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[The high cost of an El Niño in 2023](#)

By: Isabelle Gerretsen

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DW

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By: Kieran Burke | Leonie von Hammerstein

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Nestor Corrales

MANILA, Philippines — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pledged to provide \$4 billion this year to support the Philippines' socioeconomic agenda and other infrastructure development programs, such as the preparations for the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project and the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project.

PHILIPPINE STAR

[World Bank vows support for Philippines' development](#)

By: Louella Desiderio, Alexis Romero

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine economy is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank said, as it expressed support for the Marcos administration's efforts to promote sustainable growth. World Bank managing director for operations Anna Bjerde reiterated the lender's "strong support" for the government's vision of becoming a "prosperous, inclusive and poverty-free society" by 2040 during a courtesy visit to Cabinet members at Malacañang last Tuesday, according to a statement from the Presidential Communications Office (PCO).

REUTERS

[Enough with fossil fuels, Pope says in latest climate appeal](#)

VATICAN CITY, The world must rapidly ditch fossil fuels and end "the senseless war against creation", Pope Francis said on Thursday, in a fresh plea over climate change that called on people to repent for their "ecological sins".

SUNSTAR

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THE MANILA TIMES

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A CLIMATE diplomat on Thursday highlighted the importance of assessment of climate risks to have reliable and sustainable decisions.

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By Catherine S. Valente

THE Philippines is assured of additional funding to bankroll major infrastructure projects after the Asian Development Bank (ADB) promised to give the government up to \$4 billion in loans this year, Malacañang said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[CCC turns to social media to entice public support for positive action vs climate change](#)

By: Jonathan L. Mayuga

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is tapping social media to encourage the public's positive action against the destructive and hazardous effects of climate change.

MAHARLIKA TV

[Dela Cruz, Magalong collaborate for sustainable, ecological development](#)

BAGUIO CITY, Benguet — Moving on to fulfill the initiative to reach out to local government units (LGUs) across the country to push for immediate climate action,

Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. visited Baguio City to collaborate with the LGU in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures to respond to the impacts of climate change.

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[CCC Partners With AFP For Reforestation, Carbon Sequestration](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have affirmed partnership for the implementation of programs aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change and global warming.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[President Marcos commits to climate resiliency, sustainability in PH](#)

By Alice Sicat

QUEZON CITY (PIA) -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s strong support to climate resiliency and sustainability in social and infrastructural endeavor has been commended by the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Gov't launches free 'The Philippine Gazette' newspaper](#)

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – The Marcos administration has launched “The Philippine Gazette,” a printed newspaper that will be distributed to the public for free to raise awareness about its policies and programs.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BBC

[The high cost of an El Niño in 2023](#)

By: Isabelle Gerretsen

Over the coming months, a vast body of warm water will slosh slowly across the tropical Pacific Ocean in the direction of South America. As it does so, it will trigger the start of a climate phenomenon that will bring dramatic shifts in weather patterns around the world.

Climate scientists are now warning there is now a 90% chance of an El Niño weather pattern taking hold through the end of this year and the first months of 2024. And they are warning it could be a strong one.

If that turns out to be the case, then the impacts could be significant. Scientists have already warned that with rising emissions and a strong El Niño there is a 66% chance the world will break through a key 1.5C global warming limit at least one year between now and 2027. But it could also bring damaging extreme weather such as heavy rainfall and flooding to communities in the US and elsewhere this winter.

"We're projecting an above 90% probability that there will be El Niño conditions through the winter," says David DeWitt, director of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center. "There's an 80% probability that we're going to be in El Niño in July."

The effects of this could also reverberate for some time to come – a recent study by researchers at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, estimates that an El Niño starting in 2023 could cost the global economy as much as \$3.4tn (£2.7tn) over the following five years. And they say that following two previous very strong El Niño events in 1982-83 and 1997-98, the US gross domestic product was 3% lower half a decade later than it otherwise would have been. If an event of a similar magnitude was to happen today, it could cost the US economy \$699bn (£565bn), they calculated.

It is worth noting that coastal tropical countries such as Peru and Indonesia, however, suffered a 10% drop in GDP following the same El Niño events, the researchers say. They project that global economic losses will amount to \$84 trillion (£68 trillion) this century as climate change increases the frequency and strength of El Niño events.

