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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Daphne Galvez

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A few days ago, something inevitable happened – the government decided to extend the service contract of Malampaya (SC 38) for another 15 years. This is the happy ending that the Malampaya Consortium desired after almost a decade of negotiations with different administrations. In effect, the country's only domestic source of natural gas would continue providing energy even beyond its expected depletion date (2027). This also means that Luzon retains what is responsible for 20% of its electricity needs. At surface level, the extension is a success. But the reality is, there are more stories to be told about this engineering marvel.

SUNSTAR

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By: Keith Brandon Cari-An

YOUTH ambassadors of recently launched environment advocacy education projects in Negros Occidental. Tayo ang Kalikasan-Environment and Natural Resources (TAK-ENR) ambassadors Angelou Brillantes and Aldin Yanos successfully conducted their projects in Manapla and Hinigaran towns.

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By: Louella Desiderio

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH to get \\$4-B grant from ADB for socio-economic, infra dev't](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Philippines will receive a USD4-billion funding grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the implementation of the Marcos administration's socio-economic and infrastructure development plans for 2023, Malacañang announced on Tuesday.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Weather disturbance outside Philippines now a super typhoon: PAGASA

The weather disturbance outside the Philippine area of responsibility further intensified into a super typhoon on Tuesday, the state weather bureau said.

In its 4 p.m. bulletin, PAGASA said super typhoon Mawar was last spotted 2,285 kilometers east of Visayas at 3 p.m., packing maximum sustained winds of up to 185 kilometers per hour near the center and 230 kph gusts.

While Mawar has no direct effect on the country's weather yet, it may enter PAR by Friday or Saturday, the weather agency said.

Mawar is also expected to enhance the southwesterly windflow, which could bring rains to the western parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

It is also not expected to hit land in the Philippines, but PAGASA will continue monitoring its movement.

Meanwhile, the southwesterly windflow is currently affecting western sections of southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, while a frontal system is affecting extreme northern Luzon.

Batanes and Babuyan Islands may experience cloudy skies with rains, while Palawan may also experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country could expect partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

PH biodiversity conservation drive gets P240M boost from US

In celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, the United States government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), awarded P240 million (\$4.3 million) in grants to help civil society organizations address the unique climate challenges faced by local communities across the Philippines.

U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson joined Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna and Gerry Roxas Foundation Executive Director Glen de Castro to announce the 11 grants that will support efforts to conserve biodiversity, protect wildlife, and implement natural climate solutions. The grants were provided under USAID's Investing in Sustainability and Partnership for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (INSPIRE) Project.

The recipient organizations are BaiAni Foundation, CBCP Caritas Filipinas Foundation, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Diliman Science Research Foundation, and Impl. Project Philippines, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, Mabuwaya Foundation, Surigao Economic Development and Microfinance Foundation, Tanggol Kalikasan, University of Santo Tomas Research and Endowment Foundation, and Xavier Agricultural Extension Services Foundation.

The Mabuwaya Foundation plans to use the grant to protect the intact forests of the Sierra Madre mountain range in Cagayan by addressing illegal logging and conversion of forest lands for agricultural use.

Xavier Agricultural Extension Service Foundation's grant will strengthen community-based initiatives to restore and protect the mangrove forests and other marine ecosystems in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Carlson affirmed civil society organizations' critical role in translating conservation agreements into actions.

"Through these grants, we are advancing sustainable local solutions that will help communities address the unique climate challenges they face," Ambassador Carlson said. "These grants contribute to our shared goal of a more resilient future where both people and nature thrive."

"We are one with USAID and INSPIRE in the quest for an increased and more meaningful participation and engagement of all sectors [of society]. DENR is grateful for

the continued partnership and we look forward to deepening our engagement as we work toward creating a more equitable world for all,” DENR Undersecretary Cuna said.

For more than six decades, USAID has partnered with the Philippine government and local organizations to conserve the country’s rich biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Since 2021, USAID has provided more than P620 million (\$11.7 million) to civil society organizations to amplify their efforts in achieving environmental sustainability and uplifting the lives of Filipino communities.

CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

[World Bank seeks grants, new capital to fight global crises](#)

The World Bank will press for more grants and new capital from member countries, even as it leverages its balance sheet to scale up lending for responses to climate change and other global crises, its managing director of operations said on Tuesday.

The lender will rally donor support for a newly established crisis facility for the world's poorest countries that face overlapping global crises, including severe climate events, Anna Bjerde said in an interview.

"We hope to be able to really conclude and have a very strong interest in funding this by the end of the year," Bjerde said, adding that multiple billions of dollars were needed for the crisis facility.

That facility sits within the International Development Association (IDA) fund, the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries. The last replenishment was fast depleted by the pandemic.

COVID-19 pushed many poor countries into debt distress as they were expected to continue servicing their obligations in spite of the massive shock to their finances.

Bjerde is hoping for major progress in courting interest in the facility at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Morocco in October.

"We need to really get grants from developed and higher income countries, rich countries, to provide resource transfers to the lower income countries," she said.

The World Bank, whose 25-member executive board on May 3 elected a new president, wants to increase lending to ensure it can better tackle issues such as climate change, pandemics and conflict.

"We need to continuously work on what we call under the evolution roadmap - a better bank but also a bigger bank," Bjerde said.

The World Bank's "evolution road map" calls on its management to develop specific proposals to change its mission, operating model and financial capacity.

It also prescribes exploring options such as a potential new capital increase to unlock more lending and new financing tools.

The capital increase was an ongoing conversation that needed engagement with shareholders, Bjerde said.

"There's a lot of good efforts by World Bank management to look at all opportunities to maximise capital and freeing up resources internally first, through balance sheet optimisation and so forth."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in April said the next steps the World Bank must take include potential changes to allow the bank's private sector and poor country lending arms to lend to sub-sovereign entities such as cities and regional authorities.

Sub-national lending, Bjerde said, was something the World Bank "would very much like to explore further".

"It needs to be part of the toolkit and the solutions, because we need to work with both national governments and sub national governments to be able to tackle and address some of these pressing needs and urgent priorities," Bjerde said.

CNN

[Global temperature rise could see billions live in places where human life doesn't flourish, study says](#)

By: Tara Subramaniam

If the current pace of global warming goes unchecked, it will push billions of people outside the “climate niche,” the temperatures where humans can flourish, and expose them to dangerously hot conditions, according to a new study published Monday.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Sustainability*, evaluated the impact on humans if the world continues on its projected trajectory and warms 2.7 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, compared to pre-industrial temperatures.

Factoring in both the expected global warming and population growth, the study found that by 2030 around two billion people will be outside the climate niche, facing average temperatures of 29 degrees Celsius (84 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher, with around 3.7 billion living outside the niche by 2090.

Timothy Lenton, one of the study's two lead authors, said that one third of the global population could find themselves living in climate conditions that don't support “human flourishing.”

“That's a profound reshaping of the habitability of the surface of the planet and it could lead potentially to large scale reorganization of where people live,” Lenton, director of the Global Systems Institute at the University of Exeter, said in a video shared by the institute.

According to the report, the niche consists of places where the annual average temperature spans from 13 degrees Celsius (55 degrees Fahrenheit) to around 27 degrees Celsius (81 degrees Celsius). Outside this window, conditions tend to be too hot, too cold or too dry.

The study determined that while less than 1% of the global population is currently exposed to dangerous heat, with average temperatures of 29 degrees Celsius or higher, climate change has already put more than 600 million people outside the niche.

“Most of these people lived near the cooler 13 degree Celsius peak of the niche and are now in the ‘middle ground’ between the two peaks. While not dangerously hot, these conditions tend to be much drier and have not historically supported dense human populations,” said study co-author Chi Xu, a professor at Nanjing University.

If the Earth warms 2.7 degrees Celsius, India, Nigeria, Indonesia, the Philippines and Pakistan would be the top five countries with the most population exposed to dangerous heat levels, the study found.

The entire population of some countries, such as Burkina Faso and Mali, as well as small islands already at risk from rising sea levels, would face unprecedented high temperatures.

In the worst case scenarios, if the Earth warms up by 3.6 or even 4.4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, half of the world's population would be outside the climate niche, constituting what the report calls "an existential risk."

