, either in advocacy or opposition.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Geographic magazine, global warming and climate change are not interchangeable. Scientifically, they mean different things.

In its article on climate change and global warming, Wikipedia instructively recounts the origins and evolution of the terminology. It says:

"Before the 1980s, when it was unclear whether the warming effect of increased greenhouse gases were stronger than the cooling effect of airborne particulates in air pollution, scientists used the term 'inadvertent climate modification' to refer to human impacts on the climate.

"In the 1980s, the terms global warming and climate change became more common. Though the two terms are sometimes used interchangeably, scientifically, global warming refers only to increased surface warming, while climate change describes the totality of changes to Earth's climate system.

"Global warming — used as early as 1975 — became the more popular term after NASA climate scientist James Hansen used it in his 1988 testimony in the US Senate. Since the 2000s, climate change has increased in usage. Climate change can also refer more broadly to both human-caused changes or natural changes throughout Earth's history.

"Various scientists, politicians and media now use the term climate crisis or climate emergency to talk about climate change, and global heating instead of global warming."

"During the turn of the century from the 20th to the 21st, alarmists joined by the media promoted an explicit shift from global warming to climate change in the burgeoning climate change movement.

"One reason for the change was a perceived need of a vocabulary in the face of a storm of criticism and skepticism that erupted in the media.

"The second reason was strategic. There was a definite desire to rebrand as a means to make global warming more popular with public opinion."

Changing reality with words

Victor Davis Hanson, a historian and classics professor at the Hoover Institution in Stanford University, offered an intriguing explanation and case for the vocabulary change in his essay in Investor's Business Daily (Jan. 21, 2019) entitled "Changing reality with words."

Hanson's main thesis is that the reinvention of vocabulary can often be more effective than any social protest movement. Malarial swamps can become healthy "wetlands." Fetid "dumps" are often rebranded as green "landfills." And he used global warming as one major illustration of his argument. He wrote:

"Global warming was once a worry about too much heat. It implied that man-made carbon emissions had so warmed the planet that life as we knew it would soon be imperiled without radical changes in consumer lifestyles.

"Yet in the last 30 years, record cold spells, inordinate snow levels and devastating rains have been common. How to square that circle?

"Substitute 'climate change' for global warming. Presto! Any radical change in weather could be perceived as symptomatic of too much climate-changing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"Suddenly, blizzards, deluges and subzero temperatures meant that typically unpredictable weather was 'haywire' because of affluent Westernized lifestyles."

In the same essay, Hanson also recounted how the term and concept of "affirmative action" came to be replaced by the term and concept of "diversity" in contemporary culture. He wrote:

"Affirmative action originated as a means of making up for past prejudices against the African American community, which comprised about 12 percent of the population.

"By the late 1960s, slavery, Jim Crow and institutionalized segregation were finally considered unique stains on the American past, to be redeemed in the present by set-aside programs in college admissions and hiring predicated on racial considerations.

"The problem with affirmative action is that the very name implies redress for historical wrongs that could be "affirmed" by compensatory action for a particular minority of the

population. But lots of other groups wished to be included in an ever-expanding catalog of the oppressed."

Rebranding

Rebranding is a popular term and concept from the world of business management and marketing. Companies and organizations resort to rebranding in order to enhance their public standing and acceptability to the public.

Often, this involves radical changes to a brand's logo, name, legal names, image, marketing strategy and advertising themes. Such changes typically aim to reposition the brand/company, occasionally to distance itself from negative connotations of the previous branding, or to move the brand upmarket; they may also communicate a new message that a new board of directors wishes to communicate.

Rebranding can be applied to new products, mature products, or even products still in development. The process can occur through a change in marketing strategy or in various other situations such as Chapter 11 corporate restructuring, union busting or bankruptcy. Rebranding can also refer to a change in a company or corporate brand that may own several sub-brands for products or companies.

Rebranding became something of a fad at the turn of the millennium, with some companies rebranding several times. The rebranding of Philip Morris to Altria was done to help the company shed its negative image. Other rebrandings, such as the British Post Office's attempt to rebrand itself as Consignia, have proved such a failure that millions more had to be spent going back to square one.