"El Niño is not simply a shock from which an economy immediately recovers. Our study shows that economic productivity in the wake of El Niño is depressed for a much longer time than simply the year after the event," says Justin Mankin, co-author of the study and assistant professor of geography at Dartmouth College.

"When we talk about an El Niño here in the United States, it means that the types of impacts that we'll see, floods and landslides, aren't typically insured against by most households and businesses," says Mankin. In California, for example, 98% of homeowners don't have flood insurance.

Other economic impacts in the US could include infrastructure damage from flooding, which would lead to supply chain disruption, and poor harvests caused by floods or drought, says Mankin.

But should people in the US be bracing themselves for a particularly miserable winter this year if there is an arrival of El Niño? Not necessarily. While El Niño can bring intense periods of extreme weather to North America, it doesn't always do so.

During El Niño, winds that usually push warmer water in the Pacific Ocean towards its west side weaken, allowing the warmer water to drift back towards the east and spread out over a larger area of the ocean. This leads to more moisture-rich air above the warmer ocean that alters the circulation of air in the atmosphere around the world. In North America, this typically causes Canada and the northern US to have a warmer, drier winter than normal while the southern states and Gulf coast tend to get wetter conditions, says DeWitt.

"El Niño tends to enhance the probability of above normal precipitation for the southern third of the US," says DeWitt. El Niño also typically reduces the number of hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean, but can lead to more hurricanes to the Pacific coast of the US. But all these effects largely depend on the strength of the El Niño that is driving them.

Southern states in the US are the most likely to experience severe impacts, including heavy rainfall and potential flash flooding, DeWitt warns. This would come after several years of drought following three consecutive La Niña seasons.

"Frequently what happens [during El Niño] is that when the rain comes, it comes very fast. That can cause mudslides in California and in other places where there have been wildfires, which can be quite devastating," says DeWitt. This is because scorched earth is able to retain less water, which can lead to dangerous runoff. The strong El Niño events of 1997-98 and 2015-16, for example, brought flooding and mudslides to California. The 1997-98 event was also associated with other unusual extreme events elsewhere in the country, such as severe ice storms in New England and deadly tornadoes in Florida.

But the changes in weather patterns brought by El Niño also brings other problems. Infectious diseases can become more prevalent in areas where conditions favour the insects and other pests that spread them. One study of the 2015-2016 El Niño event found that disease outbreaks became between 2.5%-28% more intense. There were

increases in cases of West Nile virus, spread by mosquitoes, in California, while New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Texas also saw increase outbreaks of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, which is mainly spread by rodents. There were even increases in the number of human cases of plague – if still only a handful of cases – in the western and southwestern states of the US.

During El Niño a lot of heat and moisture is transported from the tropics towards the poles. "When you increase the moisture at higher latitudes, it traps more thermal infrared radiation which leads to warming. This is what we call the greenhouse effect," says DeWitt.

Even a temporary breach of the 1.5C threshold due to rising emissions and this year's El Niño, as predicted by the World Meteorological Organization, could lead to widespread human suffering worldwide. According to a recent study by the University of Exeter in the UK, limiting long-term global warming to 1.5C could save billions of people from exposure to dangerous heat (average temperature of 29C or higher).

Current policies are projected to lead to 2.7C of warming globally by the end of the century, which could leave two billion people exposed to dangerous levels of heat worldwide, the authors say. Limiting warming to 1.5C would mean five times fewer people live in dangerous heat and would help prevent climate-related migration and detrimental health outcomes, including pregnancy loss and impaired brain function, says Tim Lenton, co-author of the study and director of the Global Systems Institute at the University of Exeter.

There are concerns that as carbon emissions continue to rise, future El Niño events might tip global temperatures above the 1.5C threshold more and more often.

"Every 0.1C really matters," says Lenton. "Every 0.1C of warming we can avoid, by our calculation, is saving 140 million people from exposure to unprecedented heat and the harms that could come with it."

"It's saving hundreds of millions of people from harm and that should be a huge incentive to work harder to get to zero emissions."

