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By: Katrina Domingo

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By: Willard Cheng

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By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

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GREENPEACE

[Fossil fuel firms owe billions in reparations for climate damage, says new study. Time to stop drilling and start paying, says Greenpeace](#)

New study by Marco Grasso and Richard Heede published today in One Earth proposes an approach for quantifying and attributing climate reparations to major carbon producers.

GMA NEWS

[Marcos stresses importance of shift to renewable energy sources](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Friday underscored the importance to shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.

RAPPLER

[Heat insurance offers climate change lifeline to poor workers](#)

A bright sun beat down on the sprawling Indian market where Kamlaben Ashokbhai Patni sat worrying about the brass jewelry on display in her wooden stall.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Marcos inaugurates PH's largest wind farm](#)

By: Catherine S. Valente and Ed Paolo Salting

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday inaugurated a 160-megawatt (MW) wind farm — the largest in the Philippines — that is being built by Ayala-led ACEN Corp. in line with the government's green energy push.

UNDP, Albay partner for disaster resilience

The Provincial Government of Albay and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines launched a partnership for an initiative that will strengthen the disaster and climate resilience in the province. Albay Provincial Governor Edcel 'Grex' Lagman and UNDP Philippines Deputy Resident Representative Edwine Carrié signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change (Shield) Program, which will accelerate resilience-building efforts at the local level through multi-stakeholder collaboration to unlock financing and implement risk-informed and inclusive resilience actions.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA STANDARD

Group seeks accountability on climate issues

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is lobbying for climate justice and developed countries' accountability to mitigate the severe impacts of climate change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

CCC calls for climate justice, accountability to avoid crisis

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has lobbied for climate justice and developed countries' accountability to mitigate the severe impacts of climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Businesses want products made from clean energy: Marcos Jr.

By: Katrina Domingo

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said the Philippines needs to build more renewable power sources as more businesses are being required to sell products made using green or clean energy.

While climate change remains the “paramount concern” for the country’s push towards having a larger share of renewables in the energy mix, several industries — such as mining — have buyers who prefer to purchase from factories that do not rely on coal-fired power plants, Marcos Jr. said in his speech when he visited the Pagudpud Wind Farm, the largest wind farm in the Philippines.

“Kailangan patuloy ang ating pagtatayo ng mga facilities kagaya nito dahil kailangan gayon sa market ay clean energy,” he said.

“Ito ‘yung isang natutunan ko noong kausap ko ‘yung mga mining na kompanya, ‘yung mga malalaki, ika nila... ‘yung buyer kailangan patunayan ninyo that you use clean energy para gawin itong produkto ninyo, kung hindi, hindi namin bibilhin,” he explained.

“So it is not just talking about climate change. It is not just talking about helping the renewables gain a bigger percentage of the energy mix. It is also a practical matter. This is the way we do business today,” he added.

Under the Philippines’ renewable energy plan, the country targets to increase to 35 percent of the share of renewable energy in the power mix by 2030.

In November 2022, Marcos Jr. told leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) that half of the Philippines’ power would be sourced through renewable power plants by 2040.

The Philippines continues to consider newer technologies to harness more power from renewable sources, the President told guests who attended the presentation of the 160MW Pagudpud Wind Farm.

“We continue to work on all of the sources of renewable. As I mentioned solar briefly, tinitingan natin ‘yung pagagandahin natin ‘yung mga geothermal, ‘yung mga dam natin baka puwede pang i-expand ang hydrothermal na power na kinukuha natin diyan,” he said.

“Tinitingnan na rin natin ‘yung nuclear power,” he said.

“Huwag kayong ninerbiyosin. Titiyakin natin na lahat ‘yan ay magiging ligtas at walang – hindi maaari magkaroon ng mga ‘yung naririnig natin mga Fukushima, mga Three Mile Island. That’s old technology that will not happen anymore. So we will make sure of all that,” he added.

Marcos Jr. also lauded the AC Energy Corporation (ACEN) for boosting its wind farms in Ilocos Norte, saying his home province is very blessed with strong winds suitable to be harnessed and converted into electricity.

“It is a good place to be because it is very important to not only Ilocanos, not only tayo dito sa Ilocos Norte but for the entire Philippines,” he said.

“That is why I am here today because it is important to highlight the importance of our shift from fossil fuels to renewables,” he said.

The Pagudpud Wind farm is expected to have 32 wind turbine generators, each capable of producing 5 MW of power, according to data from ACEN.

In the first quarter of 2023, phase one of the project has already produced 80MW, while the other half of the project is expected to be completed before December 2025.

ACEN has invested P11.8 billion in the project, said Ayala Corporation chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

“We’re proud to say it has helped over 1,200 jobs since the 3 year construction period,” he said.

“We’re hopeful that this leadership will enable the Philippines to become Southeast Asia’s leading renewable energy producer,” he said.

ACEN operates 2 other wind farms in Ilocos Norte.

Once it completes the 99 wind turbines in Ilocos Norte, ACEN’s wind farms are expected to generate a total of 360MW of wind capacity, which could cover 1.3 percent of Luzon’s annual demand, according to data from the company.

DFA: Philippines, Canada to bolster ties, focus on trade, education, defense

By: Willard Cheng

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Enrique Manalo and visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly sat down for a bilateral meeting Friday where they agreed to sustain the "momentum" in the bilateral relations of Philippines and Canada.

"This is the time for ambition between Canada and the Philippines," said Joly in her opening remarks, who said she is visiting the Philippines in the context of Canada's new Indo Pacific strategy.

She added that the Philippines "is at the core" of this strategy.

The goal, she said, is to ensure that Canada and the Philippines can work together on security issues, trade issues, climate change, the Philippine infrastructure gap, and people to people ties, noting the presence of 1 million Filipinos in Canada.

Canada, Joly said, was determined to have a "stronger presence" diplomatically in the Philippines and in ASEAN.

Manalo said he was keen on sustaining the momentum in the relations, highlighting the 2 countries' adherence to shared values such as democracy and a rules-based international order.

"Despite the myriad of challenges we have faced in the past year, both the Philippines and Canada have remained loyal to those shared values and, as such, I believe we serve as beacons of hope and freedom to those around us in the region," Manalo said.

