



## NEWS ROUNDUP

19 MAY 2023 [ 07:30 am]

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### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- CCC to integrate volunteerism in combating climate change

### BBC

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By: Derek Cai

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### CLIMATE HOME NEWS

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By: Elizabeth Bast, Tasneem Essop and Kanna Mitsuta

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## **CNN**

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By: Laura Paddison

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## **ECO-BUSINESS**

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Governments are increasingly focusing on health risks fuelled by global warming, with most nations now considering concerns from malaria to heart disease in their climate plans, according to data shared exclusively by the World Health Organization (WHO).

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### **[Global Temperatures Could Break 1.5C Climate Threshold by 2027](#)**

By: Anri Ichimura

Think it's hot now? It's only going to get worse. According to the World Meteorological Organization's latest update, global temperatures will surge to record highs in the next five years. Hear that, climate deniers? The world is on fire.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[ELEVENTH HOUR — Making finance work for climate and the environment](#)**

By: Climate Reality Project Philippines

The World Bank Group, one of the world's largest sources of funding for developing countries to reduce poverty, increase shared prosperity, and promote sustainable development, is in the process of developing its Evolution Roadmap, which will spell out how the institution will evolve its vision and mission, operating model, and financial capacity.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

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## **PANAY NEWS**

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The queen has spoken, and repeating outfits has nothing to do with how beautiful you will present yourself.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[Climate risk insurance program to push in Oriental Mindoro](#)**

By: Luis T. Cueto, Ph.D.

The provincial government of Oriental Mindoro is now pushing for the establishment of a Climate Risk Insurance Program to provide farmers with a safety net against financial losses as a result of natural disasters such as droughts and typhoons and other calamities plaguing the entire agriculture sector.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[Agusan Norte, UNDP ink MOU on disaster response programs](#)**

By: Alexander Lopez

Agusan del Norte's provincial government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Thursday to build institutional and community resilience programs and services in the province.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[\[Opinion\] Philippines 2050: Toward the vision plan](#)**

By: Architect Felino “Jun” Palafox Jr.

Is there a more plausible way to predict the Philippines' future other than to see it as a sustainable, First World country?

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **[CCC to integrate volunteerism in combating climate change](#)**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) have signed a memorandum of agreement to maximize volunteerism and community participation in combatting climate change in the country.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**BBC**

[Climate change worsened Asia's April heatwave by 2C - study](#)

By: Derek Cai

Climate change raised temperatures by at least 2C in many parts of Asia last month as it suffered a crippling heatwave, a new study says.

The research also found that climate change had made the heatwave 30 times likelier.

India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Laos all saw record temperatures of up to 45C in April.

The soaring temperatures caused deaths in some countries, melted roads, and left many people in hospital.

Other countries in Asia that are currently tracking unusually high temperatures include China, Indonesia, Singapore, and the Philippines.

Thailand's record heat was exacerbated by high humidity, as well as a large number of forest fires occurring at the same time, said the study by World Weather Attribution, an independent research institute.

Temperatures in the Philippines also hit 37C five days later, leading to heat stroke cases in around 150 schoolchildren.

Thirteen people died from heat stroke in Navi Mumbai, India, after attending an awards ceremony.

Climate historian Maximiliano Herrera, who tracks extreme weather patterns on his Twitter account, called it "the worse heatwave in Asian history".

Heatwaves are one of the deadliest natural hazards in the world, causing thousands of related deaths each year.

However, the full impact of a heatwave is usually not known until weeks or months later, when the deaths are recorded and analysed by scientists, according to the study.

Copenhagen-based Emmanuel Raju, one of the study's authors, said the effects of the heatwave will disproportionately affect the poorest people in the region, as well as people who work outdoors like farmers, street vendors, and construction workers.

The group uses weather data and computer model simulations to determine if and how much climate change is responsible for extreme weather events. Their studies are not peer-reviewed, but are often later published in recognised journals.

"Global temperatures will continue to increase and events like this will become more frequent and severe until overall greenhouse gases emissions are halted," the scientists said in a statement.

A separate study this week found that a key temperature limit is likely to be broken for the first time over the next few years.

Scientists say there's now a 66% chance we will pass the 1.5C global warming threshold between now and 2027.

## CLIMATE HOME NEWS

### [G7 leaders must fulfil their promise to stop funding fossil fuels](#)

By: Elizabeth Bast, Tasneem Essop and Kanna Mitsuta

As G7 Leaders gather in Hiroshima this weekend, they are faced with a choice: double down on their commitments and shift towards a clean, sustainable, and more secure energy future or continue the destructive path of fossil fuel dependence and climate chaos.

Last month climate ministers from the group of wealthy nations stated they are “steadfast in their commitment to ... keeping a limit of 1.5°C global temperature rise within reach”.

If they want to stay true to their word, they must close the door to new gas investments, including for hazardous Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), keep their commitment to end international fossil fuel finance, and resist Japan’s push for fossil-fuel based technologies.