CBS NEWS

[France has banned short-haul domestic flights. How much it will help combat climate change is up in the air.](#)

By: Elaine Cobbe

Paris - France has passed a law banning some domestic flights and encouraging travelers to take the train instead. Under the new law, flights that can be replaced by a train journey of under two-and-a-half hours should be scrapped.

The ban on short-hop flights became law on Tuesday. However, France's national airline had already canceled three routes that were deemed too high on carbon emissions. All three went from Paris' second airport, Orly, serving Bordeaux, Lyon and Nantes. Those three cities are all on the country's extensive high-speed rail network, and taking the train is also far faster than flying there.

Air France agreed to drop those direct routes in return for coronavirus financial assistance from the government in 2020.

Critics say the ban will have a negligible effect on carbon emissions. Laurent Donceel, interim head of industry group Airlines for Europe, which represents several airlines including Air France, KLM, Lufthansa and Ryanair, dismissed the law as a "symbolic ban." He told the Agence France-Presse news service that governments should instead support "real and significant solutions" to airline emissions.

While the ban sounds like a good idea to help combat climate change, in fact there are a number of caveats that severely limit its scope. The replacement train service must be frequent, timely and allow travelers to get to and from their starting point in the same day while allowing them a full eight hours at their destination.

The choice of train station designated as the departure point has also strangled plans to limit short-haul flights from Paris' main airport, Charles de Gaulle. The comparative train station is the one at the airport — which has a much more limited service than the seven mainline stations in Paris itself.

That has meant that while you can't fly from Orly to Bordeaux direct, you can fly to the southwestern wine city from CDG. In fact, the only routes that will be affected by the ban are the three from Orly that no longer operate.

An Air France Airbus aircraft lands at Athens International Airport on July 15, 2019.

An exception in the ban allows flights with a transfer to continue to operate, and that has led to some convoluted routes that take much longer than a direct flight or a train — and mean even more harmful emissions in takeoff and landing.

For example, the direct route from Paris to Lyon in eastern France, capital of gastronomy and a business hub, used to take under an hour from Orly. That route has been canceled as it was considered wasteful. You can still fly from Orly to Lyon — but you have to fly via Nice, in the south, changing planes to hop back up to Lyon, for a flight time of three hours, 15 minutes.

By contrast, a high-speed train from Paris will have you in central Lyon in just two hours. Or you can still fly direct in over an hour from de Gaulle. However, the total journey takes considerably longer when you add in the trip to and from the airports, checking in and going through security checkpoints.

The quest for lower emissions has led European airlines to examine a number of options. Air France recently announced plans to renew its fleet in an effort to cut carbon emissions. It says it will also increase its use of sustainable aviation fuel.

The airline already has a train and air partnership with France's national rail company SNCF in a bid to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. It allows travelers to combine plane and train reservations in one booking, essentially allowing people to quickly and easily compare methods of travel.

Aviation news website Runway Girl Network reports that Spanish airline Iberia is currently expanding its flight and train combination offer. Dutch airline KLM is buying up seats on high-speed trains from Schipol airport in Amsterdam to Brussels in a move to drop one of its daily flights between the two cities.

When the ban was first raised as part of France's 2021 Climate Act, Transport Minister Clément Beaune called it "a major step forward in the policy of reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

"I am proud that France is a pioneer in this area," he added.

DW

'Time is not on our side' — Islands urge climate action

By: Kieran Burke | Leonie von Hammerstein

Tuvalu, a small island state in the Pacific, is facing disaster due to rising sea levels. The island nation's special envoy told DW there could be "total inundation" of the island within the century.

The low-lying Pacific island nation of Tuvalu is among the world's most vulnerable countries when it comes to the impacts of climate change, especially rising sea levels.

A senior delegation headed by special envoy Samuelu Laloniu is visiting Geneva, Copenhagen, Paris and Berlin, to meet with senior government officials, UN representatives and civil society, and discuss the urgent need for climate action.

The top envoy said his home is facing the threat of completely disappearing.

"We are grappling with the questions of statelessness, sovereignty, the risk of losing our way of life, our rights. I think there's a need for people to understand the human aspects, the human face of the climate crisis," Laloniu told DW's Leonie von Hammerstein.