Manalo cited the various areas where the 2 countries can work together to bolster cooperation, including on trade and investment, education and defense.

He added that the meeting was a perfect opportunity to review the relations to ensure that they remain "strategic, dynamic, and mutually beneficial."

Next year marks the 75th anniversary of Philippines-Canada bilateral relations.

BBC

[G7 summit: Why there are eight more seats at the table this year](#)

By: Laura Bicker

If the G7 were a dinner party, the host would be rummaging in the garage for the extendable table, hunting through boxes for extra placemats and cutlery.

This year's host, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, has invited eight more guests to the summit, which starts on Friday in Hiroshima.

It is certainly a sign of the thorny agenda that ranges from the war in Ukraine to how much food reaches our own dinner plates. And it is also evidence of a rapidly changing international order, with much of the conversation focusing on two countries that are not on the guest list: Russia and China.

The annual gathering includes the world's seven wealthiest democracies - Japan, the United States, the UK, France, Germany, Canada and Italy. The European Union, although not an official G7 member, also dispatches representatives. More recently, hosts have invited additional countries at their discretion.

But the economic might of the G7 is waning - in 1990, the group accounted for just over half of the world's GDP, according to the International Monetary Fund. Now it's just under 30%. It needs influential new friends.

So Mr Kishida, who is seeking a more global rather than Western coalition, has extended the table to accommodate Australia, India, Brazil, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Comoros (representing the African Union) and the Cook Islands (representing the Pacific Islands Forum).

The Japanese PM has made 16 overseas trips in the last 18 months, including India, Africa and South-East Asia, to prove to these regions that there is an alternative to Chinese and Russian money and power.

And his guest list for Hiroshima reflects these attempts to woo what many call the "Global South" - a term used for developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, all of whom have complex political and economic ties to both Russia and China.

A not-so-united front

One of Mr Kishida's clearest aims - to show a "united front" on Russia's invasion of Ukraine - will also be one his biggest hurdles.

The G7 is reportedly trying to enforce more sanctions aimed at the energy and exports aiding Moscow's war effort.

But many of the additional guests will not like this move. India, for instance, has refused to adhere to Western sanctions on Russian imports.

New Delhi has also not explicitly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Their long-standing relationship aside, India is also reliant on energy imports and has defended its oil purchases, saying it cannot afford higher prices.

And it is far from alone. Emerging economies have been hit the hardest by rising costs, partly driven up by the war in Ukraine.

Now they fear that more sanctions could compel Moscow to terminate a Black Sea grain deal that enables vital exports from Ukraine. This could exacerbate food shortages and further drive up prices.

For others, this is not just about the personal cost of sanctions.

"Vietnam has a historically close relationship with Russia, which supplies at least 60% of their arms and 11% of their fertiliser," says Nguyen Khac Giang, a visiting fellow at the Institute of South East Asian Studies in Singapore.

"Indonesia, although not heavily dependent on Russia, is a significant importer of Russian weapons and maintains good relations with Moscow.

"For these reasons, I don't believe that Hanoi and Jakarta will explicitly object to, or support, further sanctions on Russia. Doing so would pose significant economic and political risks, while offering little benefit to them."

What Mr Kishida must hope is that his hometown of Hiroshima, where the atomic bomb killed more than 100,000 people, will concentrate minds on the nuclear threat that Russia poses.

Visits around the city will be a constant reminder of the devastation the weapons can inflict, as well as supporting the message that invitees have a responsibility to ensure that such a weapon is never used again.

Pressure will also come from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky who will be there virtually to make an impassioned plea for his people who have already paid a hefty price.

That, however, might not be enough to resolve divisions on how far sanctions should go. And there is also the growing frustration among countries outside the G7 that their voices have all too often been ignored by the West. But analysts believe listening and treating these countries as partners is at least a start.

"It provides an opportunity to communicate their concerns with G7 leaders on a vast array of issues, from the war in Ukraine and the slowdown of the global economy, to security risks in East Asia, particularly regarding the South China Sea dispute and Taiwan," says Nguyen Khac Giang of Vietnam and Indonesia's involvement.

Countering China

Taiwan - and the tensions in the seas around it - has certainly become one of the biggest crises in the last year.

And as the leader of the only Asian G7 member, Mr Kishida sees the summit as a chance to respond to China's increasing show of military force around the self-ruled island, which it claims. Tokyo's message to the West is straightforward - your fight in Ukraine is also our fight, but that must work both ways.

But China, which is effectively sewn into global supply chains, is perhaps a trickier challenge than even Russia.

On a recent trip to Beijing, France's President Emmanuel Macron warned that Europe should not get "caught up in crises that are not ours". His words set off a minor row in the West, but they also renewed a lingering fear of abandonment across East Asia.

Many will remember the words of Republican Senator Lindsay Graham who, at the height of tensions with North Korea, warned: "If thousands die, they're going to die over there." Then came President Donald Trump's threat to reduce US troops in South Korea.

China's voice, analysts say, is heard clearly because, unlike Western democracies, its position does not change after every election.

Of course, the US, in the past year, has not wavered in its support for Ukraine, or in its commitment to Taiwan. And it has put on its show in the Pacific, alongside allies Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and Australia.

But the G7 isn't just taking aim at China's military ambitions. They are also concerned about what they call "economic coercion" by Beijing - retaliation for any actions that are

seen as critical of China, such as cutting Australian imports in 2019, or targeting a South Korean business in 2017.

It's unclear what form G7 counter-measures will take, or if it can even agree with its EU partners on how to act together. After all, Japan and the EU both count China as a top trading partner.

But the harder part will be persuading other countries to do the same, because much of the Global South is even more economically tied to Beijing.

China's trade with Latin America is thriving, for instance. Beijing now accounts for 8.5% of the region's GDP, while Brazil is among the countries that has a trade surplus with China. But in Africa, several nations, including Ghana and Zambia, are heavily indebted to China and struggling to repay loans.

Beijing has made its opinion of any G7-led measures clear: "China itself is a victim of US economic coercion and we have always been firmly opposed to economic coercion by other countries," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said last week.

A new battleground

There is one region where the battle for influence is still unfolding - the Pacific Islands. It explains why the tiny nation of the Cook Islands, which represents Pacific Island countries, is on the guest list.

