



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- EDCA sites will help the Philippines respond to disasters, says Galvez
- Hydrogène de France brings green energy to Mindanao; Korean company eyes similar project
- PHL to host Asia-Pacific conference on disaster risk reduction
- [Opinion] Deciphering the latest IPCC report
- Galvez: Preparations for EDCA sites also for disaster risk reduction
- Heavy funding is lining up to tackle climate change - more businesses now need an action plan
- PH, US step up agri cooperation efforts
- Who is our country's climate change champion?
- Asia-Pacific region urged to boost use of renewable energy
- Morocco, UN to celebrate International Day of Argania in New York
- [Opinion] Asia's gas expansion will not solve the climate and energy crises
- Advancing Philippine key priorities
- [Opinion] Did BBM attend King Charles' coronation because of his goofy climate ideas and predictions?
- Another task force: Marcos signs order creating gov't body for disaster preparedness
- E-motorcycles inclusion in import tax breaks to be considered, says NEDA chief

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Marina, CCC OK to draft deal on decarbonization of maritime sector

### ABS CBN

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## **BUSINESS WORLD**

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By: Maya M. Padillo

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### **[PHL to host Asia-Pacific conference on disaster risk reduction](#)**

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

The Philippines is set to host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Risk Reduction in October 2024.

## **ECO BUSINESS**

### **[\[Opinion\] Deciphering the latest IPCC report](#)**

By: Lindsey Fielder Cook

In March, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its “synthesis report,” the final section of its sixth assessment report (AR6). Based on thousands of peer-reviewed articles by hundreds of scientists from around the world, the report provides a comprehensive review of the impact of climate change and what the world must do to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

## **GMA NEWS ONLINE**

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By: Sundy Locus

It will be good if the Philippine military facilities which have been designated as sites for the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement will soon be operational, Department of National Defense officer in charge Carlito Galvez has said.

## **GULF NEWS**

### **[Heavy funding is lining up to tackle climate change - more businesses now need an action plan](#)**

By: Zoe Knight

Dr Sultan Al Jaber's appointment as President-designate of COP28, the UN Climate Change Conference, signals the importance of collaboration. Choosing the CEO of ADNOC positions the energy sector at the heart of global efforts to reach Net Zero.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[PH, US step up agri cooperation efforts](#)**

By: Joseph Pedrajas

Officials of the Philippines and the United States have discussed at a high level new agricultural cooperation that will ensure food security.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Who is our country's climate change champion?](#)**

By: Jake J. Maderazo

Now that we are battered by soaring heat indexes this summer and again threatened by stronger El Niño-induced typhoons in the coming months, people are learning to accept that we must adapt and mitigate its dire effects.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[Asia-Pacific region urged to boost use of renewable energy](#)**

Global leaders should scale up the use of renewables and accelerate the energy transition for boosting regional climate resilience, a new study by the United Nations said.

### **[Morocco, UN to celebrate International Day of Argania in New York](#)**

Morocco and the United Nations will celebrate the International Day of Argania on May 10 at the United Nations headquarters in New York under the theme "Local socio-economic development and sustainability of the argan ecosystem."

## **RAPPLER**

### **[\[Opinion\] Asia's gas expansion will not solve the climate and energy crises](#)**

By: Lidy Nacpil

Governments and fossil fuel companies have been pushing the expansion of gas energy as a solution to the energy crisis and energy poverty, and justifying gas as a transition fuel out of coal. The fact is, gas is a fossil fuel as harmful as coal, and renewable energy is a safe, affordable, and available alternative to all fossil fuels.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Advancing Philippine key priorities](#)**

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

### **[\[Opinion\] Did BBM attend King Charles' coronation because of his goofy climate ideas and predictions?](#)**

By: Yen Makabenta

First word

IT was probably too much for our globe-trotting first couple to resist. But no unassailable or credible reason has been cited by the Presidential Communications Office for the attendance by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the first lady last Saturday of King Charles 3rd's coronation as monarch of the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Another task force: Marcos signs order creating gov't body for disaster preparedness](#)**

By: Cristina Chi and Gaea Katreena Cabico

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has signed an executive order creating a task force dedicated solely to disaster preparedness and response, with members drawn from government agencies related to health, defense, social welfare and development, local government, among others.

## **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:**

#### **MANILA BULLETIN**

##### **Marina, CCC OK to draft deal on decarbonization of maritime sector**

By: Martin Sadongdong

The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) and the Climate Change Commission have agreed to draft a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the decarbonization of the maritime sector to address the impacts of climate change in the country, the Marina confirmed on Monday, May 8.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **EDCA sites will help the Philippines respond to disasters, says Galvez**

Department of National Defense OIC Carlito Galvez maintained the EDCA sites will help the Philippines respond to disasters.

In a press conference following an interagency meeting to discuss preparations for the country's hosting of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), Galvez said the EDCA sites were able to respond to recent maritime disasters, including the sinking of vessels as well as the search for the missing tourists off Tubbataha.

Galvez said the Philippines will maximize the use of EDCA "in order to protect our tourism industry and at the same time respond to disasters," pointing out that the Philippines is most vulnerable to climate change.