Fears of inundation within the century

Pacific islands face some of the starkest and most immediate risks related to climate change. According to the US Geological Survey, many Pacific islands have a maximum elevation of 3-5 meters.

A 2012 US National Climate Assessment gave global sea level rise scenarios which ranged from 0.2 meters to 2.0 meters by 2100, putting islands like Tuvalu firmly at risk.

"As atoll nations, time is not on our side — Total inundation within the century. And if we are serious about sea level rise, we have to address the problem at the source," Laloniu said, stressing, "fossil fuel is the greatest source of the climate crisis and sea level rise."

Laloniu said one of the immediate consequences of the threats facing islanders was that people were ultimately making the decision to leave.

"People are migrating. It's a private decision, it's not a policy of the government to even consider relocation. But clearly there are people migrating for various reasons — looking for education for their children. But certainly there are people migrating

because they lost land due to coastal erosion. And in general, the uncertainty because of the impacts of climate change."

The government of Tuvalu was helping people improve their skills so that they could seek opportunities elsewhere.

Reclaiming land 'only viable option'

Land reclamation is one of the strategies the island nation is using to deal with rising sea levels.

"Our priority now is to build resilience and enhance our capacity to adapt," Laloni said. He also highlighted the work being done to reclaim the coastal area as part of a Green Climate Fund Project.

"That project will add about 10% of the existing habitable land area," Laloni said adding that in his opinion it was the only "viable option" remain on the island.

"There are some other options we are taking in terms of resilience, but the most important now is where we can to raise the land and reclaim it," Laloni said.

The envoy said the international community needed to know that islands Tuvalu face the very real possibility of losing territory, and highlighted the role Germany plays in climate talks.

"You have to talk to people who can make a difference. And Germany is certainly an important partner in this. And with the assistance we can get from Germany... it would be something for others to follow," Laloni said.

Another key issue that the delegation is seeking to address is securing an agreement on permanent maritime borders regardless of whether there were changes to sea level.

"We have made our case clear, not only Tuvalu, but as a region, where we would rather have permanent baselines, maritime baselines, regardless of sea level rise. So those are discussions in the international legal forums, including the UN. We have asked our development partners, our friends, like Germany, to help us in the discussion."

Laloni said a concrete demand the island is making is that countries keep to the 1.5 target according to the Paris Agreement which seeks to limit Earth's warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[ADB pledges \\$4 billion for gov't projects](#)

By: Nestor Corrales

MANILA, Philippines — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pledged to provide \$4 billion this year to support the Philippines' socioeconomic agenda and other infrastructure development programs, such as the preparations for the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project and the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project.

ADB president Masatsugu Asakawa made the commitment to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during their meeting at the ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong City on Monday, according to Press Secretary Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil.

"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," Masatsugu told Marcos.

Masatsugu also told Mr. Marcos that ADB is fully committed to helping the Philippines address climate change, saying "it will be a core priority of our assistance going forward." Masatsugu said the ADB has increased its financing to the Philippines by fourfold reaching a total of \$12.7 billion between 2018 and 2022.

'Reliable partner'

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

Garafil said that from 2010 to 2022, ADB's annual loan financing for the Philippines averaged at \$1.4 billion.

The Palace official cited that three loans worth \$1.10 billion were signed with the ADB within the first nine months of the Marcos administration.

In his speech at the ADB reception at the bank's headquarters in Mandaluyong City on Monday, Marcos said the loans and grants from ADB would be "judiciously utilized."

PHILIPPINE STAR

[World Bank vows support for Philippines' development](#)

By: Louella Desiderio, Alexis Romero

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine economy is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank said, as it expressed support for the Marcos administration's efforts to promote sustainable growth. World Bank managing director for operations Anna Bjerde reiterated the lender's "strong support" for the government's vision of becoming a "prosperous, inclusive and poverty-free society" by 2040 during a courtesy visit to Cabinet members at Malacañang last Tuesday, according to a statement from the Presidential Communications Office (PCO).