Hugely vulnerable to climate change, these island nations are leveraging their strategic importance with both the US and China.

Last year, Beijing signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands fuelling concerns that it was going to build a military base in the region. The US reacted swiftly, announcing a deal, including \$810m in financial support, with 14 nations.

Now Mr Kishida's coalition-building efforts will also depend on how the G7 agrees to address climate change and energy security, not least because that could cut countries' reliance on Russian oil and gas, or Chinese aid.

But there might be a chink in the armour already. After the summit, President Joe Biden was headed to Papua New Guinea, becoming the first sitting US president to visit the Pacific Islands.

He is now cutting his trip short because of a crisis brewing back home over the US debt ceiling. That is a setback, according to Richard Maud, a senior fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute and former Australian intelligence chief.

"The mantra in the region is all about turning up," he said at a recent panel discussion. "Turning up is half the battle. China turns up all the time, and so the optics aren't great."

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Biotech can help save world's aquaculture from climate change](#)

By: Kristine Grace Tome

Aquaculture's contribution to the global supply of fisheries products has grown from 4 percent in 1970 to over 50 percent today. However, that capability faces constraints, and aquaculture's productivity may not be sustainable due to extreme weather situations like the current El Niño weather phenomenon in the Philippines.

While genetic engineering applications to aquaculture research is at its incipient stage worldwide, the technology has great promise in helping the sector mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, and sustain its contribution to world's fish supply.

This is according to Dr. Eric Hallerman, a professor at the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

He discussed how biotechnology could contribute to climate change resiliency of aquaculture and fisheries during a webinar via Zoom organized by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, Inc. (ISAAA Inc.) on March 31.

Aquaculture is a diverse sector with about 600 cultured species, as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations reported.

However, only 15 species contribute significantly to world production.

With the prevailing and worsening conditions brought about by climate change to the fishes' natural habitats, tools that can improve the species' resiliency are necessary.

Hallerman presented gene transfer and gene editing as promising techniques to shield the world's aquaculture from the climate crisis.

"Fishes are excellent systems for gene transfer and gene editing," Hallerman pointed out.

The main reason behind this is that fish can produce multiple offspring. At the same time, researchers have designed protocols for the successful artificial induction of spawning in cultured fish species.

Furthermore, fish eggs are large, and the development of the embryo or larvae occurs outside the mother's body, enabling successful modification of valuable traits in fish.

Gene editing has been used to improve fish species' productivity, disease resistance and sustainability.

The current thrust of aquaculture research worldwide is to improve fish species' growth and muscle development.

The growth hormone gene has been successfully employed in Nile tilapia, channel catfish, carps, loach, and other species through traditional gene transfer.

A research breakthrough occurred in 2015 when Aquabounty, a US biotech firm, developed the AquAdvantage Atlantic.

Approved for commercialization by the US Food and Drug Administration, a genetically engineered salmon grows rapidly, causing the production time to be halved and feed efficiency boosted by 10 percent.

It was the world's first commercialized product of animal biotechnology. Besides the US, AquAdvantage is also available in Canada and pending approval in other countries.

Inspired by a double muscling that naturally occurs in some cattle breeds, scientists have used gene editing to knockout fish's myostatin gene. This technique has been proven effective in increasing the muscle growth of Nile tilapia, common carp, rainbow trout, yellow catfish, olive flounder, and other species.

In 2022, Japan approved the production of two fish species exhibiting doubled muscle production. The red sea bream and tiger pufferfish, developed by the Regional Fish Institute, are sold online in Japan and recognized as no different from conventionally-bred fish.

With the advent of extreme weather situations, biotech applications in aquaculture have expanded to improving fish species' resilience to climate change.

One focus of this research is improving tolerance of fish to heat stress. This has been achieved in earlier studies employing conventional selective breeding and molecular marker-assisted breeding.

The current thrust of aquaculture research is finding molecular targets for gene transfer or gene editing.

Hallerman also mentioned the need to edit aquatic species' hemoglobin to improve their oxygen uptake.

This research thrust has a great promise for sustaining productivity in the Philippines' milkfish industry.

Largely grown in land-based ponds in Pangasinan, milkfish farms are highly densely populated, which subjects fish stocks to physiological and social stress.

Fish kills are not uncommon particularly in hot weather phenomenon, like what the country experiences these days.

High fish densities in ponds increase susceptibility of fish stocks to parasites and pathogens, making genetic improvement for disease resistance a high breeding priority.

Researchers from the University of Idaho and partners successfully knocked out a gene in grass carp which led to a reduced viral infection that causes hemorrhagic disease affecting the kidney cells.

Besides fish, protocols for gene editing of other aquaculture species have been published. University of China researchers have used the CRISPR system in Pacific oyster eggs, addressing the challenge of editing mollusks' tiny eggs distributed in the water column.

CRISPR, which stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, is the most popular gene editing tool. It was designed based on some bacteria's natural gene-editing system and works like molecular scissors to cut a particular DNA sequence to improve the quality of the target plant or animal.

For crustaceans, which fertilize internally, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has used CRISPR for ridgetail white prawns. There are no reports yet about the use of gene editing in seaweeds.

"Biotechnology can make unique contributions that classical breeding cannot," Hallerman concluded.

However, biotechnology will only serve those contributions by conducting more fundamental research on molecular mechanisms for critical traits, risk-scaled enabling policies, and better public understanding and acceptance of the technology.

Applications of biotechnology in aquaculture will only be available to help address food security and mitigate climate change, with the approval of the concerned government agencies to put animal biotechnology regulations in place, pointed out Dr. Ramon Clarete, chief of party of Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE), a US Department of Agriculture-funded Food for Progress program.

B-SAFE, in partnership with ISAAA Inc., has been conducting webinars on biotechnology to assist the public in understanding the benefits and potential of biotechnology. Through these continuous activities, the general public is being helped to become aware of biosciences' power in improving people's lives.

Kristine Grace Tome is a Program Officer at ISAAA Inc.

CNN

[Asia's April heat index hotter by 2°C due to human-induced climate change — study](#)

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Heat waves experienced in Asia in April worsened by at least 2 degrees Celsius as climate change caused mainly by human activities increase the likelihood and intensity of such weather events, a new research said.

In a study published by the World Weather Attribution on May 17, scientists found that human-induced climate change made it 30 times more likely for intense heat waves to occur in India and Bangladesh.