According to the report, living outside the niche could lead to increased mortality rates, as exposure to temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius could be lethal, especially if humidity is so high the body can no longer cool itself to a temperature that can maintain normal functions.

Extreme heat is also predicted to decrease crop yields, and increase conflict and the spread of disease.

Scientists have long warned that warming beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius would result in catastrophic and potentially irreversible changes. As the areas within the climate niche shrink as global temperatures rise, a larger swath of the population will also be more frequently exposed to extreme weather events including droughts, storms, wildfires and heatwaves.

Experts say there is still time to slow the pace of global warming by moving away from burning oil, coal and gas and toward clean energy, but the window is closing.

Every fraction of a degree will make a difference, Lenton said. "For every 0.1 degrees Celsius of warming above present levels, about 140 million more people will be exposed to dangerous heat."

Earlier this month, the World Meteorological Organization announced that within the next five years, there is a 66% chance that the planet's temperature will be more than 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels for at least one year.

"We've left it so late to tackle climate change properly that we're now at a point that to achieve the rate of change we need, means something like a five times speeding up of

the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions or the decarbonization of the global economy,” Lenton said.

ECO-BUSINESS

[Keeping small islands financially afloat](#)

By: Ralph Gonsalves, Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa and Wavel Ramkalawan

It is too early to tell whether all the talk about reforming development finance at this year's International Monetary Fund and World Bank Spring Meetings will translate into meaningful policy action for the Global South. But multilateral financial institutions increasingly recognise the need to evolve to remain relevant in light of new global challenges, and world leaders are paying attention to innovative approaches, such as Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley's Bridgetown Initiative to address the immediate financial needs of debt-distressed countries or Secretary-General António Guterres's stimulus to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Better late than never. The current international financial architecture is outdated and ill-equipped to handle the massive disruptions caused by climate change, a global economic downturn, the COVID-19 pandemic, and changes in income distribution fueled by technological developments and globalised competition. The unique geographic and demographic characteristics of small island developing states (SIDS) like ours make it even harder to cope with these disruptions.

The remoteness of SIDS, coupled with limited usable land and small populations, all but guarantee significant barriers to integration in a fast-paced global economy. Our countries are overdependent on imports, especially of food and energy, and often rely heavily on a single economic sector (usually tourism), making us prone to supply-chain disruptions and other external shocks.

The United Nations has long recognised our special circumstances, but the international community has done little to help us manage them. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the global financial system, where we are often left to fend for ourselves – small fish at the mercy of predators that profit handsomely from the repackaging of our debt.

The problem is that concessional financing is primarily tied to traditional measures of development, namely a country's gross national income (GNI). But the relatively high income of SIDS – more than half qualify as upper middle-income countries – prevents many from accessing the cheap finance offered to the lowest-income countries. Using income as the sole determinant for financial assistance means more debt for SIDS, which disproportionately suffer the effects of global warming and other external shocks. There is no way to escape this Catch-22 without a credible framework that takes these vulnerabilities into account.

The Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, currently under consideration at the UN General Assembly could be a lifesaver. The MVI, a universal ranking based on developing countries' susceptibility to external shocks, provides the basis for international institutions like the IMF and the World Bank to allocate the concessional financing needed to prepare and recover from unforeseen crises. While the Bridgetown Initiative addresses the immediacy of the climate-change threat, SIDS measure highly across all three dimensions of vulnerability: economic and social, as well as environmental.

For example, the gas crisis in Europe and high inflation in the United States, both fueled by the war in Ukraine, have dominated headlines over the past year. Yet the war's economic ramifications have been especially painful for remote island states like the Seychelles, where the energy shortage is compounded by higher transport costs. High inflation and soaring airfares have deterred European visitors, undermining the post-COVID recovery of the country's tourism industry, a crucial source of budget revenue.

As for the social dimension, the pandemic has had a profound effect on Samoa and other Pacific island states. Some may argue that they were spared the worst health outcomes of COVID-19, owing to their isolation. But one must also consider their capacity constraints, including their limited ability to provide health services. Without the workers and facilities needed to weather the waves of infection experienced by larger countries, these states were forced to implement stricter lockdown measures for far longer than the rest of the world. The social, psychological, and economic effects of these policies will be felt for a generation or more.