#### End fossil fuel investment

Stopping new gas projects is critical to avoiding the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

The latest reports from the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that maintaining a 50% chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires an immediate end to investments in new coal, oil, and gas production and hazardous liquefied fossil gas infrastructure.

These findings remain unchanged in the context of the war in Ukraine and its impact on global energy markets.

Leaving the door open for new investments in gas is also in direct contradiction to last year’s G7 commitment to end international public finance for fossil fuels by the end of 2022 “except in limited circumstances ... consistent with a 1.5°C warming limit”.

#### Broken promise

Last month in Sapporo G7 ministers claimed they fulfilled this commitment.

But this is simply not true.

We understand that Italy approved financing for the Santos Basin oil and gas production project in Brazil this year.

The Japanese export credit agency, JBIC, recently approved \$393 million for a gas-fired power plant in Uzbekistan.

During a recent visit to Mozambique, Prime Minister Kishida also committed to reviving controversial Mozambique LNG projects which have been associated with local devastation, repression and violence.

Germany has not yet presented a policy for implementing the commitment to end international fossil fuel finance. The USA has adopted a policy, but it is not public.

The G7 members that have followed through, Canada, the UK and France, are in a strong position to push back against backsliding at the G7 Leaders' Summit, while supporting fellow members in their implementation efforts.

Redirecting billions towards clean energy

An Oil Change International briefing underlines the importance of advancing this agenda. It shows that between 2020 and 2022 fossil fuel support from G7 countries totalled at least \$73 billion. This is almost 2.6 times their clean energy support over the same period.

By upholding last year's commitments, the G7 can directly shift \$24.3 billion a year in public finance out of fossil fuels and into clean energy. This would raise G7 finance to a sum almost large enough to close the clean energy access gap.

Rather than promoting outdated and climate-destroying fossil fuel technologies across Asia and Africa, Japan should meet its promise to end international finance for fossil fuels.

It should also ensure that, together with fellow rich countries, it delivers its fair share of climate, loss and damage and just energy transition finance support to the Global South.

Shifting to clean energy and phasing out fossil fuel reliance is critical to permanently bring down soaring energy costs and increase energy security.

Renewable energy technologies are more affordable and can be scaled up more rapidly. They also help avoid fiscal instability linked to volatile fossil fuel prices and stranded asset risks as global gas demand drops.

A plea to Japan



Japan should not be allowed to continue to misuse its position as the G7 host to promote its fossil-fuel heavy energy strategy. Japan, and other G7 countries who are breaking their commitments, are harming our planet, and it is time for the world to hold them accountable.

The only effective answer to the climate crisis and energy security objectives is explicitly ruling out investments in new upstream gas and liquified fossil gas infrastructure, delivering on commitments to end international public finance for fossil fuels and phase-out fossil fuels in line with 1.5°C.

By shifting to renewable energy and phasing out fossil fuel reliance, we can secure a more secure, prosperous future for Africa, Asia, and worldwide. The G7 must act now to ensure a just and equitable transition to a clean energy future.

**CNN**

**[The world's largest lakes are shrinking dramatically, and scientists say they have figured out why](#)**

By: Laura Paddison

More than half of the world's largest lakes and reservoirs have lost significant amounts of water over the last three decades, according to a new study, which pins the blame largely on climate change and excessive water use.

Roughly one-quarter of the world's population lives in the basin of a drying lake, according to the study by a team of international scientists, published Thursday in the journal Science.

While lakes cover only around 3% of the planet, they hold nearly 90% of its liquid surface freshwater and are essential sources of drinking water, irrigation and power, and they provide vital habitats for animals and plants.

But they're in trouble.

Lake water levels fluctuate in response to natural climate variations in rain and snowfall, but they are increasingly affected by human actions.

Across the world, the most significant lakes are seeing sharp declines. The Colorado River's Lake Mead in Southwest US has receded dramatically amid a megadrought and decades of overuse. The Caspian Sea, between Asia and Europe – the world's largest inland body of water – has long been declining due to climate change and water use.

The shrinking of many lakes has been well documented, but the extent of change – and the reasons behind it – have been less thoroughly examined, said Fangfang Yao, the study's lead author and a visiting scholar at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder.

The researchers used satellite measurements of nearly 2,000 of the world's largest lakes and reservoirs, which together represent 95% of Earth's total lake water storage.

Examining more than 250,000 satellite images spanning from 1992 to 2020, along with climate models, they were able to reconstruct the history of the lakes going back decades.

The results were "staggering," the report authors said.

They found that 53% of the lakes and reservoirs had lost significant amounts of water, with a net decline of around 22 billion metric tons a year – an amount the report authors compared to the volume of 17 Lake Meads.

More than half of the net loss of water volume in natural lakes can be attributed to human activities and climate change, the report found.