Scientists use pre-industrial times or 1850-1900 as a reference point to determine changes in global temperatures. The world's temperature is currently around 1.1 to 1.2 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times.

"At the same time, a heatwave with a chance of occurrence of 20% (1 in 5 years) in any given year over India and Bangladesh is now about 2°C hotter in heat index than it would be in a climate not warmed by human activities," one of the study's main findings read.

The study also found that a humid heat wave with a 0.5% chance of happening in any given year in Thailand and Laos, or 1 in 200 years, is "now 2.3 degrees Celsius hotter in heat index."

"An event of the same magnitude as the observed heat wave would have been extremely rare in a 1.2°C cooler climate and hence it would have been virtually impossible to have occurred without climate change," it noted.

The team of scientists only focused on India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Laos from South and Southeast Asia — countries which also saw record-breaking temperatures in April.

During the same month, the Philippines logged one of the highest heat indices in 2023, which was 48 degrees Celsius in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte on April 21.

Currently, the highest computed heat index is at 50 degrees Celsius in Legazpi City, Albay recorded on May 12.

In March, at least 83 students in Cabuyao City, Laguna were hospitalized for showing signs of dehydration and heat exhaustion after participating in a surprise fire drill.

The scientists said they combined climate models with observational data to estimate the influence that climate change has had on extreme heat since the climate was 1.2 degrees Celsius cooler. They said trends seen in their study will "continue with further warming."

"They are stronger for the rarer event over Thailand and Laos where a heatwave like the recent event would be about 10 times more likely in a 0.8°C warmer world (2°C global warming since pre-industrial times)," the study's findings read.

"In India and Bangladesh, the likelihood of this April's event reoccurring would increase by about a factor of 3 between today and reaching 2°C global warming, meaning that this humid heat event could be expected every 1-2 years," it added.

Scientists called for the strengthening of early warning systems for heat and better comprehension of "systematic inequalities and multidimensional vulnerabilities and how they interact with heat exposure" as sweltering temperature becomes more frequent and intense.

They also reminded stakeholders to ensure better access to water and medical help and to collaborate for the development of innovative solutions for people in highly exposed contexts.

ECO-BUSINESS

[Typhoon-battered Philippine town turns to agroecology, agroforestry for food security](#)

By: Keith Anthony S. Fabro

Gloomy skies don't dampen the spirit of Virginia Nazareno as she happily waters organic vegetables on an April morning in Kiday, a sitio or hamlet on the banks of the Agos River at the southern tip of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

"Our pechay are so big, customers are amazed," the 66-year-old says, pointing the sprinkler to the foot-high leafy vegetables. "They say it's their first time to see pechay as large as these.

"They ask what fertiliser do I apply? I reply, 'It's just organic materials, no chemical fertilisers,'" says Nazareno, the farmer-leader of the Kiday Community Farmers' Association (KCFA).

The organisation has 35 members, 30 of them women aged 30 and above, including Nazareno. Based in Quezon province on the Philippines' main island of Luzon, the group was formed and introduced to organic farming in 2005 through the Social Action Center, a Catholic Church-led nonprofit. The assistance came following four successive tropical cyclones that battered the area in November 2004, causing the Agos River to swell, inundating homes and farms and killing more than 1,000 people.

In Kiday, a hamlet of around 50 households, this disaster led to a community shift from conventional to sustainable farming. After the three-year grant from the Social Action Center ended in 2007, the KCFA worked with MASIPAG, a nonprofit organisation that since the 1980s has promoted agroecology through partnerships between scientists and farmers.

The Philippines' agriculture sector has suffered weak growth over the years due to a host of factors, including farmers' lack of access to inputs and markets, leading to widespread poverty in farming communities. MASIPAG says it hopes to address this by supporting agroecology practices with its nearly 600 partner organisations across the country.

"Organic farming is what we see as the most appropriate response to food scarcity and poverty in the agriculture sector, because in organic farming or agroecology in general, you don't need many external inputs, and it enhances diversity in the community,

making agroecosystem flourish,” MASIPAG Luzon coordinator Weng Buena tells Mongabay.

This type of sustainable farming, however, isn’t widely practised in the Philippines, largely due to the government’s continued reliance on conventional farming and limited support for alternative methods. In Quezon, public investment in a mega-dam project also threatens the propagation of this practice, and the perpetuity of community values it instills.

Agroecology practices

On a drizzling afternoon in April, KCFA members gather at the association’s centre to prepare compost, a mix of organic materials helpful for soil nutrient management. One man switches on the government-donated grinding machine and feeds coconut husks into it. Then, two elderly women funnel the ground husks into a sack filled with fruit and vegetable peels and other biodegradable kitchen waste.

Kiday members also add into the mixture other nitrogen-rich organic materials like chicken manure, banana trunks, rice straws and grass clippings, and store the mixture for three to six months. When the compost is ready, they apply it on their communal farm to enrich their diverse vegetables, including okra, pechay, kale, eggplant, chili pepper, pole bean, cucumber and bitter gourd.

“We have seen and proven that our plants, our vegetables grow better and fuller with the use of organic compost — chemicals harden the soil, so we never use them,” Nazareno says. “If you are truly diligent, your farm will have a continuous source of compost, because as you plant you are storing organic fertiliser and this can be used in the next planting season while you’re using what you previously composted.”

This practice, in which crop residues are recycled and their nutrients added back to the soil, is a cost-effective and sustainable form of nutrient management, says Ma. Lourdes Edaño, a professor of sustainable agriculture at the University of the Philippines Los Banos.

“In organic agriculture, we want our farmers to build their resources within their farm, utilise it to make a closed system, wherein their resources are built up and used, resulting in minimal wastage within the farm,” Edaño tells Mongabay.

“The prices of chemical fertilisers and pesticides are usually increasing because we have to import this [from] outside our country,” Edaño says. “If farmers would be utilizing their own resources, this way, they do not have to keep on buying these external

input[s].” Incorporating organic materials into the soil, she adds, increases its water-holding capacity and helps crops withstand droughts.