Finally, while higher temperatures and rising sea levels pose a grave threat to SIDS, they are not the only environmental concerns. The population of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is at the mercy of an active volcano – a ticking time bomb that last went off in 2021. Moreover, the island chain sits in the Atlantic hurricane belt; these storms will become stronger and more frequent as the climate crisis deepens. When a country's GDP could be wiped out in an instant, how relevant is income as a measure of vulnerability?

It is true that GNI per capita remains the most reliable way to identify the least-developed countries, which are in serious need of financial aid and other concessional resources to stand on their own. The MVI does not seek to replace GNI or interfere in the provision of material assistance to those countries that need it most. Instead, it is designed to complement this process by identifying vulnerable countries that also deserve concessional financing but currently have no access to it.

It will always feel like an inconvenient time to reform the international financial architecture. But that architecture is denying adequate shelter to vulnerable countries like ours: we are being forced to pay a premium for unsound accommodation. If multilateral financial institutions take too long to address the design flaws, the entire structure will eventually collapse.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[PH to get up to US\\$4 B ADB grants in 2023 — Palace](#)

By: Daphne Galvez

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will grant the Philippines up to US \$4 billion to support the country's socio-economic agenda and other infrastructure development programs of the government for this year alone, Malacañang said Tuesday.

According to the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), this was what ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa told President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. during their meeting at the ADB headquarters on Monday.

"This 2023 alone, we expect to provide up to US\$4 billion to support the government's Socio-Economic Agenda and the Build Better More infrastructure development program," Asakawa said, as quoted by the PCO.

"This includes preparation of several transformative projects such as the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project, the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project, and the Integrated Floor Resilience and Adaptation Project," he added.

Asakawa said ADB has increased its financing to the Philippines by fourfold reaching a total of US \$12.7 billion between 2018 and 2022.

Because of the Philippines' vulnerability to the impacts of climate change due to its exposure to severe weather events, Asakawa said the ADB is fully committed to helping the Philippines address climate change, saying "it will be a core priority of our assistance going forward."

During the COVID-19 lockdown in early 2020, Asakawa said he had the privilege of distributing food packages procured under the Bayanihan project to over 260,000 vulnerable families in Metro Manila.

He also expressed gratitude to the Philippines for being a good host to the ADB's annual meeting in September last year, where the financial institution announced its US \$14 billion assistance package from 2022 to 2025 to help developing member countries address food security issues.

Asakawa said 70% of the ADB's staff in its headquarters are Filipinos.

The PCO said the ADB was the Philippines' top source of active Official Development Assistance (ODA) among 20 development partners in 2022, accounting for 34% (US \$10.74 billion for 31 loans and 28 grants) of the US \$31.95 billion of the total active ODA.

From 2010 to 2022, ADB's annual loan financing for the Philippines averaged US \$1.4 billion.

The PCO said three loans amounting to US \$1.10 billion have been signed with ADB within the first nine months of the Marcos administration.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[US awards P240-M grants for biodiversity conservation in PH](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The United States government has awarded PHP240 million worth of grants to support the biodiversity conservation efforts of 11 select civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Philippines, the US Embassy in Manila announced Tuesday.

The amount will fund grants under the US Agency for International Development's Investing in Sustainability and Partnership for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (USAID INSPIRE) project, some of which would focus on wildlife protection and implementation of natural climate solutions.

The Mabuwaya Foundation, one of the recipients, plans to use their grant to protect the intact forests of the Sierra Madre mountain range in Cagayan by addressing illegal logging and conversion of forest lands for agricultural use.

Xavier Agricultural Extension Service Foundation's grant, on the other hand, will strengthen community-based initiatives to restore and protect the mangrove forests and other marine ecosystems in Zamboanga Sibugay.

The nine other recipients are BaiAni Foundation, CBCP Caritas Filipinas Foundation, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Diliman Science Research Foundation, Impl. Project Philippines, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, Surigao Economic Development and Microfinance Foundation, Tanggol Kalikasan, and University of Santo Tomas Research and Endowment Foundation.

US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson affirmed the critical role that CSOs play in translating conservation agreements into actions.