"As I have said earlier, the preparations of the EDCA is also for disaster risk reduction and also for climate change. if you look at the strategic areas that we have, these are the isolated areas especially those.. in the north... and also those... in Palawan," Galvez said.

"As you can see most of disasters are related to also those EDCA sites because most of the disasters we have right now, I think, are 3 instances of sinking vessel. And most of the EDCA sites were able to respond especially those tourists in Tubbataha Reef. So our inclination is that we will maximize the use of EDCA in order to protect our tourism industry and at the same time respond to disasters... as we have the presentation from the Usec in DENR, the Philippines is number 1 much vulnerable to climate change and with that we are prepared for establishing those EDCA sites for that purpose," he added.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is hosting the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) on October 14-18, 2024 next year.

In a press conference following an interagency meeting to discuss preparations for the event, DENR Secretary Antonia Loyzaga said the event will be a venue to discuss best practices on disaster risk reduction and management, and help the country decrease its vulnerability to climate change.

"The Philippines need not be vulnerable. The idea to hold these conferences and these consultations and keep with our international commitments is to decrease the vulnerability of the country, bring us down from the top 1 where we are now, build

adaptive capacity, build our capacity for resilient development. That's the only way that we can in fact be less vulnerable and complete our journey toward sustainable development," Loyzaga said.

Expected to draw around 3,000 delegates from different UN member-countries in the Asia-Pacific, including Pacific Small Island Developing States, the conference serves as a main regional platform for promoting coordination and cooperation on accelerating and upscaling disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in the Asia-Pacific, which is considered to be the world's most-disaster prone region.

The DENR will head the preparations for the biennial event which is expected to assess progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, which aims by 2030 to reduce impacts on mortality, health, the economy, and infrastructure, while substantially increasing cooperation on disaster risk strategies and access to multi-hazard and early warning systems.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Hydrogène de France brings green energy to Mindanao; Korean company eyes similar project](#)**

By: Maya M. Padillo

RENEWABLE power company Hydrogène de France (HDF) Energy Asia is setting up its first project in the Philippines, which will initially provide energy to the Olutanga Island in the southern part of the country.

The municipalities of Olutanga, Talusan, and Mabuhay on the island, which is under the Zamboanga Sibugay province, will serve as pilot areas for the Olutanga Hydrogen Renewable Power Plant.

HDF inked an agreement on May 6 with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), distributor Zamboanga del Sur II Electric Cooperative, the OLTAMA (Olutanga, Talusan, and Mabuhay) Development Alliance, and the city government of Pagadian for the venture.

Mathieu Geze, president and director of HDF Energy Asia, said they will still conduct a study of the project, especially the water source for the plant.

French Ambassador to the Philippines Michèle Boccoz said the power plant is expected to contribute to the development of Zamboanga Sibugay and Mindanao as a whole by providing non-intermittent and clean energy to the area.

“I am sure that this project will pave the way to new partnership opportunities as HDF Energy is currently developing its pipeline of projects across Mindanao,” she said in her message during the signing ceremony held in Davao City.

“As we must now address major challenges such as climate change thus it is particularly adequate to suit the needs and the geography of southern Philippines,” Ms. Boccoz said.

The facility is estimated to cost \$50 million and will be built on a 50-hectare property in Talusan.

MinDA Chair Maria Belen S. Acosta said they are aiming to bring more renewable power technology to other off-grid areas in Mindanao.



“Aside from this project, there are more coming for local government units in Mindanao. We’re starting it and later on all these areas in Mindanao that really need power will be connected and will have their own,” she said.

## KOREAN FIRM

Meanwhile, S&E Solutions Co. Ltd. of Korea is eyeing to establish a hydrogen power plant in the town of Montevista in Davao de Oro.

Montevista Mayor Cyrex L. Basalo’s engineer consultant, Cirilo C. Basalo, said the proposed project will be sourcing water from the municipality’s rivers and creeks.

“We have a lot of water. We have the Manat River, some creeks, Saug River. We can always use that, and we can also do some drilling for the water source,” Mr. Basalo said during the AFP-PNP Press Corps media briefing last week.

Lawyer Tong Soo Chung of S&E Solutions said the green energy project will have no carbon dioxide emission.

“This is an environmentally friendly project. This is green energy. We process the water through hydrolysis, we process it in hydrogen power,” Mr. Basalo added.

The signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Montevista local government and the company is already being planned.

“As far as Davao de Oro is concerned, we have a big problem with our power supply and the high electricity cost. I believe if this hydrogen power plant will materialize, I think the cost of electricity will go down,” said Mr. Basalo.

The plant is seen to generate an initial 10 megawatts (MW), with a potential capacity of up to 50 MW.

## [PHL to host Asia-Pacific conference on disaster risk reduction](#)

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

The Philippines is set to host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Risk Reduction in October 2024.

“The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference will serve as a platform for knowledge-sharing in terms of what is ongoing, in terms of the policy work and the government work of other governments in the Asia-Pacific region,” Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said at a pre-launch event on Monday.

“The learning shared during this conference will have an impact on our own knowledge base, as well as our own practice and in the implementation of legislation already in place,” she added.

The conference is expected to draw around 3,000 delegates from over 50 countries. These delegates will include intergovernmental, international, and national organization.