To continue feeding the crops with nutrients, the association produces its own liquid fertiliser that’s applied directly to the leaves, known as foliar fertiliser. It’s made from chopped banana stems, madre de cacao (a nitrogen-fixing tree), moringa and water spinach, which are rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients that support plant growth. These are fermented in a bucket for two weeks, after which a sardine can’s worth of concentrate is mixed with water in an 18-litre (4.8-gallon) knapsack sprayer and applied on crops twice a week.

“It’s a great feeling for us farmers whenever we see our crops growing and thriving,” Nazareno says. “You can’t contain the happiness because you finally see the benefits of cultivating the land. All the love and dedication you put into your crops for them to flourish are ultimately paying off.”

They also concoct a natural pest repellent instead of using chemical-based pesticides that kill beneficial insects and contaminate water bodies. One morning, women huddle around a wooden table beside a stream using bolo knives to mince chili pepper and leaves of madre de cacao and a variety of herbs, including lemongrass, oregano, basil, giloy and nami.

One elderly woman puts the concoction in a clay pot, mixing it with warm water and squeezing by hand to get its extracts. It’s left overnight, then the mixture is sprayed directly on the vegetables’ foliage to ward off worms, bugs and other harmful insects. The same mixture is also used on the organic rice farm behind of the community’s vegetable garden, where pest-repelling flowering plants like marigold also abound. “These are effective because we can see that our crops are not attacked by pests as much,” Nazareno says.

The group’s lowland organic vegetable and rice farms are surrounded by lush hills where agroforestry is practised. Across the slopes, fruit-bearing and hardwood tree species are planted, a practice known as contour farming, which conserves rainwater and reduces soil erosion. The wide variety of trees attracts the return of wildlife, performing vital ecosystem functions that maintain stability in the area.

To retain seeds in the community, locals practice seed banking, both communally and individually. “We’re storing seeds, because how can you call yourself a farmer if you do not have your own seeds? Seed is life — it is the lifeline of farmers,” Nazareno says.

At the KCFA centre, heirloom seeds are housed to support members and conserve seed diversity. They say this ensures the seeds they plant are natural, not genetically modified, unlike those distributed by the government to most farmers across the Philippines.

“I inherited these seeds from my ancestors,” Nazareno says. “It’s a must that you keep your own seeds so you don’t have to source it from anywhere, and since you’ve stored your own, you can plant crops any time during the planting season.”

Social benefits

Bayanihan or communal unity and cooperation is a Filipino tradition, once practised widely in the form of communal farming. But it has faded with modernisation and private land ownership. Kiday is an exception. The practice remains alive here, helping each farmer weather the impacts of household and community challenges.

“[Agroecology] reduces the financial burden of the community members, and also enhances social structure, because going into this type of farming requires cooperation and support from each other, so those are the values restored by organic farming,” says Buena from MASIPAG.

Every day, members volunteer their effort and time to manage their communal farm. Early in the morning or late in the afternoon, some manually weed grasses growing in vegetable plots, while others water the crops. There are also members tasked with producing and applying compost, natural fertiliser and pest repellent.

In all these activities, women’s active participation is evident. “As women, we feel that our engagement is important, because we’re mothers and grandmothers who prepare food on the table,” Nazareno says. “Through our involvement in organic agriculture, we know that the food that we cook and feed our family is safe and diverse.”

Almost every household in Kiday maintains its own backyard vegetable garden. Surplus produce from the communal farm and homes are sold at the village and town centres, providing community members with cash income.

The KCFA has also ventured into food processing to produce cassava chips, ginger candy and tea, bignay wine, and jam both for local and international markets. Proceeds are shared equitably among members, with a portion returned to the communal fund to support farm management activities and charitable work.

During the first few months of the coronavirus pandemic, the group and its agroecology practices proved their relevance to the community. Members extended their produce to households in nearby hamlets and villages, allowing them to survive through what would become some of the most stringent lockdowns anywhere. This, they say, has motivated others to establish their own backyard vegetable gardens.

Giving back to the community is part of the KFCA's practice. Each May, the association invites people from other communities to join in its festival called patikim, meaning "taste." During this annual festivity, members cook their traditional vegetable- and coconut-based cuisines to feed the attendees, who also return home with takeaway vegetables.

Limitations

While organic farming is promising, it has its share of challenges. For one, it's more labour-intensive than its conventional counterpart, and organic farmers' perseverance and diligence are put to test. It requires months or even years of conditioning the soil and periodically controlling weeds and pests to enjoy bountiful harvests. In a country where the poverty rate among farmers is 30 per cent, the upfront time investment and delayed financial returns can be a barrier to people already living hand to mouth.

Kiday farmers say they'd rather make the extra effort because they can't afford to go into conventional farming and risk getting mired in debt. Conventional farmers, according to Nazareno, have been conditioned since the country's "green revolution" in the 1960s to use heavy chemical inputs to improve agricultural productivity, thus many end up applying for loans. If their farming fails and their household financial responsibilities accumulate, they have a hard time paying up, leading some to pawn their land to loan sharks to free them from debt.

It's true, Nazareno says, that their first two years of doing organic farming were disheartening. Despite the extreme effort required, the method didn't give them yields comparable to conventional farming.

Experts say this low yield is part of the early stages of organic farming adoption. "We often remind the farmers, especially if they're coming from conventional transitioning to organic, do not expect that it will be equal from the get-go," says Edaño, the agriculture professor. "There is really a time that the yield will decrease, primarily if the soil has become too degraded, but despite that, three years later, or three croppings, they can recuperate in the long run."

In Kiday, members have endured and seen their harvests increase over time. Bolstered by support from MASIPAG, they continue to regenerate their soil with organic material, and practice other natural farming methods that improve their agroecosystem diversity.

The Philippine government's continued prioritisation of conventional farming is also a challenge for farming communities who already practice or are thinking of shifting to organic agriculture. This is reflected in the limited funding directed to organic farming, despite the presence of a national law that specifically advances it.

For 2023 alone, the fortified organic fertiliser development program only received 3 million pesos (about US\$54,000), representing 1.2 per cent of the total 250 million peso (US\$4.5 million) budget of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority. If the budget were increased, advocates say, funds could be channelled toward building farmers' technical capacity and improving food processing technology and market networks to help sustain and scale up community-based organic farms across the country.