The report found losses in lake water storage everywhere, including in the humid tropics and the cold Arctic. This suggests “drying trends worldwide are more extensive than previously thought,” Yao said.

Different lakes were affected by different drivers.

Unsustainable water consumption is the predominant reason behind the shriveling of the Aral Sea in Uzbekistan and California’s Salton Sea, while changes in rainfall and runoff have driven the decline of the Great Salt Lake, the report found.

In the Arctic, lakes have been shrinking due to a combination of changes in temperature, precipitation, evaporation and runoff.

“Many of the human and climate change footprints on lake water losses were previously unknown,” Yao said, “such as the desiccations of Lake Good-e-Zareh in Afghanistan and Lake Mar Chiquita in Argentina.”

Climate change can have an array of impacts on lakes. The most obvious, Yao said, is to increase evaporation.

As lakes shrink, this can also contribute to an “aridification” of the surrounding watershed, the study found, which in turn increases evaporation and accelerates their decline.

For lakes in colder parts of the world, winter evaporation is an increasing problem as warmer temperatures melt the ice that usually covers them, leaving the water exposed to the atmosphere.

These changes can have cascading effects, including a decrease in water quality, an increase in toxic algal blooms and a loss of aquatic life.

“An important aspect that is not often recognized is the degradation in water quality of the lakes from a warmer climate, which puts stress on water supply for communities that rely on them,” Yao said.

For reservoirs, the report found that the biggest factor in their decline is sedimentation, where sediment flows into the water, clogging it up and reducing space. It’s a “creeping disaster,” Yao said, happening over the course of years and decades.

Lake Powell, for instance – the second-largest human-made reservoir in the US – has lost nearly 7% of its storage capacity due to sediment build-up.

Sedimentation can be affected by climate change, he added. Wildfires, for example, which are becoming more intense as the world warms, burn through forests and destabilize the soil, helping to increase the flow of sediment into lakes and reservoirs.

“The result of sedimentation will be that reservoirs will be able to store less water, thereby becoming less reliable for freshwater and hydroelectric energy supply, particularly for us here in the US, given that our nation’s reservoirs are pretty old,” Yao said.

Not all lakes are declining; around a third of lake declines were offset by increases elsewhere, the report found.

Some lakes have been growing, with 24% seeing significant increases in water storage. These tended to be lakes in less populated regions, the report found, including areas in the Northern Great Plains of North America and the inner Tibetan Plateau.

The fingerprints of climate change are on some of these gains, as melting glaciers fill lakes, posing potential risks to people living downstream from them.

In terms of reservoirs, while nearly two thirds experienced significant water loss, overall there was a net increase due to more than 180 newly filled reservoirs, the report found.

Catherine O’Reilly, professor of geology at Illinois State University, who was not involved with the study, said this new research provides a useful long term data set that helps untangle the relative importance of the factors driving the decline of lakes.

“This study really highlights the impact of climate in ways that bring it close to home – how much water do we have access to, and what are the options to increase water storage?” she told CNN.

“It’s a little scary to see how many freshwater systems are unable to store as much water as they used to,” she added.

As many parts of the world become hotter and drier, lakes must be managed properly. Otherwise climate change and human activities “can lead to drying sooner than we think,” Yao said.

## ECO-BUSINESS

### [More nations plan for 'health disasters' fuelled by climate change](#)

Governments are increasingly focusing on health risks fuelled by global warming, with most nations now considering concerns from malaria to heart disease in their climate plans, according to data shared exclusively by the World Health Organization (WHO).

More than 90 per cent of countries have included health hazards in their commitments to tackle climate change, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), up from 70 per cent in 2020, according to new WHO data, set to be released in a forthcoming report.

The WHO's director for public health and environment, Maria Neira, said the climate crisis threatens key pillars of public health - including access to food, water, shelter and clean air - and countries may struggle to respond adequately to growing risks.

"Climate change will fuel all the possible health disasters that we're expecting. We need to make sure that we have health systems fit for the 21st century," Neira said ahead of the launch of the WHO's annual Health Statistics report on Friday.

"We need to change the narrative (on climate change). Until now, we have been concentrating too much on glaciers, the next generation and the planet," she said in an interview.

But "the health argument for climate action can be very powerful, and can be the one that might motivate governments".

Earlier this month, the United Arab Emirates' COP28 president designate Sultan al-Jaber said that the UN climate summit in December would be the first to dedicate a day to health and would host a health and climate ministerial meeting.

In another report published this week, the Global Climate and Health Alliance - a group of health organisations - found that wealthy countries are lagging behind lower-income nations in terms of integrating health concerns into their NDCs.

World set to surpass 1.5C warming

The findings come as the World Meteorological Organization warned on Wednesday there is a two-thirds chance that global average temperature will surpass the 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7F) warming limit set in the 2015 Paris Agreement within the next five years.

Climate scientists have warned that the 1.5C limit is a crucial tipping point after which impacts from sea level rise to extreme temperatures are likely to become much more severe.