The conference seeks to assess progress on implementing the Sendai Framework, which hopes to reduce the impact of calamities on mortality, health, economies, and infrastructure.

“Science and technology are at the core of the disaster risk reduction. A specific focus on the vulnerability exposure of the Asia-Pacific region is what’s important to us in the Philippines,” Ms. Lozaga said.

Environment Undersecretary Marilou G. Erni said the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) will propose a budget for the event to the Department of Budget Management and the Department of Finance, seeking to tap the International Commitments Fund for 2024.

“We will be looking at how we might be able to match both public and private (funding), so that amount will not all come from public funds,” Ms. Lozaga added.

Separately, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in a statement that most of the countries in the Asia-Pacific are “insufficiently prepared to face extreme weather events and natural disasters.”

“Measures to put the economies of Asia and the Pacific on a low-carbon pathway and adapt and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, must be front and center of the region’s post-pandemic recovery,” UN Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana said.

The ESCAP said some countries have fallen short of their commitments under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% in order to keep warming within 1.5 degrees Celsius.

“Without decisive action, global warming will remain a central driver of poverty and inequality in the region — with disastrous consequences across the continent and existential ones in Pacific small island developing States,” ESCAP said.

## ECO BUSINESS

### [\[Opinion\] Deciphering the latest IPCC report](#)

By: Lindsey Fielder Cook

In March, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its “synthesis report,” the final section of its sixth assessment report (AR6). Based on thousands of peer-reviewed articles by hundreds of scientists from around the world, the report provides a comprehensive review of the impact of climate change and what the world must do to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The good news is that, according to the IPCC, “feasible, effective, and low-cost options for mitigation and adaptation are already available.” But ensuring a “liveable and sustainable future for all” also requires a far-reaching transformation and the political will to take bold action.

IPCC reports are invaluable. By bringing science to climate negotiations that are otherwise dominated by political and economic considerations, the reports both inform and promote accountability. Often totalling over 1,000 pages, each report includes a shorter summary for policymakers that member states must officially approve. This process enables government representatives and observers to comment on incoming drafts while still allowing scientists to refuse suggestions that challenge the integrity of their research. During the approval process, however, sentences may be strengthened, softened, or even removed from the final draft.

The latest report warns that extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense than previously predicted, while global action has been far slower than expected. Every fraction of a degree matters, and, at the current rate of greenhouse-gas emissions, the world is barreling toward a 3.5°C increase by 2100 – with devastating consequences for humanity and the planet.

Barring urgent action to halve current greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, global warming is “more likely than not” to reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels within the next decade, the report warns. But if policymakers act immediately, they could still prevent ice sheets from melting, permafrost from thawing, and ecosystems from collapsing, thereby saving countless lives.

To change course, we must address the root cause of climate change: “unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production across regions, between and within countries, and among individuals.” Governments could choose many feasible and cost-effective steps to reduce emissions.

The most promising are those that integrate rights-based approaches that embody meaningful public participation in decision-making, gender equity, biodiversity protection, human rights, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The IPCC report finds that policies that promote equity, fairness, and climate justice “lead to more sustainable outcomes” and “reduce trade-offs, support transformative change, and advance climate-resilient development.” Simply put, fairer climate policies receive greater support and are therefore more effective.

The most effective way to reduce emissions is to phase out fossil fuels and rapidly shift to renewable energies, particularly solar and wind energy. But the report also identifies important economy-wide and demand-side measures, such as “sufficiency” approaches, circular material flows, energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, widespread public transportation, and agricultural practices grounded in “sustainable land-management approaches.”

Behavioural changes, such as adopting a “sustainable and healthy diet,” reducing the use of appliances, and forgoing private cars in favor of walking and cycling, could also help reduce emissions. As the IPCC report notes, the top 10 per cent of households with the highest per capita emissions account for 34 to 45 per cent of consumption-based global household emissions, whereas the bottom 50 per cent contribute just 13 to 15 per cent.

Curiously, despite the documented environmental benefits of reducing meat consumption in favor of healthier diets, both the summary and the full report include no mention of meat or dairy and relegate the phrase “plant-based” to a footnote.

Likewise, the report dropped a hopeful and high-confidence sentence relating to urgent, rapid, feasible, and equitable near-term policies to address climate change and improve human well-being that are already available to scale. This caused an outcry among many observers and a range of states seeking to retain the scientific finding. However, after hours of discussion, the sentence remained out; the words “urgent,” “rapid,” and “available to scale” appeared too sensitive for universal approval, highlighting the tension between science and political will.

This tension was evident at the three sessions that preceded the approval of the sixth assessment report. Developing countries expressed anger at developed countries for not doing enough, despite their historical responsibility for climate change – and despite their promises to provide financing and technology transfers to facilitate adaptation efforts. Meanwhile, the language referring to fossil-fuel reduction, renewable-energy

cost-efficiency, and equitable renewable-energy ownership was weakened, reflecting advocacy by those seeking to maintain fossil-fuel extraction.

As a result of insufficient global political will, the summary emphasises net-zero terminology over the need for a rapid and real reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This could lead less-informed policymakers to conclude that we can just magically plant trees and carry on as we have so far. Moreover, geoengineering solutions such as carbon dioxide removal and carbon capture and storage (CCS) have been given more space than renewable energies, despite research showing that deploying these technologies carries enormous environmental risks. In addition, compared to rapid renewable-energy transitions, CCS maintains fossil fuel dependence, is more expensive, not available to scale, and less effective in reducing emissions. While the summary mentions some of these risks, it buries them in a footnote.