"Through these grants, we are advancing sustainable local solutions that will help communities address the unique climate challenges they face. These grants contribute to our shared goal of a more resilient future where both people and nature thrive," she said in a ceremony announcing the grant on Monday.

For more than six decades, USAID has partnered with the Philippine government and local organizations to conserve the country's rich biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Since 2021, the embassy said it has provided more than PHP620 million to CSOs to amplify their efforts in achieving environmental sustainability and uplifting the lives of Filipino communities.

The grants were announced in celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity, also on Monday.

The ceremony was also attended by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna and Gerry Roxas Foundation Executive Director Glen de Castro.

RAPPLER

[\[Opinion\] Malampaya plus 15: A tale of the lesser evil](#)

By: Vince Davidson Pacañot

A few days ago, something inevitable happened – the government decided to extend the service contract of Malampaya (SC 38) for another 15 years. This is the happy ending that the Malampaya Consortium desired after almost a decade of negotiations with different administrations. In effect, the country's only domestic source of natural gas would continue providing energy even beyond its expected depletion date (2027). This also means that Luzon retains what is responsible for 20% of its electricity needs. At surface level, the extension is a success. But the reality is, there are more stories to be told about this engineering marvel.

The good side

Three decades since the discovery of a large gas reserve along the northwestern part of Palawan, Malampaya has proven itself to be an invaluable asset to the country. Not only did it provide two-tenths of the energy requirements of the country, it also brought economic gains to the country, thanks to at least \$13 billion in revenue that it has generated from the sales of natural gas since 2001. It also gave Filipino professionals a platform where they could display what Filipino brilliance is, with a 100% Filipino crew on the Malampaya platform. But apart from these, the Malampaya project is also responsible for some of these commendable programs:

- Coordinating with the local communities in Mindoro, Batangas, and Palawan to advance marine biodiversity conservation efforts in their respective areas;
- Supporting the students living in the areas of Mindoro, Batangas, and Palawan through generous scholarship programs;
- Enabling out-of-school youths and unemployed adults with industry skills to help them get employed; and
- Financing health programs in different communities to combat diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

With the extension of SC 38, it can be expected that these programs will continue. Indeed, Malampaya is an invaluable asset to our country, a source of Filipino pride. However, not all good things are entirely good. There are irrefutable facts that we need to acknowledge and accept in spite of all the good things brought about by Malampaya.

The bad side

First, natural gas is still a fossil fuel. Whatever rebranding the industry does to it, it is what it is – a dirty, destructive fossil fuel. The addiction of mankind to these

nonrenewable energy resources have led us to the climate crisis that threatens our right to life; our right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. No less than the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the premier scientific body on climate change, has categorically stated in its latest report that we will not be able to meet the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement if we will not mitigate our emissions, especially from unabated existing fossil fuel infrastructures. This means that the extension of Malampaya is a gross contribution towards the 1.5°C overshoot.

And second, in line with the first point, such extension is not aligned with the country's nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. It is clear in our initial submission in 2021 that we pledged to "reduce and avoid" the emissions of the country by 75% by 2030, wherein 2.71% of it will result from domestic efforts. How can we hold on to this pledge, when we've not only extended a natural gas service contract, but we've also started creating our own liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry? How can we keep our promises when we do not do anything about our existing coal infrastructures? Shouldn't we become more aggressive in building a stronger renewable energy industry in this country? With SC 38 extension in effect, it will be difficult to achieve our national mitigation ambition, even the unconditional part alone. Our emissions will definitely continue rising through the burning of natural gas, in addition to coal and diesel from unabated existing infrastructures.

So, what now?

Our country emits only 0.3% of the total greenhouse gas emissions among countries globally. In fact, our emissions have only contributed 0.01°C to the global mean surface temperature rise in 2021, unlike the United States and China which contributed 0.28°C and 0.20°C, respectively. Is this enough to justify continuous fossil fuel expansion in the Philippines? Absolutely not. A commitment is still a commitment, to the climate treaties that the Philippines acceded to, and to the Filipinos and their right to a balanced and healthful ecology.