The latest report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted various climate-sensitive health risks such as heat stress, an increase in diseases spread via food, growing water shortages, changes in the range of insects and parasites, and worsening mental health conditions.

The WHO's Neira said that while 91 per cent of countries had recognised health issues in their NDCs, only 10 per cent had incorporated the potential health benefits of taking climate action into their analyses.

She highlighted air pollution, and said addressing it could save both money and lives as people worldwide struggle with chronic health issues such as asthma and heart disease.

Air pollution, often linked to the burning of fossil fuels, causes more than 6.5 million deaths a year globally, a number which is growing, according to a study published last year in the journal Lancet Planetary Health.

"This public health crisis caused by air pollution is not as high on the political agenda as it should be," Neira said.

"If we want more action and to convince people (to act on climate change), we need to tell them about the immediate effects."

'Mismatch' between health focus and climate ambitions

The new report by the Global Climate and Health Alliance scored 58 nations on how their NDCs integrate health concerns.

The top performers were all low and middle-income nations, while wealthy countries including Australia, Japan and New Zealand were among those that scored zero.

The alliance said lower-income nations tended to be more vulnerable to climate impacts so better understand the connections between health and the environment.

The highest scorer, Burundi, involved the health sector in developing its NDC, identified vulnerabilities to issues such as flooding and vector-borne diseases, and included actions in response such as raising community awareness, the alliance said.

The report also highlighted a mismatch between the focus by some nations on health in their NDCs and their ambitions to tackle climate change. The UAE, for instance, scored well on the former but poorly on the latter.

Jeni Miller, the alliance's executive director, said COP28's day focused on health could be "really powerful" in bringing health ministers into discussions on addressing climate change.

But she stressed that what any deal emerging from COP28 contained would be more crucial.

"The real outcomes for health are based on what happens in the negotiations," she said.



## ESQUIRE

### [Global Temperatures Could Break 1.5C Climate Threshold by 2027](#)

By: Anri Ichimura

Think it's hot now? It's only going to get worse. According to the World Meteorological Organization's latest update, global temperatures will surge to record highs in the next five years. Hear that, climate deniers? The world is on fire.

For all our memes on the Philippines' heat, our experiences are proof that climate change is affecting our daily lives. And El Niño hasn't even started yet. In the Philippines, we're expected to feel the effects of El Niño from June of this year to the first quarter of 2024. As unbearable as the heat has become, WMO warns that El Niño will only get worse in the coming years.

According to WMO, there is a 66 percent chance that the annual average global temperature will exceed 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels in at least one of the next five years.

In layman's terms, that means we're screwed (and we're not even kidding). The WMO measures global warming against global temperatures before human industries actively impacted the climate. The planet, despite its size, is a fragile thing. Temperature deviations could change ecosystems and affect nations. How far we deviate from the pre-industrial annual average global temperature determines just how bad global warming will be.

To curb climate change, the 195 countries and territories that signed the 2016 Paris Agreement concurred that the world could not warm beyond 2 °C and that efforts must be made to limit even further to 1.5 °C. While WMO's five-year predictions are still far from the 2 °C hard limit, "we are getting closer."

According to the WMO, the 1.5 °C warming will cause climate impacts to become increasingly severe. In the coming years, the Earth can expect more extreme weather, sea level rise, melting ice and glaciers, and ocean heating and acidification.

And on top of all that, there is a 98 percent chance that at least one year between 2023 and 2027 will be the warmest year in recorded human history. It might be time to invest in a heavy-duty aircon because it looks like hell is moving to Earth.

Human activity has made global warming inevitable. Organizations like WMO recognize that we can't stop it, but we can slow it down. For now. The WMO report is a warning, but how well governments and industries will respond to it... well, who the hell knows?

Capitalism has always trumped the greater good, anyway.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### ELEVENTH HOUR — Making finance work for climate and the environment

By: Climate Reality Project Philippines

The World Bank Group, one of the world's largest sources of funding for developing countries to reduce poverty, increase shared prosperity, and promote sustainable development, is in the process of developing its Evolution Roadmap, which will spell out how the institution will evolve its vision and mission, operating model, and financial capacity.

The planned “evolution” is in recognition that financial and development institutions must do more in addressing the multiple crises faced by the global community, including the interplay of the climate and the debt crises in the world's most vulnerable developing countries.

Climate change shocks and disasters have already eliminated US\$525 billion from climate-vulnerable economies in the past 20 years, according to research commissioned by the V20 Group of Finance Ministers, representing 58 of the world's most systemically climate-threatened economies.

These historical losses, together with adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, have greatly reduced the fiscal space of low and middle-income climate-vulnerable countries to adapt to the warming world, respond to climate disasters, and meet the cost of low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

In fact, a growing proportion of climate-vulnerable countries are already in or at risk of being in a financial crisis.