The IPCC's reports remain an indispensable resource for informing people about the impact of climate change. But readers seeking a clear assessment of the current efforts to reduce global emissions and ensure that we cap global warming at 1.5°C should skip the summary and read the full report instead.

## **GMA NEWS ONLINE**

### **Galvez: Preparations for EDCA sites also for disaster risk reduction**

By: Sundy Locus

It will be good if the Philippine military facilities which have been designated as sites for the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement will soon be operational, Department of National Defense officer in charge Carlito Galvez has said.

Under the EDCA, US forces may access Philippine military camps to build facilities, and preposition equipment, aircraft, and vessels.

According to Cedric Castillo's report on "24 Oras", Galvez indicated that the Philippines may benefit from the EDCA sites in ways other than building its security and defense.

"The preparations of the EDCA are also for disaster risk reduction and also for climate change. If we look at strategic areas that we have, these are isolated areas," Galvez said.

The five existing EDCA locations are in Antonio Bautista Air Base in Palawan, Basa Air Base in Pampanga, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu, and Lumbia Air Base in Cagayan de Oro City.

Three of the four new EDCA sites are in the northern portion of Luzon, closer to Taiwan. These are the Camp Melchor Dela Cruz in Isabel, the Lal-lo Airport in Cagayan, and the Camilo Osias Naval Base, also in Cagayan.

The fourth EDCA site has been designated on Balabac island in Palawan, near the disputed South China Sea.

Galvez said the Philippines gained an advantage from the presence of the US military.

"Right now, I think we have three instances of sinking vessels. And most of the EDCA sites were able to respond," Galvez said.

The DND is currently preparing for the country's hosting of the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Galvez said the strengthening of the military is part of the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and of the Philippines' disaster response.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will lead the preparations for the international conference which is set to be attended by at least 3,000 foreign delegations from the Asia-Pacific Region.

“The Philippines will continue to be exposed but we need not be vulnerable... Without agreements and events such as these, it would be very difficult for us to take advantage of the best science and the best technologies as well as the best practices in the world,” Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga said.



## GULF NEWS

### [Heavy funding is lining up to tackle climate change - more businesses now need an action plan](#)

By: Zoe Knight

Dr Sultan Al Jaber's appointment as President-designate of COP28, the UN Climate Change Conference, signals the importance of collaboration. Choosing the CEO of ADNOC positions the energy sector at the heart of global efforts to reach Net Zero.

Dr. Al Jaber has called for a 'major course correction' to accelerate efforts to address the climate crisis. Governments cannot achieve that alone. It will require business action, particularly within the energy industry.

Collaboration at an industry level, with finance, and with governments can shift the dial towards 1.5 degrees.

Opportunity for energy to lead

Oil and gas companies and the broader energy sector could lead the transition to Net Zero. Energy companies possess the technical capabilities, financial firepower and talent to create new solutions required for energy transition.

The pathway will vary by company and country. This will open new business opportunities, as solutions that work in one market could potentially have global applicability.

Transition plans are the maps that will guide these changes required. While national country plans have been around for some time, attention is fast turning towards company-level transition plans in recognition of the critical role of the private sector.

As the UAE prepares to host COP28, there is a unique opportunity for energy companies to collaborate towards defining the characteristics of a credible company transition plan. An industry-wide effort could establish a framework and key indicators – such as carbon reduction targets, capital investment decisions, and enablement of clean energy.

Partnering with finance

A similar process played out across the financial sector in the lead up to COP26. The Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) was created to standardise an approach to how financial institutions should set Net Zero aligned policies, targets and approaches.

Over two years, the financial sector developed an industry-wide approach premised on banks partnering with customers to finance their transition. So, the money increasingly stands ready. Deploying it at the scale required to fund the Net Zero transition is the next challenge.

There are steps energy companies can take to unlock that capital and direct funding to where it is needed most. An energy industry standard on company transition plans would enhance market and investor confidence.

Plans which place emphasis on practical implementation will have the greatest utility. A starting point may be steps to transition energy mix, scale clean infrastructure and renewable energy, and reduce emissions. In time, a project pipeline will help banks and investors to identify and fund the changes required.

By partnering with the energy sector, banks can facilitate the capital investment needed to reduce emissions at scale. But we know that an orderly transition requires continued financing to maintain oil and gas supplies, at declining levels as demand for oil and gas declines.

So, we are committed to finance energy companies who play an active role in the transition, supporting them to invest in new technologies. We want to be by the side of companies as they have the capabilities required to deliver this change - technical expertise, strong balance-sheets, and experience in delivering big infrastructure projects.

The more granular transition planning becomes at a company level, the more banks will be able to finance energy companies to lead this transition.

#### Course correction

This course correction will be complex and challenging. Keeping the 1.5 degrees target within reach requires a sharp fall in emissions by 2030. What maintains my optimism is the huge potential for the energy industry to lead the change required.