On a personal note, the decision to extend the service contract of Malampaya is the "lesser evil" compared to promoting the expansion of the (imported) LNG industry in the country. Yes, we do not need another Malampaya, but we also most certainly do not need LNG facilities in this country, nor even nuclear power plants (at least for now). What we really need is more renewable energy infrastructures and stronger promotion of energy efficiency and conservation measures. What we really aim for is to succeed in just energy transition.

I urge the Department of Energy to exert all efforts to boost the development of every form of renewable energy and implementation of other clean energy mechanisms in our country. I am highly optimistic that there will come a time when the Filipino people won't be forced to settle with "lesser evil" options anymore but, rather, be served with nothing but the best option. I strongly believe that such aspirations will soon become our collective reality.

SUNSTAR

Environment advocates launch projects in NegOcc

By: Keith Brandon Cari-An

YOUTH ambassadors of recently launched environment advocacy education projects in Negros Occidental. Tayo ang Kalikasan-Environment and Natural Resources (TAK-ENR) ambassadors Angelou Brillantes and Aldin Yanos successfully conducted their projects in Manapla and Hinigaran towns.

On May 20, 2023, Yanos gathered 16 youth at Barangay Anahaw in Hinigaran for the first installment of Project Tabang.

Project Tabang, which means “to help” is a resilience building, and disaster awareness and preparedness initiative that caters to young audiences in rural areas in the province.

Ma. Theresa Robles-Pialago, information officer at DENR-PENR Office of Negros Occidental, discussed the effects of climate change and how the youth participants can contribute to the solution.

The next Project Tabang session on June 3 will focus on disaster preparedness and basic first aid.

Project Hakot of Brillantes gathered locals of Brgy. San Pablo, Manapla to train them on agricultural waste management system and ecological solid waste management.

Mary Rose Tayo of DENR CENRO Cadiz, discussed the R.A. 9003. Demonstration of agricultural waste management was also conducted in the afternoon session.

The project was led by Hope Builders Organization Negros Island Inc. in partnership with DENR-PENRO Negros Occ., CENR Offices of Kabankalan and Cadiz, and participating local government units and Sangguniang Kabataan.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Sustainable infrastructure needed to fight climate change

By: Louella Desiderio

Cities need to adopt green urban planning strategies, including investing in sustainable infrastructure to boost resilience to the impact of climate change, according to the World Bank.

In its report titled “Thriving: Making Cities Green, Resilient, and Inclusive in a Changing Climate,” the World Bank provided recommendations on policy options that policymakers in cities can take to reduce emissions, enhance resilience to climate shocks, and become more inclusive to prevent the poorest from feeling the climate impacts.

“Cities are at the forefront of the climate fight. By 2050, an estimated 70 percent of all people will live in cities. This means today’s investments in making cities resilient and inclusive will determine whether most people will be able to access basic services, find jobs, and live with dignity,”Axel van Trotsenburg, senior managing director, development policy and partnerships at World Bank said.

“Through targeted action, we can transform our urban environments to ensure a thriving future for all,” he said.

The World Bank said cities are becoming more exposed to frequent extreme weather events due to climate change.

It said those in low-and lower-middle-income countries, in particular, face the highest exposure to projected climate change-related hazards, and the projected exposure for 2030 to 2040 based on a composite index that combines projections for key hazards, such as floods, heat stress, tropical cyclones, sea-level rise, water stress, and wildfire, is higher than for cities in higher-income countries.

Cities in low-and lower-middle-income countries are also less resilient to climate change-related shocks and stresses, and suffer larger negative impacts from extreme hot, dry, and wet weather events, as well as from tropical cyclones compared to those in higher-income countries.

The World Bank said among the policy options for cities is to make investments in green and resilient infrastructure.

“Investments in green, resilient, and inclusive infrastructure, including in nature-based solutions can help cities address climate change–related risks,” the World Bank said.

Despite the investment in infrastructure across low- and middle-income countries at 3.4 to five percent of their gross domestic product, the World Bank said infrastructure often cannot meet the needs of the growing and urbanizing populations of these countries.

The World Bank said climate stresses can exacerbate challenges in these countries by leading to disruptions in supply of services, including damaging assets.

“Important prevention measures such as flood control systems, shelters, and protection of environmental buffers can be embedded in infrastructure investments,” the World Bank said.