Institutions under the World Bank Group should provide the Global South with opportunities to course-correct its debt problems while delivering its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.

At the Evolution Forum held last April 11, 2023 during the spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Climate Reality Philippines branch manager Nazrin Castro provided the following inputs to the World Bank Group's Evolution Roadmap:

First, the Evolution Roadmap cannot illustrate the climate crisis as “trade-offs.”

The climate-fueled risks intensify existing risks so it's not a trade-off. Climate-resilient and the low-carbon transition safeguards our development.

We need the World Bank to step up and pave the way for an international financial architecture that is fit for climate.

Second, a genuine and ambitious Evolution Roadmap must have clear targets and a timeframe in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Roadmap should be a manifestation of the World Bank's pivotal role in the low-carbon transition and driving adaptation and resilience of the world economy.

Recognizing the scale and magnitude of the climate crisis and its intersectionality with other global challenges, it should go beyond proposing technical overhauls and direction setting.

Third, the Evolution Roadmap should include strategies, actions, and policies that underpin the Accra-Marrakech Agenda pushed by the V20 Group.

The Roadmap should include strategies that will (1) provide necessary debt relief to debt-distressed climate-vulnerable developing economies; (2) shift investments away from fossil fuels and other carbon-intensive projects, (3) channel capital flow into low-carbon and climate-resilient investments in debt-ridden and climate-vulnerable countries, and (4) ensure the availability of pre-arranged and anticipatory financial support for the unavoidable loss and damage in the most vulnerable communities.

Lastly, the Evolution Roadmap should uphold the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities embedded in the Paris Agreement.

We need the institution to help climate-vulnerable countries cope with the impacts of the climate crisis without diminishing its already scarce resources intended to support other critical economic and development strategies in education, public health, nutrition, energy access, and job creation.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [Private satellites support fight vs. climate change](#)

By: Lucie Aubourg

From satellites that can pinpoint the sources of industrial pollution, to others that track hurricane movements by the hour, space has emerged as a key front in the fight against climate change. New launches are — literally and metaphorically — skyrocketing, and giving rise to increased cooperation between space agencies and private companies.

Among the most fruitful areas of collaboration: tracking greenhouse gas emissions. The potent planet-heating gas methane is regularly measured in the atmosphere by one of the satellites of the European Union Space Program's Copernicus mission.

The spacecraft scans the entire globe, but its resolution is in the order of several kilometers, making it hard to zero in on the exact source.

That's where private companies can step in. One of them, the Canadian GHGSat, currently has nine small satellites in orbit, each the size of a microwave.

Their mission: to fly over oil and gas sites, looking for methane leaks. By orbiting at a lower altitude, they can take a detailed look at each site.

"Think of it as the wide angle lens camera, versus the telephoto lens camera," Stephane Germain, the company's founder, told AFP.

The Copernicus team is in constant touch with GHGSat, telling them where to point their cameras.

GHGSat then sells its information to oil companies, such as Total, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Shell.

"More and more companies are interested in that because they're realizing they have to better understand their own carbon footprints," said Germain, especially since their customers are insisting on better accounting of emissions' life cycles.

A common source of methane emissions are unlit flares, which are meant to burn off the gas.

GHGSat estimates it has prevented the equivalent of 10 megatons of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere, equivalent to 1.3 million homes' energy use for a year. Other companies plan to enter the sector, including France's Absolut Sensing.

Another company, Kayrros, has no satellites of its own but is analyzing Copernicus data to track down the biggest leaks.

### Technological advances

"The big picture shows you that there is a problem. And the small one then focuses in higher resolution and sells information to somebody. So this works very well together," European Space Agency director Josef Aschbacher said of such public-private partnerships to AFP.

But government agency constellations — comprised of mostly large, very expensive satellites — remain the backbone of the Earth observation system.

Copernicus will soon enter a new era, with new missions such as CO2M measuring the carbon dioxide released specifically by human activities. NASA has about thirty Earth observation missions.

In the last six months alone, the US space agency has launched the SWOT mission to survey the Earth's surface water in unprecedented detail, TEMPO to measure pollutants in the troposphere above North America, and TROPICS, to track tropical weather systems, including hurricanes, hour by hour.

Advances in technology make it possible to measure today what was thought impossible just five or 10 years ago, said Aschbacher.

### Better forecasts

In addition to these scientific missions, meteorological satellites, such as those overseen by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), play a vital role. Their data, collected over decades, have revealed stark shifts to global climate systems: from warming sea and land temperatures to receding Antarctic ice sheets, helping feed the models climate science relies on today.

But increasingly, they can also help play a major role in adapting to a heating world.

To mitigate the impact of increasingly frequent natural disasters, “you’ve got to provide better forecasts,” NOAA’s chief scientist Mitch Goldberg told AFP.

The agency has been increasing its partnerships with the private sector. For example, it has teamed up with the company GeoOptics to collect information on the humidity or the temperature of the atmosphere.