Collaboration across the energy sector is a critical first step. That, in turn, will better enable banks to deliver the financial firepower which has aligned behind net zero, to deliver change at scale. We are witnessing public policy increasingly tilt towards incentivising change. From the US Inflation Reduction Act to the European Green Deal, the quantum of public financing is unparalleled.

The ambition is clear – to accelerate emission reduction trajectories through game-changing partnerships, solutions and outcomes. The COP28 can be a moment for the

energy sector to lead and step up with new solutions. Through deeper collaboration, we can realise the commercial opportunities opening and deliver a more secure, sustainable energy future.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [PH, US step up agri cooperation efforts](#)

By: Joseph Pedrajas

Officials of the Philippines and the United States have discussed at a high level new agricultural cooperation that will ensure food security.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Mercedita Sombilla and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Undersecretary Alexis Taylor met in Washington on May 5 for the Food Security Dialogue, which highlighted partnerships and programming that support food security in the Philippines.

The exchange of talks yielded two new efforts that will be pursued by the two countries, according to the US government.

First: The USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service will launch a new Faculty Exchange Program between leading US and Philippine universities to advance collaboration on veterinary sciences.

That includes addressing sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues and technical barriers to trade.

The second initiative: The US Department of Commerce is co-sponsoring an AgTech trade mission to Manila and Davao City to focus on agrichemicals and fertilizers, digital and precision agriculture, cold chain facilities, aquaculture, and other industry sectors.

Taylor said the "potential impacts of food insecurity and climate change elevate the urgency of our continued collaboration."

"The United States and the Philippines have a long history of cooperation and partnership in identifying and implementing solutions to help tackle challenges impacting our citizens, our countries, and the world," she said.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Who is our country's climate change champion?

By: Jake J. Maderazo

Now that we are battered by soaring heat indexes this summer and again threatened by stronger El Niño-induced typhoons in the coming months, people are learning to accept that we must adapt and mitigate its dire effects.

And if one talks about meeting head-on these climactic changes, there is one Filipino politician who stands out domestically and globally. This is none other than three-time Albay governor, three-time congressman, and incumbent Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### Asia-Pacific region urged to boost use of renewable energy

Global leaders should scale up the use of renewables and accelerate the energy transition for boosting regional climate resilience, a new study by the United Nations said.

“The region needs to strengthen multilateral, sub-regional and regional power connectivity by developing enabling frameworks, such as intergovernmental agreements on energy cooperation and interconnection,” said the study by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The Race to Net Zero: Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific further recommends developing a regional green power corridor framework that would present scenarios for the increased deployment of renewable energy.

It also underscored boosting technical cooperation to develop and promote regional fuel efficiency and minimum energy performance standards to boost energy efficiency and reduce manufacturing costs.

“The region needs to expand climate-smart trade, including by incorporating climate-related provisions in RTAs (Regional Trade Agreements) and adapting non-tariff measures to boost the positive impacts of trade on climate action,” the report said, recommending the creation of a regional fund that defrays the costs of preparation of low-carbon transition.

Referring to the lack of preparedness to support adaptation and mitigation efforts, the study said the average annual economic losses caused by natural and biological hazards in the regions are estimated at \$780 billion.

“This is forecast to rise to \$1.1 trillion in a moderate climate-change scenario and \$1.4 trillion in a worst-case scenario,” it said.

Asia Pacific 'more vulnerable'

The study warned that most countries in Asia and the Pacific are insufficiently prepared to face extreme weather events and natural disasters.

According to the study, the Asia Pacific region suffers the worst consequences of climate change, "a key perpetrator, accounting for over half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions."

"This share is increasing as populations grow and economies continue to be powered by fossil fuels," the study said.

It warned that adverse weather conditions are growing in intensity and frequency due in part to climate change.

Assessing the overall global climate change impacts, the report said that over the past 60 years, temperatures in Asia and the Pacific have increased faster than the global mean.

"Six of the top 10 countries most affected by disasters are in the region (Asia and the Pacific), where food systems are disrupted, economies damaged, and societies undermined," the study unveiled.

"Measures to put the economies of Asia and the Pacific on a low-carbon pathway, and adapt and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, must be front and center of the region's post-pandemic recovery," said Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations under-secretary-general and executive secretary of ESCAP.

The research, however, noted that the sum of countries' actions in nationally determined contributions to cut emissions and adapt to climate change falls short of the required ambition under the Paris Agreement.

"A 16% increase in greenhouse gas emissions from 2010 levels is forecast, a world away from the 45% reductions needed to keep warming within 1.5°C. Without decisive action, global warming will remain a central driver of poverty and inequality in the region," the study said.

## Morocco, UN to celebrate International Day of Argania in New York

Morocco and the United Nations will celebrate the International Day of Argania on May 10 at the United Nations headquarters in New York under the theme "Local socio-economic development and sustainability of the argan ecosystem."

The UN General Assembly has adopted on March 3, 2021, by consensus the resolution proclaiming May 10 of each year as the International Day of Argania.

This celebration highlights Morocco's efforts to promote the argan tree as a tree endemic to the Kingdom and as intangible cultural heritage of humanity and ancestral source of sustainable development, said a statement by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests.