Dam risks

Meanwhile, the flood risks associated with a nearby dam are worrying Kiday and other farming communities in Quezon province. A Philippine government project funded through a US\$211 million loan from China, the Kaliwa Dam aims to provide 600 million litres (159 million gallons) of water daily to crisis-prone Metro Manila. It's set to be built within a protected watershed and ancestral domain upstream of Kiday in the town of General Nakar. Project construction has been underway since December 2022, and the dam is projected to be completed in 2026 and operational the following year.

Living on the typhoon path, Nazareno says they fear a repeat of the 2004 calamity, which could be amplified if the dam releases floodwater, especially during the storm and monsoon season. "The dam will flood our farmlands, a huge amount of water will be captured, that's why, as women, we see it as an imminent danger," says Nazareno, whose group joined a nine-day protest march covering 150 kilometres (90 miles) from Quezon to the Philippine president's office in Manila in February 2023. "We will not cease in our call to stop the Kaliwa Dam because it is not good for our livelihood."

Buena says this concern warrants government attention: "We cannot simply set their worries aside, because they have past flooding experience as a basis, and they are the ones living in that community. They were the ones who experienced the tragic impact [of the typhoons] and they are also the ones who can say how it can possibly affect them."

If a catastrophic flood happens again, Edaño says, organic farmers would have to spend years reconditioning their soil, especially if forced to relocate to marginal lands. Their access to water during the dry season would also be affected, she says, as capturing water in the reservoir could limit the water flowing to downstream farmlands.

For Buena, concerns about the dam don't just touch on environmental or tribal concerns. They're also an issue for marginalised rural women who are increasingly making themselves heard in the sustainable agriculture sector to ensure the future of their families.

"The society's issue is a women's issue, and women's issue is the society's issue," she says. "You cannot really separate them because we know that women, especially during these times, are really the ones doing many roles in the family. They're making a living, taking care of the family, even providing food, so all the issues with the dam are their concerns as well."

GREENPEACE

[Fossil fuel firms owe billions in reparations for climate damage, says new study. Time to stop drilling and start paying, says Greenpeace](#)

New study by Marco Grasso and Richard Heede published today in One Earth proposes an approach for quantifying and attributing climate reparations to major carbon producers.

Responding to the findings, Kristin Casper, General Counsel at Greenpeace International, said: “The study offers answers to the biggest questions of our time: who should bear the cost of harm caused by climate breakdown and how much is owed? It’s clear that oil, gas, and coal companies – which are generating massive profits while willfully ignoring foreseeable devastating and deadly harms such as sea level rise, drought, wildfires and much more, despite warnings from the scientific community – must stop drilling and start paying for the damage they’ve caused.”

The 21 largest oil, gas and coal companies are “responsible for \$5,444 billion in expected lost GDP over 2025-2050, or \$209 billion per year,” based on their share of emissions over 1988-2022, according to the study. [1]

“The study reinforces what communities have been saying for decades. It’s time for corporate polluters to be held morally, legally, and financially accountable for the climate crisis.” added Casper.

“The analysis offers a starting point for much needed action to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for their financial responsibilities. Now, communities on the frontline of environmental breakdown can decide how to wield the study’s powerful findings in their own struggles for justice.”

GMA NEWS

Marcos stresses importance of shift to renewable energy sources

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Friday underscored the importance to shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.

This developed as Marcos graced the presentation of ACEN Corp.'s 160-megawatt wind farm in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

"We are very, very happy to have been... to be considered the pioneers now of wind power at least and hopefully patuloy sa solar power and all renewables dito sa Ilocos Norte," Marcos said in his speech.

"And that is why I am here today because it is important to highlight the importance of our shift from fossil fuels to renewables. And this is a very, very important and very, very large part of that shift that we are trying to implement in our energy mix," he added.

Marcos said there was a need to look for renewable energy sources to achieve "clean energy" in the market.

He said that he had been told by those in mining companies that some buyers wanted them to prove that they used clean energy in their production.

"Kung hindi, hindi namin bibilhin," Marcos said of the buyers.

"So it is not just talking about climate change. It is not just talking about helping the renewables gain a bigger percentage of the energy mix. It is also a practical matter. This is the way we do business today," he added.

Marcos urged his fellow Ilocanos "to keep the province as the pioneer for renewables."

"We are leading the way for the whole country. And it is a good place to be because it is very important to not only Ilocanos, not only tayo dito sa Ilocos Norte but for the entire Philippines," Marcos said.

Hethanked the Ayala Corporation for its "continuing support in our pursuit not in Ilocos Norte but in the Philippines for all of these renewable energies."

"And the time hopefully will come – hopefully soon – that we can say na iurong na natin ang energy mix natin in favor of renewables," Marcos said.

RAPPLER

[Heat insurance offers climate change lifeline to poor workers](#)

A bright sun beat down on the sprawling Indian market where Kamlaben Ashokbhai Patni sat worrying about the brass jewelry on display in her wooden stall.

When the heat rises, the metal blackens. Plastic pearls become unglued.

“The color of the jewel starts to fade as it becomes hotter, making it worthless and akin to junk,” said the 56-year-old mother of four, on a late April day when temperatures simmered around 38 Celsius (100F) in the western city of Ahmedabad.

Climate change drove heat in the city to a record-breaking 48°C (118F) in 2016. Last year, it peaked at nearly 46°C (114.8F).

Such high temperatures could mean a hit to business. But Patni is now among 21,000 self-employed women in Gujarat state enrolled in one of the world’s first insurance schemes for extreme heat, launched this month by nonprofit Arsht-Rock Foundation Resilience Center in partnership with microinsurance startup Blue Marble and a trade union.

If temperatures climb high enough above historical averages and linger there for three days, she’ll receive a small payout to help cope and compensate lost income.

While traditional insurance can take months to pay, with so-called “parametric” insurance there is no need to prove losses. It can pay within days of a trigger being reached – a predetermined threshold beyond which conditions are considered extreme. Payments can be set to things like wind speeds or rainfall.

This form of disaster assistance is on the rise across the developing world, as vulnerable communities are hammered by worsening drought, storms and heatwaves.

But with climate change happening faster and causing more damage than scientists had predicted – and too little money being spent on protecting populations – such projects could struggle over the longer-term, according to more than 20 industry experts consulted by Reuters.