According to a report by Inmarsat and Globant, if current satellite technologies were universally adopted, they could reduce carbon emissions by 5.5 gigatons — quadrupling current reductions of 1.5 gigatons enabled by the sector. These savings could be achieved by, for example, helping the aviation and maritime sectors decarbonize through voyage optimization, weather routing and air traffic control management.

## PANAY NEWS

### [Beauty queen advocates for sustainable fashion](#)

By: Rachel Ganancial

The queen has spoken, and repeating outfits has nothing to do with how beautiful you will present yourself.

Newly crowned Miss Philippines Earth Water, Jemimah Joy Zabala, shared a story behind the yellow gown she wore during the national pageant. It was a creation of Leo Almodal, she explained during the question and answer portion.

She said she had no idea that the gown had been worn in previous national pageants, but added she has no issue with using an “overused” creation. Repeating and renting outfits fall under her advocacy for sustainable fashion.

“Renting gowns and being an outfit repeater does not make a beauty queen less of a person. As long as you look great in it, wear it with pride, and strut it like it’s newly made,” she said.

And this advocacy is not only limited to reusing clothes; it can also help address some environmental and climate-related concerns. Zabala believes that pageantry is a good platform to encourage the public, particularly young individuals, to live sustainably.

#### Sustainable fashion mitigates climate change

The fast fashion industry, characterized by the quick turnover of trends, leads to the mass production of clothes, which requires the use of a significant amount of resources such as oil, chemicals, and water. These resources can create greenhouse emissions that are responsible for changing climate conditions.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has cited that the fashion industry is responsible for contributing 8-10 percent of global emissions.

Environmental sociologist Dr. Ronald Edilberto Ona, who is the Dean of the College of Sciences at Palawan State University (PSU), said pursuing sustainable fashion plays an indirect role in addressing climate change.

It is not just the clothes people wear, but also the factories where products come from, that contribute to the environmental impact of the fashion industry.



“The fashion industry has a significant environmental impact, including high levels of greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, and waste generation,” he said.

If the necessity of this advocacy is not seen, it will be hard to attain goals such as achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Ways to live with sustainable fashion

One sees that the goal of sustainable fashion is to minimize carbon emissions throughout the entire supply chain, from raw materials to the final product. Minimizing the supply chain can promote the use of renewable energy sources in manufacturing processes and the adoption of clean technologies.

Some ways to achieve this include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as transport emissions from transferring materials and products, and conserving resources by using eco-friendly materials that require less water, fewer pesticides, and fewer chemicals.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### Climate risk insurance program to push in Oriental Mindoro

By: Luis T. Cueto, Ph.D.

The provincial government of Oriental Mindoro is now pushing for the establishment of a Climate Risk Insurance Program to provide farmers with a safety net against financial losses as a result of natural disasters such as droughts and typhoons and other calamities plaguing the entire agriculture sector.

With climate change intensifying extreme weather events, it becomes imperative to support the livelihood of farmers and millions of Filipinos who depend on agriculture as their source of income according to the spokesperson of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Philippines.

Oriental Mindoro provincial government officials welcomed the policy advisory from the GGGI Philippines, which developed a policy paper on "Climate Insurance for the Agriculture Sector: Recommendation to Oriental Mindoro."

This is part of the US \$5 million (Php 279 million) Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)-funded "Climate Resilient and Inclusive Green Growth for Poor Rural Communities: Accelerating Implementation in the Agriculture Value Chain" project already being implemented in the province.

The policy paper proposes that climate risk insurance would be integrated in the province's long-term development planning and budgeting. There is also a need to foster insurance awareness and accessibility among target farmer-beneficiaries.

Currently, only one-third of over 10 million farm owners in the Philippines are covered by the country's state agricultural insurer PCIC (Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation). In Oriental Mindoro, only about 25% of rice farmers are insured by the government with a 100% premium subsidy, per 2018 data.

"This is very timely because the province is also bracing for the impacts of El Niño this year. Therefore, we really need to put in place sustainable measures and the right climate risk management approach in order to protect thousands of our smallholder farmers in Oriental Mindoro and over 200,000 hectares of agricultural land," Provincial Administrator Hubbert Dolor remarked.

One advantage of adopting a climate risk insurance mechanism is that it helps the local government to smoothen budget spending and have the necessary funds to finance

emergency assistance, rapid reconstruction, and provide additional support to key sectors.

"This program will provide crucial inputs for the design of viable climate insurance risk products to be introduced by the provincial government," said KOICA Country Director Eunsub Kim.

On May 11, the provincial government held a seminar workshop at the Provincial Capitol Complex in Calapan City for local leaders to discuss the proposed Climate Risk Insurance Program, a first for the province.

GGGI Philippines experts and staff led by Pepe Nebril, Achilles Estrada and Richard Calawagan presented GGGI's policy advisory report, its salient features, and recommendations for Oriental Mindoro, while representatives from the PCIC gave an overview of the existing crop insurance, a type of climate risk insurance, in the province.