It also aims to highlight the role of the argan tree in strengthening the resilience of communities, its contribution to food security (SDG 2), adaptation to climate change (SDG 13), water stress (SDG 6) and its importance in empowering rural women (SDG 5), through the support and promotion of cooperatives and agricultural organizations (SDG 8).

Indeed, Morocco, aware of the environmental issues and challenges facing the argan ecosystem, is committed to developing and maintaining sustainable community management practices, in a context of water stress and increasing climate change.

Through this international day celebrated each year by the United Nations, the Kingdom shares its knowledge to strengthen the resilience of this emblematic ecosystem, where the argan tree is a symbol of biodiversity and carries useful know-how and experiences to rebuild a balance between human beings and nature.

The celebrations of this day will start this year from the UN headquarters in New York under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests Mohamed Sadiki, and the Ambassador Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, Omar Hilale, the statement read.

This celebration will also be marked by the organization, for two weeks, of an art and photography exhibition on the argan tree at the UN Headquarters, as well as a reception in honor of the community of ambassadors and officials of the UN system, to taste the products of the argan tree and discover the offer of local Moroccan cooperatives.



## RAPPLER

### [\[Opinion\] Asia's gas expansion will not solve the climate and energy crises](#)

By: Lidy Nacpil

Governments and fossil fuel companies have been pushing the expansion of gas energy as a solution to the energy crisis and energy poverty, and justifying gas as a transition fuel out of coal. The fact is, gas is a fossil fuel as harmful as coal, and renewable energy is a safe, affordable, and available alternative to all fossil fuels.

In Asia, billions of dollars worth of projects are currently underway to expand liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and gas power plants and pipelines. The more than \$350 billion of new gas infrastructure projects is triple the estimated investment for Europe and purportedly aimed at allowing Asian countries to avoid burning more coal. Plans for new and expanded gas power and LNG import infrastructure in Southeast Asia are highest in Vietnam. This, despite analyses demonstrating that Vietnam can feasibly transition to clean energy without any new LNG development, with cost savings over the long term. We do not believe for a second that these new gas projects will greatly benefit Asia.

Gas development in many places has done damage rather than good: displacing people and communities, worsening poverty, endangering health, and harming people and the planet. Gas is not immediately or commonly understood as harmful energy, but research shows the use of gas for electricity generation, heating in buildings, and industry contributed almost as much as coal power to premature deaths in 96 cities around the world in 2020. The largest component of gas is methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is second only to carbon dioxide in terms of how much it contributes to global warming. Analysis finds the LNG capacity now under construction globally coupled with expansion plans, would increase greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 to levels that will bring us closer to a climate catastrophe.

Sustained high LNG prices and competition for limited supplies have further debunked the economic case for gas and the claim that gas is key to meeting the rising energy demand in the region. The promised benefits of gas expansion are all gas, so to speak.

People and communities demand rapid, equitable, and just energy transition to renewable energy systems for long-term energy security and a climate-safe future. We need access to clean, adequate, and affordable energy that can support basic needs, quality essential services, and economic development that is sustainable and brings shared prosperity. We need locally-available energy supply that moves our countries away from reliance on energy imports and is not subject to fluctuations in global markets, supply disruptions, and geopolitics. This underscores the need to rapidly

transition to renewables, now the cheapest power option in most regions and the most readily-available and cost-effective way to provide 90% of all decarbonization by 2050. To achieve this, currently installed renewable power capacity must be tripled by 2030.

Last May 4, climate campaigners and people from affected communities protested against the massive gas expansion that is being shoved down our throats under the guise of supporting the transition to a cleaner energy system. Rallies were held in Asia's biggest cities – Tokyo, Incheon, Mandaluyong, Jakarta, Chiang Mai, Hanoi, Dhaka, Delhi, Kolkata, Kathmandu, Lahore, Karachi, and Colombo. These rallies were part of the Asia-wide mobilizations for the Don't Gas Asia campaign, a global solidarity movement against fossil gas expansion urging governments to prioritize a just transition to renewable energy. It is linked to the Don't Gas Africa and Don't Gas Latin America campaigns.

The rallies coincided with the 56th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors held from May 2-5 in South Korea. They spotlighted the role of the ADB and the governments of Japan and Korea in the gas buildout in Asia.

ADB continues to finance gas projects despite its avowed commitment to support low-carbon transition in Asia-Pacific. ADB is the third largest public financier of gas projects in Asia between 2014 and 2018, financing a total of 2.8 billion US dollars. Japan, one of the largest shareholders of ADB and holds the presidency of ADB, is the second largest public financier with 4.1 billion US dollars. Japanese banks Sumitomo Mitsui Financial and Mizuho Financial are also the biggest private financiers of fossil gas in the region. Korea, which hosts this year's ADB meeting, has dialed back on renewable energy targets rolled out in 2020. It plans to continue fossil gas use by converting coal-fired power generation to gas and financing gas projects.

Fossil gas expansion is toxic and unsustainable for Asia. It will not stave off the impacts of climate change in the region, nor secure our energy supplies to develop the region's economies, despite what fossil fuel financiers and banks that support them, like the ADB, are telling us. It would lock us in fossil fuel emissions for years, slow down the clean energy transition, and lock out any potential of countries to attain energy security and sustainable development.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### Advancing Philippine key priorities

Describing his high-level discussions with United States officials as "productive," President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. 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.