Reinsurer Swiss RE reported that sales of parametric product jumped 40% between 2021 and August 2022. Insurance analysts at Allied Market Research estimate the market, valued at \$11.7 billion in 2021, could reach \$29.3 billion by 2031.

At annual climate talks in Egypt last year, nonprofits urged richer nations to help finance parametric insurance as a way of compensating victims of worsening weather extremes.

It is still somewhat niche “but it’s growing,” said Ekhosuehi Iyehen, secretary general of the Insurance Development Forum, an industry-led group that promotes insurance for non-traditional markets.

The past year has seen new products rolled out across Latin America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific. The UN Capital Development Fund, for example, recently developed parametric policies for Vanuatu, Tonga, and Fiji covering cyclone damage.

Limits

While parametric insurance has been around since the 1990s, recent advances in satellite technologies have opened up areas that were previously difficult to assess for damage, such as distant islands or mountain communities.

However, some industry experts question whether the products will be financially viable in the long-run, in part because of too-frequent payouts due to climate risks escalating faster than predicted less than a decade ago. This could drive up premiums.

Some schemes have already fizzled. The Kenya Livestock Insurance Program, for example, supported pastoralists hit by drought with 1.2 billion Kenyan shillings (\$8.8 million) in payouts between 2015 and 2021. But with just 1.1 billion (\$8.1 million) shillings collected in premiums, the scheme operated at a loss and was replaced this year with another that offers other financial savings products alongside insurance.

At the moment, insurance schemes in the developing world are largely subsidized by nonprofit groups, national governments, or wealthy countries.

Many of the programs aspire to have policyholders eventually cover more if not all of the premium. But worsening extremes could make that difficult, said resilience researcher Viktor Roezer of the London School of Economics, noting the programs could just become a “different channel for aid.”

Interviews with more than a dozen groups involved in such insurance found that most products launched in the last five years had already paid out.

The products need to “geographically diversify – we have to have schemes spread out in different areas” to dilute the risk, said Jaime de Pinies, CEO of the Blue Marble group

that developed the Gujarat heat program, as well as others in Colombia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Adapt

One way of avoiding constant payouts, industry analysts say, is for governments to implement better strategies to defend against weather extremes, for example by planting crops more resilient to drought or building cooler homes to protect against rising heat, thus slashing losses. This could allow insurers to set triggers higher.

“The beauty of the parametric is that it pays so quickly and it’s incredibly flexible,” said Kathy Baughman McLeod, director of the Arsht-Rock Foundation Resilience Center which is covering the \$10.30 per person premium in Gujarat.

“But it needs to be paired with actions or tools that reduce the risk.”

Investment in boosting resilience remains marginal in most developing economies, with financing promised by richer countries not yet fully materializing.

Donor nations mobilized just \$29 billion in 2020 to help poorer countries adapt to a warmer world — far below the \$340 billion estimated by the UN Environment Programme to be needed each year by 2030.

“In most cases, there is zero adaptation spend,” said CEO Jonathan Gonzales of parametric start-up Raincoat, which has deployed five projects in Colombia, Mexico, Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

Heat impacts

Across the world, heatwaves that once had a 1-in-10 chance of occurring in any given year prior to the industrial revolution are now nearly three times as likely, and 1.2°C (2.2F) hotter, according to a 2022 study in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*.

Scientists expect things to get worse, with such heatwaves becoming nearly six times as likely if greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated and the world reaches 2°C (3.6F) of warming, the study found.

In the case of the Gujarat heat scheme, insured by ICICI Bank with the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) as the group policyholder, the calculation determining the trigger varies across five districts. It is based on temperature expectations from historical trends over six 10-day assessment cycles.

In Ahmedabad, for example, payouts occur when temperatures add up to between 134°C (273°F) and 138°C (280°F) over the course of three days, assessed using satellite data. The policy can pay out multiple times, to a maximum of \$85.

“For vulnerable women on the margins, enduring extreme temperatures for three days directly amplifies the chances of sickness or death,” said Sahil Hebbar, a physician attending to the women in SEWA who work jobs in construction, trash collecting and shipbreaking.

Insurance payouts allow them to buy things like gloves to protect their hands from scorching hot metal tools, or fans to stay cool and avoid heat exhaustion.

Had the insurance scheme been in place last year, it would have led to averaged payouts of \$28 per person, said Blue Marble’s de Pinies.

Sitting with her jewel in the market, Patni said if temperatures climbed higher she would put payout money toward medicine to help with heat-related headaches.

“I spend 15 hours at the stall everyday...in summers it becomes difficult to stay here,” she said.

Across the city, Heena Kamlesh Parmar, 26, works as a daily wage laborer at a construction site where she is building a high-rise residential complex, earning 350 rupees (\$4.25) per day.

The heat makes her want to take a break from hauling bricks to rest in shade, she said, but she fears that could lead to a pay cut.

If she receives a payout, Parmar says, she’ll “use it to buy things for my house, things to eat.”

THE MANILA TIMES

[Marcos inaugurates PH's largest wind farm](#)

By: Catherine S. Valente and Ed Paolo Salting

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday inaugurated a 160-megawatt (MW) wind farm — the largest in the Philippines — that is being built by Ayala-led ACEN Corp. in line with the government's green energy push.

In remarks during the inauguration of the Pagudpud Wind project, Marcos highlighted the importance of shifting from fossil fuels to renewables.

"This (the Pagudpud project) is a very, very important and very, very large part of that shift that we are trying to implement in our energy mix... One, this expansion is the biggest single... wind farm project in the whole of the Philippines," the President said.

"[I]t is not just talking about climate change. It is not just talking about helping the renewables gain a bigger percentage of the energy mix. It is also a practical matter. This is the way we do business today," he added.

The President, who was joined by his son, Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos Jr., and Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla during the project opening, thanked the Ayala Group "for their continuing support in our pursuit not in Ilocos Norte but in the Philippines for all of these renewable energies."

The nearly P12-billion Pagudpud Wind project, located in the neighboring barangay (villages) of Balaoi and Caunayan, is being bankrolled by ACEN with longtime partner UPC Renewables. Construction started in 2021, and the facility is scheduled to operate at full capacity in 2025.

ACEN said it considered the project as the largest wind farm in the Philippines with 32 wind turbines each capable of producing 5 MW. It is the company's third wind development in Ilocos Norte along with the NorthWind wind farm in Bangui and the North Luzon Renewables wind farm in Pagudpud.