In a study of 165 cases of rebranding, Muzellec and Lambkin (2006) found that whether a rebranding follows from corporate strategy (e.g., M&A) or constitutes the actual marketing strategy (change the corporate reputation), it aims at enhancing, regaining, transferring and/or recreating the corporate brand equity.

Much the same course has been followed by the climate alarmists in their program to promote radical change in public policy to address global warming and the environment.

When the global warming alarm was greeted by a charge of 'hot air' from no less than UK prime minister Margaret Thatcher, and "hoax" from US president Donald Trump, and "science fiction" in the US Congress, and "travesty" by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George Will, the movement had to look in the mirror.

The wave of criticism prompted the climate alarmist to undertake a review of the program and their public image. It was then that they decided to change brands from "global warming" to "climate change."

Has the switch been successful in selling climate alarmism to humanity?

The issue is open. Skeptics and deniers have persisted despite the rebranding.

The rebranding did not change the dogmas and the policy prescriptions of the climate movement.

Now they're talking about switching from climate change to climate emergency.

Toyota pushes for carbon neutrality on Earth Month

A GROUP of volunteers led by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) headed to the coast of Lian, Batangas for a mangrove-planting activity as part of the "All-Toyota Green Wave Project" (Green Wave).

This project is TMP's expansive and multisectoral effort toward carbon neutrality (CN) and biodiversity conservation within the company's network amid the serious threat of global climate change.

In observance of Earth Month, TMP gathered over 50 volunteers from its own workforce, parent company, subsidiaries, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the local government unit (LGU).

The group, led by TMP President Atsuhiko Okamoto, planted 5,000 mangrove propagules at Sitio Sulok, aiming to reforest a coastline that is part of the Verde Island Passage (VIP), which is considered as the world's center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity

"TMP's multi-pathway approach to CN goes back to Toyota's commitments announced in 2015 under the global 'Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 (TEC 205).' Under this, Toyota has outlined the company's targets to achieve zero CO2 emissions and net positive environmental impact by the year 2050," Okamoto said.

TMP has since 2020 adopted a 10-hectare mangrove plantation at Barangay Binubusan in Lian municipality. This adoption is under the National Greening Program, which is the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nationwide reforestation program aimed at "involving and enhancing private sector participation towards carbon neutrality."

In collaboration with Lian's Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (Menro) and fisherfolk association, TMP has planted a total of 20,000 mangrove propagules and is nearing project completion.

Lian Menro head Alvin Jonson said the project's success is linked to the mangroves' survival and maturity rate, as the reforested areas are expected to later contribute to livelihood of fisherfolks and serve as a natural barrier to protect nearby communities from calamities such as storm surges.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR chief meets with US council on climate change](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga has met with officials of the United States Council on Environmental Quality to explore possible areas of cooperation between the Philippines and the US on climate change.

Yulo-Loyzaga was part of the official delegation of President Marcos during his official visit to Washington.

She also met with professors of George Mason University in Virginia as part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' continuous consultation with international experts.

According to Yulo-Loyzaga, the DENR has been reframing its plans, programs and policies based on data-driven science and systems approaches.

Yulo-Loyzaga joined Marcos in several bilateral meetings aimed to expand the two countries' cooperation on several key areas, including environmental protection and climate action.

She was present during Marcos' meeting with Maxeon Solar Technologies, a global leader in solar technology and innovation, which operates in the country under the name of Sunpower Philippines Manufacturing Ltd. Maxeon Solar plans to expand its operations in the country and invest \$900 million for solar energy innovations.

Bill Mulligan, CEO of Maxeon which operates in all global markets including the Maxeon brand in the United States, Canada and Japan, said the investment will provide more than 3,000 jobs in the next years.

Mulligan said they are starting the expansion of their research and development facility in Cavite, providing around 2,000 engineering jobs in the area.

Maxeon, which also has major manufacturing facilities in Malaysia and Mexico, has been operating in the Philippines since 2003. It opened its first factory at the Laguna Technopark in Biñan City in 2004, and now has seven projects in Biñan consisting of manufacturing, IT and logistics.