## [\[Opinion\] Did BBM attend King Charles' coronation because of his goofy climate ideas and predictions?](#)

By: Yen Makabenta

First word

IT was probably too much for our globe-trotting first couple to resist. But no unassailable or credible reason has been cited by the Presidential Communications Office for the attendance by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the first lady last Saturday of King Charles 3rd's coronation as monarch of the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth.

There is nothing special or strategic about the relationship between the UK and the Philippines; our relationship at best is warm and cordial, we are not allies in any way beyond mutuality of interest in certain things, and linkage by the English language.

When Britain occupied PH

Historically, there are some reasons for discord.

In 1761, when France and Britain were at war, and Spain sided with France, Britain declared war on Spain on Jan. 2, 1762. In short order, Britain launched an expedition to take the Philippines from Spain, along with other Spanish possessions in the Caribbean. The British invasion of the Philippines captured and occupied Manila from 1766 to 1768. Not long after, however, the European powers settled the differences through the Treaty of Paris in 1763. Felipinas was returned to Spain, and the British left the country.

That should have been goodbye, but years later history brought our two countries together again, and in a more problematic way.

Britain played a huge role in cheating the Sultanate of Sulu and the Philippine Republic of their rightful claim to Sabah in North Borneo. The British, which originally leased Sabah from the Sultan of Sulu through the British East India Company, refused to return the territory upon the end of the agreement, then they maneuvered to have North Borneo included in the creation of the state of Malaysia in the 1960s. The UK was instrumental in preventing the US from siding with the Philippines in the territorial dispute. The dispute continues to fester up to the present times.

None of this history is probably of interest or relevance to King Charles.

Strictly speaking, King Charles is only a ceremonial head of state; he does not wield true political power in the United Kingdom, real power in the UK resides in the parliament, which is headed by the prime minister.

Charles, the climate warrior

It may also be that President Marcos took an interest in King Charles' coronation because of his long record as an eco-warrior, and his advocacy of green policies.

Charles has been cited for his green credentials since the 1970s, often calling for governments to go above and beyond to avoid a climate crisis and to maintain biodiversity in the country.

He has pushed for decreasing carbon emissions, famously has an interest in organic farming, and has campaigned against genetically modified crops. He once warned GM foods would cause "the biggest disaster environmentally of all time," which caused a significant stir.

Through public speaking, he has pushed back against climate change skepticism and in January 2021, he launched the Terra Carta (Earth Charter), a sustainable finance charter that asks signatories (usually businesses) to follow a set of rules to become more sustainable.

He also warned COP26 last year that the world must be on a "war-like footing" to tackle the climate emergency.

His passion for the environment has also been passed down to his two sons, William and Harry, who have both created their initiatives to encourage sustainability and tackle the climate crisis.

Now as the monarch, Charles is probably the most high-profile figure to champion action on the climate crisis.

Rupert Darwall, the author of Green Tyranny, wrote a critique of Charles' climate record which appeared on the RealClear Energy website on May 4, 2023, entitled "King Charles [3rd] has a climate record to live down." He wrote:

"The May 6 coronation of King Charles [3rd] marks a significant moment in Britain's history. No previous constitutional monarch has expressed his political views so openly. Unlike his mother and grandfather, whose opinions, if they had any, remained unknown to the general public, the king's record-setting 70 years as heir apparent to the British throne saw him define himself as a deeply committed environmentalist.

"In 2000, the BBC invited the then Prince of Wales to give the last of the 2000 Millennium Reith lectures on sustainable development. Charles spoke of his belief in the 'bounds of balance, order and harmony in the natural world which sets limits to our ambitions and define the parameters of sustainable development.' He name-checked the founders of the modern environmental movement — Rachel Carson and Fritz Schumacher, authors, respectively, of 'Silent Spring' and 'Small is Beautiful'. He embraced the precautionary principle, warning that the absence of hard scientific evidence of harmful consequences from genetically modified (GM) crops should not be taken as a green light to exceed nature's limits.

"Instead of looking to science for all the answers, mankind should work with the grain of nature, Charles argued. If a fraction of the investment going into GM technologies was devoted to improving traditional systems of agriculture, 'the results would be remarkable,' he declared. He then praised fellow Reith lecturer Vandana Shiva, an environmental campaigner and director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in New Delhi, for condemning large-scale commercial farming 'so persuasively and so convincingly.'

"Unfortunately for the people of Sri Lanka, Shiva also convinced the Sri Lankan government to ban GM crops and chemical fertilizers and switch to organic farming. The results were worse than remarkable; they were disastrous. According to Matt Ridley, within months of Sri Lanka going organic, 'the volume of tea exports had halved, cutting foreign exchange earnings. Rice yields plummeted leading to an unprecedented requirement to import rice. With the government unable to service its debt, the currency collapsed.' Soon after, the government collapsed, too. Street protests forced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee to the Maldives in an air force jet.

"In a 2013 speech on protecting rainforests, Charles' rhetoric became distinctly unroyal, accusing those who questioned the need to act as belonging to 'the incorporated society of syndicated skeptics and the International Association of Corporate lobbyists.' This would have come as news to his father and sister. Asked in a 2020 interview whether she discussed farming with her brother, Princess Anne replied, 'Yes ... occasionally, but rather short,' adding 'I don't even go down the climate change route.'