Ayala Corp. Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said he was extremely proud of the undertaking and added that 700 MW of their renewable projects would be online this year.

"ACEN invested around P11.80 billion in this project, and once it is fully and commercially operational, the power plant is expected to power 123,875 homes and

avoid [the emission of] approximately 344,600 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually," he said.

Phase one of Pagudpud Wind, involving 80 MW, was completed in the first quarter, and ACEN President and Chief Executive Officer Eric Francia told reporters that the full 160 MW would be completed no later than December 2025 for delivery under the Energy department's Green Energy Auction Program.

"We plan to increase the capacity of the plant from 80 MW to 135 MW by either at the end of the year or beginning of next year, which will be the approximate timing for the second phase, and by 2025 we should be fully operational," he added.

Francia said that ACEN was also considering offshore wind projects.

"I think that is indeed the next big opportunity in Ilocos, but I think there is still quite a bit of onshore wind opportunities as well," he added.

"The one thing that needs to be addressed is transmission and that will be critical to unlock the remaining onshore and future offshore in Ilocos."

A fourth wind project, the 70-MW Capa Wind that is also in Pagudpud, is expected to be mostly operational in the next 12 months.

"The timeline for this project will be similar, and the next few phases should also be completed within the next 12 months and ultimately... finish before 2025," Francia said.

ACEN's share price went up by 5 centavos, or 0.82 percent, to P6.15 on Friday amid a 0.54-percent rise for the benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index.

UNDP, Albay partner for disaster resilience

The Provincial Government of Albay and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines launched a partnership for an initiative that will strengthen the disaster and climate resilience in the province. Albay Provincial Governor Edcel 'Grex' Lagman and UNDP Philippines Deputy Resident Representative Edwine Carrié signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change (Shield) Program, which will accelerate resilience-building efforts at the local level through multi-stakeholder collaboration to unlock financing and implement risk-informed and inclusive resilience actions.

Development First Counsellor Paul Harrington of the Australian Embassy and Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (APSEMO) Head Cedric Daep bore witness to the signing, along with other key officials of the province.

Through Shield, the Australian Government has invested AU\$18 million to support the Government of the Philippines in building institutional and community resilience to climate change and natural hazards by enabling local governments in pursuing and investing in resilient development.

As one of the most disaster-prone regions in the Philippines, Albay, which hosts an active volcano, is located along the country's eastern seaboard.

The region is constantly faced with multiple, compounded hazards year after year because of its geographic properties and location. Chief among these hazardous risks are typhoons, which cause storm surges and extreme flooding.

In addition, the province has mountainous areas prone to landslides and surface run-off.

Through the strategic partnership, the Provincial Government of Albay targets to enable speedy economic recovery by enhancing local governance, improving healthcare delivery, strengthening disaster resilience, and rationalizing land use allocation.

Deputy Resident Representative Carrié reaffirmed UNDP's commitment to strengthen Albay's resilience against natural disasters and climate change through the program.

"What Shield is trying to accomplish is to build more resilient communities, local and provincial governments. UNDP is pleased to continue its long-standing partnership with Albay on disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development," Carrié noted.

The Shield program is being implemented by UNDP Philippines, together with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the consortium partners comprised of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, National Resilience Council, Philippine Business for Social Progress, and UN-Habitat.

It will be implemented in 11 of the country's most vulnerable provinces to disaster and climate change impacts.

Among the areas covered are Albay, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Cagayan, Cebu, Davao Oriental, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Pampanga, Pangasinan, and Quezon.

The program will also cover Metro Manila, given its vulnerability to earthquakes and its economic significance, along with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), with the increasing disaster and climate vulnerability of conflict-affected areas.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA STANDARD

[Group seeks accountability on climate issues](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is lobbying for climate justice and developed countries' accountability to mitigate the severe impacts of climate change.

During the recent Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Regional Consultation for Asia, Robert Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director urged wealthier nations to make appropriations, lamenting that developing countries that are least responsible for climate change will suffer the most.

Stressing the need to help developing nations adapt to extreme weather disturbances, Borje rallied vulnerable countries to work together for transformational global climate action.

“Allow me to reiterate the importance of working on the principle of climate justice – for those who are least responsible for climate change, those with the least resources, and those who are most vulnerable and at risk, the world has to do more,” Borje said on Friday.

“Conversely – for those most responsible for climate change, with the most resources, they need to do more. For us, this is climate justice.”

Borje said climate action should be anchored on the principles of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and climate justice.”

He also emphasized the need to put a premium on Global Stocktake, a mechanism assessing global response to climate crisis; accelerated adaptation action; loss and damage from climate change; target to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and climate financing.

On Wednesday, a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said that for the first time ever, global temperatures are likely to breach 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming within the next five years.

The WMO also said there is a 98 percent chance that within the next five years, the world will experience the hottest on record, surpassing 2016 when global temperature impacted by about 1.3C (2.3F) of warming.

“It is only through global collective action that we can transform our developing countries’ vulnerabilities, and avert, minimize and address existing losses and damages in order to achieve climate resilience,” Borje said.

As part of the collective efforts in attaining the global climate agenda, Borje ensured the Philippines’ support for the CVF and the so-called V20 (Vulnerable 20), a group of 20 nations that are most vulnerable to the climate crisis.

“The CCC and our allies in Congress, most especially Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda who also serves as a CVF Ambassador for Parliaments, remain committed to the work of CVF and V20 in promoting ambitious climate action to safeguard the world’s most vulnerable, developing nations,” Borje said.

The CVF, currently chaired by Ghana, is composed of 58 vulnerable nations, including the Philippines.

In 2015, the Philippines chaired the CVF. Under its presidency, the V20 group was officially founded, and the 1.5 degrees Celsius Campaign was launched ahead of the Conference of the Parties in Paris.

The CCC serves as the CVF National Focal Point of the Philippines.

Under Ghana’s chairmanship, the CVF conducted regional consultations ahead of the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the 28th Meeting of Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC.

The CVF Regional Consultation for Asia was held on Wednesday in preparation for the upcoming climate change negotiations in June and November 2023, in Bonn, Germany and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, respectively.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC calls for climate justice, accountability to avoid crisis](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

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