"The post-pandemic recovery is underway in the Philippines, with strong domestic demand weathering global headwinds. Since 2022, its economy has been growing rapidly, aided by a substantial reduction in COVID-19 cases that facilitated a full economic reopening," Bjerde, who visited the Philippines for two days beginning May 23, was quoted by the PCO as saying.

"The World Bank is committed to supporting the Philippines achieve long-term inclusive and sustainable growth, attain upper middle-income country status, and eventually become a predominantly middle class society by 2040," she added.

Bjerde said the World Bank is committed to supporting the Philippines' development agenda including climate change, renewable energy transition, food and agriculture, water and sanitation, innovation and digitalization.

With the Philippines among those most affected by climate change, she said protecting the poor and vulnerable from disasters will remain part of the World Bank's priorities in the country.

She said climate shocks in the form of extreme weather events like strong typhoons or slow-onset trends like temperature rise, biodiversity loss, land and forest degradation, and ocean acidification will hinder economic activity, damage infrastructure and hurt the poor and vulnerable the most.

"We welcome opportunities to support the country's climate adaptation and mitigation programs to help address these challenges," she said.

The Washington-based multilateral lender also agreed to support the government's priority areas in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

The blueprint seeks to “bring back the country to a high-growth trajectory” and to “enable economic and social transformation for a prosperous, inclusive and resilient society.”

It is anchored in AmBisyon Natin 2040, which aims to make the Philippines a prosperous, high-trust and middle class society, where the poor are lifted from poverty and people are healthy and educated.

According to the PCO, the World Bank cited the Philippines’ “excellent” progress in the implementation of its ongoing projects.

“It noted the opportunities for the Philippines to further boost investments and long-term growth given its young and skilled labor force and sound macroeconomic policies,” the PCO said.

Also discussed during the meeting were the Teacher Effectiveness and Competencies Enhancement Project, which was designed to enhance the quality of and access to teaching in Kindergarten to Grade 6 in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula and Soccsksargen; and the Philippine Rural Development Project Scale-Up, which aims to improve farmers’ and fisherfolks’

Access to markets and increase income from selected agriculture and fisheries value chains.

According to the PCO, the World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is the Philippines’ third largest official development assistance partner, with active loans and grants amounting to about \$6.8 billion. The amount constitutes 21.2 percent of the country’s total ODA.

Present during the meeting were World Bank Regional vice president for East Asia and Pacific Manuela Ferro, World Bank Country Director for the Philippines Ndiamé Diop, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan, Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman and PCO Secretary Cheloy Garafil.

REUTERS

[Enough with fossil fuels, Pope says in latest climate appeal](#)

VATICAN CITY, The world must rapidly ditch fossil fuels and end "the senseless war against creation", Pope Francis said on Thursday, in a fresh plea over climate change that called on people to repent for their "ecological sins".

Francis has made the protection of the environment a cornerstone of his pontificate, noting in his landmark 2015 "Laudato Si" (Praised Be) encyclical that the planet was "beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth".

In a message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, he said a U.N. climate summit meeting in Dubai on Nov. 30-Dec.12 "must listen to science and institute a rapid and equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuel".

"According to the commitments undertaken in the Paris Agreement to restrain global warming, it is absurd to permit the continued exploration and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructures," he added.

"The unrestrained burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of forests are pushing temperatures higher and leading to massive droughts," Francis said, also criticising oil and gas fracking and "unchecked mega-mining projects".

Francis, an Argentine who is the first pope to hail from the so-called Global South, denounced global inequalities and said that "consumerist greed, fuelled by selfish hearts, is disrupting the planet's water cycle".

Through the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Catholics are urged to offer special prayers for the planet. It is observed on Sept. 1, but it is customary for the papal message linked to it to be released months in advance.

As well as quoting from "Laudato Si", the document cites previous popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, indicating that Francis' pro-environment focus stands in continuity with his more conservative predecessors.

SUNSTAR

National development under a climate crisis

By: Joshua Villalobos

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change.

Thus, efforts for mitigation and adaptation on these impacts should be incorporated in national development planning and in the overall development framework of the country from now up until the foreseeable future.

The leading author of the past IPCC reports Dr. Saleemel Huq of the International Center for Climate Change and Development noted that “this (referring to the climate impacts) is going to get worse and it is not going to get better in my lifetime and in your lifetime” addressing young people during the Global Youth Training on Climate Change that I attended organized by Oxford University and the Global Youth Coalition.