In investing in infrastructure, the World Bank said maintenance should also be covered.

“Investment outlays must not ignore maintenance because it boosts the resilience of infrastructure while reducing overall costs in the long run,” the World Bank said.

In addition to investments, the World Bank said information can also help people and firms better understand, and as a result, better adapt to climate risks.

As information may not be enough to motivate households and businesses to consider the environmental effects of their actions, the World Bank said incentives, which may be in the form of taxes, charges, subsidies and tradable permits, would be needed.

“Whatever the incentive, attention must be paid to equity because, although incentive policies raise overall welfare, for any given policy, some people or firms may gain more than others,” the World Bank said.

It also recommends having insurance against losses associated with climate change and environmental shocks to lessen the financial impact of disasters.

The World Bank also said integration within and between cities could lower greenhouse gas emissions, and bring people closer to jobs and opportunities.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH to get \\$4-B grant from ADB for socio-economic, infra dev't](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Philippines will receive a USD4-billion funding grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the implementation of the Marcos administration's socio-economic and infrastructure development plans for 2023, Malacañang announced on Tuesday.

This developed after President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. met with ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa at the regional development bank's headquarters in Mandaluyong City on Monday, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Cheloy Garafil said in a statement.

"This 2023 alone, we expect to provide up to USD4 billion to support the government's Socio-Economic Agenda and the Build Better More infrastructure development program," Asakawa, as quoted by the PCO, told Marcos during the ADB reception at its headquarters.

Citing Asakawa's remarks, Garafil said the ADB's financial support to the Philippines has increased "by fourfold," adding that the grants reached a total of USD12.7 billion between 2018 and 2022.

Asakawa said the funding grant for 2023 will be used to support the Philippine government's preparation of several "transformative" projects such as the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project, the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project and the Integrated Floor Resilience and Adaptation Project.

The ADB was the Philippines' top source of active Official Development Assistance (ODA) among 20 development partners in 2022, accounting for 34 percent (USD10.74 billion for 31 loans and 28 grants) of the USD31.95 billion of the total active ODA.

From 2010 to 2022, ADB's annual loan financing for the Philippines averaged at USD1.4 billion.

Three loans amounting to USD1.10 billion were signed with the ADB within the first nine months of the Marcos administration.

'Integrated, comprehensive climate' action

Asakawa also expressed the ADB's full commitment to help the Philippines address climate change, saying "it will be a core priority of our assistance going forward."

He assured the Philippines of the ADB's support for its climate-related projects, given the country's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change because of its exposure to severe weather events.

The Philippines ranked first among 193 countries in the World Risk Index 2022, proving its vulnerability to climate change.

Marcos on Monday emphasized his administration's commitment to climate resiliency and sustainability in all social and infrastructural projects.

In a bid to realize his vision for a "climate-smart and climate-resilient" Philippines, Marcos vowed to implement resiliency measures in the areas of water supply, sanitation, energy and transport systems, and agriculture and food production.

In a statement on Tuesday, Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson and Executive Director (VCED) Robert Borje said the government would pursue an "integrated and comprehensive" climate action between the government and its partners.

"True to the principle of whole-of-nation and inclusive approach in conducting our policy work, we will constantly foster more meaningful convergence among different sectors and stakeholders, so we could all work together, pool our resources, knowledge and expertise," Borje said.

"We all need to further scale up climate action, because it is our lives, livelihood and future that are at stake," he added.

'Special, enduring' partnership

Meantime, Asakawa mentioned the ADB's "special and enduring" partnership with the Philippines as its host country, stressing the contribution of Marcos' father, former president Ferdinand E. Marcos, in establishing the financial institution's headquarters in Manila decades ago.

He also emphasized that about 70 percent of the ADB's staff in its headquarters are Filipinos.

He thanked the Philippines for being a "good host" to the ADB's annual meeting in September 2022.

The ADB, in its 2022 meeting, announced its USD14-billion assistance package from 2022 to 2025 to help developing member-countries address food security issues.

Asakawa noted that during the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) lockdown in early 2020, he had the privilege of distributing food packages procured under the Bayanihan project to over 260,000 vulnerable families in Metro Manila.

Established in 1966, the ADB is committed to achieving prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

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