"We highly recommend the establishment of a province-level database which will contain comprehensive and updated disaster information and climate risks, such as data on specific crops and target farmer beneficiaries that are most vulnerable to climate impacts," GGGI Philippines Country Representative Juhern Kim said.

State weather bureau PAGASA recently issued an El Niño alert which could bring dry spells and droughts throughout the country beginning this June and might last until the first quarter of next year.

Below-normal rainfall conditions adversely affect the agriculture sector which provides employment for over one-third of the country's workforce. Farmers suffer the most due to fewer and lower quality yields, it said.

GGGI concluded that the province of Oriental Mindoro is known as the food basket of Southern Luzon as its rich and arable land is conducive to producing large quantities of crops. Through an Executive Order establishing a Climate Risk Insurance Program, the province will strengthen its agriculture industry's resilience and adaptation to climate impacts, empower farmers to improve their incomes, and ensure food security in the region.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Agusan Norte, UNDP ink MOU on disaster response programs](#)

By: Alexander Lopez

Agusan del Norte's provincial government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Thursday to build institutional and community resilience programs and services in the province.

The MOU signing, held in this city, was led by Governor Maria Angelica Rosedell Amante and UNDP deputy resident representative Edwine Carrie as witnessed by Vice Governor Enrico Corvera and municipal mayors of the province.

The agreement aims to enhance the capacities of the local government units (LGUs) in disaster response and climate change and will be implemented through the SHIELD program spearheaded by the UNDP, its partners, and the Australian government.

SHIELD, which stands for Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities Against Disasters and Climate Change, currently covers 11 provinces that are considered most vulnerable to disasters and climate change.

Under the MOU, both parties will pursue cooperation in the implementation of informed and inclusive resilience actions, including risk-based land use and development planning, budgeting, and investment programming.

The parties will also develop bankable project proposals for climate and disaster-relevant activities, and establish multi-stakeholder partnerships in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of resilience actions.

For the next six years, the partnership is also expected to establish data ecosystems to support risk-informed planning, resource allocation, and decision-making processes, as well as the establishment of monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems.

"The expertise and guidance of the UNDP, through the SHIELD under this MOU, will help us in our disaster response efforts, especially in the formulation and implementation of climate-resilience programs and services," Amante said in her message during the signing activity.

She also urged the municipal mayors to study the content of the MOU and appoint a focal person who would focus on the implementation of the SHIELD program in their localities.

Amante thanked the UNDP, the Australian government, and partner agencies for making Agusan del Norte one of the provinces to benefit from the program.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [\[Opinion\] Philippines 2050: Toward the vision plan](#)

By: Architect Felino “Jun” Palafox Jr.

Is there a more plausible way to predict the Philippines' future other than to see it as a sustainable, First World country?

Back to the future — we move 27 years forward to effectively envision living in a progressive Philippines with First World cities and communities. We delay our steps no longer as we all buckle up to rise as a middle-income country before 2028; achieve most of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and address the challenges of poverty, inequality, infrastructure, corruption, criminality and climate change by 2030; join the list of the First World countries by 2040; and rank as one of the top 20 economies in the world by 2050. We further strengthen our goals with the support of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)'s AmBisyon Natin 2040, where the Philippines is envisioned to be a "prosperous middle-class society where no one is poor."

Starting of with NEDA's recently published "Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023 to 2028," where I was hired by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a consultant, we recommended the following: promote and establish active transportation, progressive infrastructure, and ease of transactions; develop 100 new cities and 400 new airports and runways to accommodate the 150 million Filipinos by 2050; and advocate vertical urbanism, green urbanism, new urbanism, mixed-use developments, transit-oriented development, walkable cities and 15-minute cities, among others.

PH's strategic location

The Philippines is strategically positioned at the center of the globe and is dubbed as a melting pot of cultures. The Philippines is 400 times the size of Singapore, 270 times the size of Hong Kong, eight times the size of Taiwan, and three times the size of South Korea. In fact, we ranked second in Asia from the 1930s to the 1970s, next to Japan. For 300 years, the Philippines was the Asia-Pacific hub of Spanish Europe, 48 years of the Americans, four years of the Japanese, and two years of the British. We were already trading with the Chinese, Japanese, Indians, Indonesians, Malaysians and Arabs long before Spanish colonial times. Until now, many countries recognize the strategic location of our country, attracting foreign investors, among others, for higher economic growth. It is a demographic sweet spot with a young, trainable and English-speaking human capital with an average age of 25 years old, whereas the rest of the world has

an aged and aging population. Every superpower country will always be interested in our islands.