Maxeon has trained a skilled local workforce of managers and solar engineers in the Philippines numbering more than 1,000.

The Marcos administration has continued to pursue measures and policies to ensure the availability of cheap and reliable energy through the promotion and utilization of renewable energy sources.

Yulo-Loyzaga said the DENR welcomes efforts and innovations from experts in the field of clean energy.

She vowed that the DENR and the Department of Energy would continue to work together to tap available support for the country's clean energy, climate and development goals.

At the same time, Yulo-Loyzaga underscored the importance of accessible and affordable energy, the availability of feasible alternative technologies for the country to achieve a net-zero emission future, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 which calls for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

[E-motorcycles inclusion in import tax breaks to be considered, says NEDA chief](#)

The inclusion of e-motorcycles in the import tariff incentives will take center stage once the mandatory review of Executive Order No.12 series of 2023 takes effect nine months from now, an economics official said.

National Economic and Development Authority chief Arsenio Balisacan said that the agency, which is tasked to review the executive issuance, will focus, among other concerns, on the probable inclusion of two- and three-wheel electric vehicles (EVs) in the import tariff exemption.

Balisacan's statement was made in response to the mounting clamor of multi-sectoral stakeholders to include all types of EVs in the tax break.

EO12 was uploaded in the Official Gazette last January 19 and became effective on February 20, making it available for mandatory review starting February 21, 2024, or nine months from now.

Under the EO12, various EVs and their components received lower tariff rates from the previous 5% to 30% to now 0% import duty, with the exception of e-motorcycles as they are excluded from the tariff suspension and are still subject to 30% import duty.

According to Balisacan, the NEDA board, in Palace briefing in November 2022, endorsed a version of the EO modifying the tariff rate for EVs, which included e-motorcycles.

"We want to encourage the use of e-vehicles because that will address pollution issues and our adaptation to climate change and we believe that's the future," Balisacan said in the briefer.

"But more importantly, we want to be part of the value chain globally in this drive to get to this new industry, new growth drivers, and hopefully we develop our own industries and this reduction of tariff is part of that building up ecosystem," he added.

Earlier, DTI said that EO12 will be subject to review one year from its implementation pursuant to the provisions of the issuance.

Meanwhile, think tank Statbase ADR Institute President Dindo Manhit believes that the revision and inclusion of e-motorcycles in the tax break will help Filipinos choose EVs and help the government with their goals toward sustainable transportation.

For his part, Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP) President Edmund Araga, who initially lobbied against the inclusion of e-trikes and e-jeps in the EO, said that giving tax breaks for e-motorcycles will help electrify the transport of the country and develop a local industry for it.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Earth Day: CCC calls for investment vs. climate change](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Saturday urged the public to make an investment in the environment to fight climate change.

"A healthy ecosystem helps to protect us from diseases," the CCC said in a statement as the world commemorates Earth Day.

"By investing in our planet, we can take concrete steps toward mitigating the effects of climate change. This includes implementing sustainable practices, reducing our carbon footprint, and promoting conservation efforts," the agency added.

In line with this, environmental group Greenpeace called on the public to reduce the use of plastic, noting that plastic production could triple by 2050.

"This year's Earth Day theme, 'Invest in our Planet,' couldn't be more timely. It's indeed time for countries, especially corporations, to invest in genuine zero-waste solutions that will safeguard people and give the youth a plastic-free future they deserve. Young people have the most to gain if we act on the plastics issue—and the most to lose if we don't," said Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Marian Ledesma.

"We need a strong and ambitious Global Plastics Treaty that won't just drastically reduce plastic production and turn off the plastic tap, but also drive industries and nations to invest in sustainable and socially equitable solutions to protect future generations from plastic pollution," she added.

According to the latest Plastic Waste Makers Index, the world generated 139 million metric tons of single-use plastic waste in 2021, which was 6 million metric tons more than in 2019.

In the Philippines, the House of Representatives has already approved the bill imposing a tax on single-use plastics while the Senate has a bill banning the use of such materials.

Several local government units have also already imposed ordinances that ban single-use plastics.

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