"According to the terms laid down by his son, Prince Philip would also be numbered among the syndicated skeptics and corporate lobbyists. In 2018, Philip wrote to Ian Plimer to congratulate him on his book 'The Climate Change Delusion'. Prompted by Ridley's 2016 Global Warming Policy Foundation lecture on how carbon dioxide emissions were greening the earth, Prince Philip had lunch in the House of Lords with Ridley and Nigel Lawson.

"Father and son clashed on wind farms. In 2011, a wind farm developer reported that Prince Philip had told him that wind farms were 'useless, completely reliant on subsidies, and an absolute disgrace.' In his movie 'Harmony: A New Way of Looking at Our World,' Charles speaks of wind energy 'working with nature's freely-given forms" and the need to "end our dependence on fossil fuels.' In the film's opening sequence, showing a wind turbine in a meadow, Charles intones, 'Time is running out.'

"Indeed, time has run out for Charles's forecasts of climate apocalypse. In March 2009, Charles warned that only 100 months remained to avert "irretrievable climate collapse.' That forecast expired in 2017, with no climate collapse.

"Subsequent dating of doom was pushed further out and became less precise. In 2015, the 100-month deadline was stretched to 35 years.

"A 2021 paper on extreme climate forecasts tabulates 79 predictions of climate-caused catastrophes dating back to the first Earth Day in 1970. Charles has the distinction of being the only individual to be featured three times, with separate predictions of climate apocalypse. As the paper's co-author David Rode of Carnegie Mellon University comments, Prince Charles has 'warned repeatedly of 'irretrievable ecosystem collapse' if actions were not taken, repeated the prediction with a new definitive end date. Their predictions have repeatedly been apocalyptic and highly certain... and so far, they've also been wrong."

What now of the reign of King Charles 3rd?

Let us pray that President Marcos of the Philippines will not fall under his spell.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Another task force: Marcos signs order creating gov't body for disaster preparedness](#)

By: Cristina Chi and Gaea Katreena Cabico

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has signed an executive order creating a task force dedicated solely to disaster preparedness and response, with members drawn from government agencies related to health, defense, social welfare and development, local government, among others.

Executive Order 24, signed on April 30, forms the Disaster Response and Crisis Management Task Force, which will oversee the “preparation, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk management (DRRM) plans and programs on disaster preparedness and response.”

The task force is also mandated to establish a “calibrated national disaster mobilization system,” which includes a “pre-disaster risk assessment as a decision-making tool, in coordination with relevant agencies.”

The following agencies form the task force:

- Office of the Executive Secretary
- Department of National Defense
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Department of Social Welfare and Development
- Department of Health
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Science and Technology
- Department of Public Works and Highways
- Department of Transportation
- Office of Civil Defense (OCD)

Among task force's responsibilities is the management and implementation of national and local disaster resilience programs, convening members of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council for declaring and lifting the declaration of a state of calamity, and approving disbursements from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

Under the executive order, the task force is also required to organize quick response groups to be deployed during or in anticipation of disasters.



The Philippines remains one of the countries most vulnerable to disasters, with previous estimates that 60% of the country's land area and 74% of its population are exposed to numerous hazards like floods, cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides, according to the World Bank.

Typhoons have exacted a more devastating toll on the country in recent years despite occurring less frequently—a phenomenon exacerbated by the effects of human-induced climate change as seen in warming temperatures, rise in sea levels three times the world average and destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems.

The World Risk Index 2022 ranked the Philippines first on the list of global disaster hotspots. The report, which measured a country's exposure and vulnerability to hazards, assessed 193 countries.

## [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-jeeeps 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:

### MANILA BULLETIN

#### [Marina, CCC OK to draft deal on decarbonization of maritime sector](#)

By: Martin Sadongdong

The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) and the Climate Change Commission have agreed to draft a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the decarbonization of the maritime sector to address the impacts of climate change in the country, the Marina confirmed on Monday, May 8.

Marina Deputy Administrator for Planning Sonia Malaluan paid a courtesy visit to Climate Change Commission Sec. Robert Borje in Malacanang recently to discuss the planned MOU that will help reduce carbon emissions in the maritime sector.

During the visit, Borje stressed the administration's efforts in addressing climate change as he expressed belief that an agreement with the MARINA "will lead to formulation of strategic type of partnership on decarbonization."

The Marina has yet to bare the details of the planned MOU.

Meanwhile, Malaluan invited the CCC chief to a regional conference centering on "green shipping" which will be organized by the Marina along with the Danish Maritime Authority of Denmark and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on May 16 to 17.

The regional conference will carry the theme "Seizing Opportunities for Green Shipping in Asia and the Pacific" and will be held at the Rizal Park Hotel in Manila.

"The conference intends to gather key maritime stakeholders from Pacific Islands and Southeast Asian States to discuss energy efficiency, short sea segment, education of seafarers and global regulations," the MARINA said.

The Marina also presented to Borja the "Philippine Maritime Industry: Pathways for Decarbonization of the Maritime Transport Sector" during the courtesy call which is an initiative that aims to transition the Philippines towards cleaner energy, transport, and industrial systems.

**=END=**