We are blessed to rank first in marine biodiversity, sailors, and seafarers; first in call centers; third in geothermal energy and business process outsourcing (BPOs); fourth in shipbuilding; fifth in longest coastline; and among the best in human capital resources. In terms of occurrence per unit area, the Philippines ranks third in gold reserves; fourth in copper; fifth in nickel; sixth in chromite; and fifth in all other mineral resources (DoST-Pcieerd). With all these blessings considered, we see that our country has more strengths and opportunities.

### Realizing Vision 2050

The collective effort of the citizens is needed toward Vision 2050 — the Philippines, a First World country. Achieving this vision entails immediate, short-, medium-, long-term, and visionary goals, plans and programs. We need visionary leadership with strong political will; great appreciation of great planning like urban planning and socioeconomic planning; great decisions like great governance, great architecture and great engineering; and responsible citizenship. Strong collaborations between the government, the private sector and all citizens would help us fight corruption through good governance; criminality through effective measures in attaining peace and order; climate change through the protection and enhancement of the environment, reduction of carbon footprints, mitigation of sea level rise, and redevelopment of communities to become sustainable and disaster-resilient; inequality through fair distribution of wealth; and non-sustainable infrastructure through seamless connectivity and disaster-proof design.

Admittedly, realizing the vision is not a walk in the park, but with two efficient and effective presidents and administrations, the country would have effectively addressed climate change, corruption, and criminality by 2030. With three visionary and action-driven presidents and administrations, the Philippines would be a First World country by 2040, and with five good presidents and administrations, the country's global economic ranking could rise to the top 20 by 2050. Furthermore, supporting President Bongbong Marcos' Build Build More program will help us rise to a middle-income country before 2028. President Bongbong is continuing the Build, Build, Build program of President Duterte and Ambisyon 2040 put forward by NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan back in 2015. In Palafox Associates and Palafox Architecture Group, Inc.'s architecture and urban designs and urban plans for rural, urban, regional and national development, we recommend "Build, Better, Berde," "Build, Build, Build," and "Plant, Plant, Plant."

The Philippines has battled unimaginable crises since time immemorial. We are known for our resilience, and though the present still has many challenges, we are, in reality, in the recovery stage leading to the First World economy. Thus, we need a strategic visionary plan towards 2050 and beyond to reach it, starting off with the development of smart cities.

### Smart govt, smart cities

We often hear professionals like me talk about smart cities, but what about smart government? We build smart cities with the inclusion of smart initiatives and all the other components, namely smart government, smart economy, smart living, smart people, smart mobility and transportation, smart environment, smart communications, and smart security. Each one has an integral role in making a smart city effective.

Smart government refers to transparency, availability of open data, ease of doing business, no red tape, and no corruption. We hope more government transactions and services can be decentralized, expedited and completed online, so customers do not need to show up in government offices to accomplish their transactions. A great example is the DubaiNow portal where customers can seamlessly and efficiently access more than 55 government services provided by 24 of Dubai's government agencies in just one portal. DubaiNow allows customers to receive personalized and secure government-to-consumer services like bills payment, visa tracking, car registration, and renewal of trade licenses and building permits, among others.

A smart city, however, is not only limited to technological innovations (i.e., the Internet of Things). The focus still rests on finding and implementing effective and sustainable solutions to address the need for inclusive growth and development. Smart cities use efficient processes and invest in their people and technology to provide a higher quality of life for their citizens, businesses and other stakeholders. So, we begin with the creation of 15-minute cities where every destination is within 15-minute walking, biking and public transport, with a location that has more balance between jobs and housing.



## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### [CCC to integrate volunteerism in combating climate change](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) have signed a memorandum of agreement to maximize volunteerism and community participation in combatting climate change in the country.

In a news release on Wednesday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje stressed the importance of volunteerism as a tool in building and advancing policies to avoid, minimize and address climate risks.

Borje further explained that volunteerism is crucial in activities that improve community resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“We must appreciate that volunteerism should be present not only in times of crisis, but also in fostering holistic formation and development. With this, volunteerism serves as a catalyst for realizing progress and creating a sustainable impact,” Borje said.

Under the MOA, the CCC and PNVSCA will jointly organize, support and participate in programs and activities to promote volunteerism in mainstreaming climate change resiliency, aligned with the national government’s whole-of-society approach to sustainable development.

The partnership is expected to provide an effective mechanism to ensure that climate change initiatives are integrated across different sectors and communities.

PNVSCA Executive Director Donald James Gawe, for his part, said the partnership will help mobilize more volunteers and stakeholders to support the country’s climate change agenda.

“This is also a good opportunity not only to raise awareness, but as we engage more partners from the private sector, civil society organizations, academe, national government agencies, and local government units, this partnership can encourage more stakeholders to create and establish their own volunteering mechanism to build and enhance the climate resilience of their respective communities,” Gawe said.

The MOA was signed by Borje and Gawe during a ceremony held at the CCC office in Manila.

Through this collaboration, both agencies will create greater synergy and cooperation among government agencies and other stakeholders towards accelerating the transition to a climate-resilient and sustainable future for the Philippines.

**=END=**