The progress that the national government has made in terms of including climate action in national development is laudable but still underwhelming considering the intensity and frequency of impacts that the country is experiencing in the past 10 years and in the impacts that it will still experience in the coming years.

The recognition of the climate crisis and the inclusion of climate action in the national framework strategy is an important preliminary step in pursuing sustainable development in the era of climate crisis.

However, the call for collective action on climate change should not only be included in speeches of talking heads and in press releases but must also be reflected in the national development planning and implementation.

With this, the country must improve its ambitions and commitments in terms of climate change adaptation and mitigation to protect its people and to pursue a more sustainable national development.

By increasing the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change, the country can protect its developmental gains in the past and can also accelerate development in vulnerable areas and communities to achieve the national vision as stated in the Ambisyon Natin 2040.

In the same way, by heightening the emission reduction goals, we can also protect our communities from the worsening warming of the planet and at the same time create more green jobs, generate more revenue from green industries, and foster a “greener and bluer” economy as the plan also entails.

This shows that climate actions will not only protect our communities but also spur our economy towards a climate-resilient and economically-competitive future.

The country must also strengthen its efforts in pursuing climate justice at the global level by initiating or supporting efforts of other developing countries to hold polluters accountable.

Though our country has repeatedly called for developed countries to meet its commitments in climate finance and for the establishment of the loss and damage fund facility, the developments in these areas have been relatively slow considering the increasing intensity and frequency of rapid and slow onset events affecting our communities. Climate financing can also be a source of funds for our various national development efforts.

Lastly, our country's development leaders and managers should also seek expert's opinions, particularly in the context of climate change. We have several climate scientists and academics who have significantly contributed to understanding of this global crisis in the international arena.

Our country should take advantage of their expert knowledge to better inform our national development plan and the implementation of it moving forward.

Moreover, it must also seek to be consultative - to include the voices of communities in the fringes of our society who are at the forefront of these climate impacts.

The climate crisis not only presents threats, hazards, and risks but also presents an important opportunity to redefine national development. It is imperative that the threats are minimized, the opportunities are exploited, and actions are taken at this point since the window of opportunity in addressing the climate crisis is slowly closing and in the words of Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency Antonio Guterres: the climate time-bomb is ticking.

THE MANILA TIMES

Climate risk assessment important – expert

By: Red Mendoza

A CLIMATE diplomat on Thursday highlighted the importance of assessment of climate risks to have reliable and sustainable decisions.

Glenn Banaguas, chairman of the Asean Science Diplomats and the president of Environmental and Climate Change Research Institute, said that both public and private companies must not just assess risks, but also manage them.

Companies may use the so-called Trip framework for climate mitigation, where each letter of the word stands for Track, Risk, Impact and Policy.

"Track", he said, is tracking human resources and using climate scenarios and projections.

"We use the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change models in determining what is going to happen in the future," Banaguas said during The Manila Times' Sustainability Forum at the Admiral Hotel Manila.

R is risk assessment, or the identification of hazards such as storms, drought and landslides, as well as exposure to risk which leads to vulnerability, or those who are exposed to these risks.

I is for impact assessment, or what would be the effect of the risk in a given area.

"It is important to know what happened in these areas. You are not just validating models, you are also talking to the people about their actual experiences," Banaguas said.

P is for Policy, or the alignment of programs and policies to local and global climate change programs, such as the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction policy or the National Climate Change Action Plan.

Banaguas said that some private companies, such as Philippine Airlines (PAL), the academe, and some municipalities and provinces have implemented his TRIP framework for climate sustainability.

PAL, he said, aims to be the first airline to be net zero by 2030.

In a subsequent interview with The Manila Times, Banaguas said companies must start with a climate risk assessment as it will be "very hard" to just assess it on one factor alone.

"You have to solve it in a more comprehensive way, because it is going to be very hard to manage the risk if you do not know how to assess it," Banaguas said.

[Palace: PH to get up to \\$4B in ADB funding](#)

By Catherine S. Valente

THE Philippines is assured of additional funding to bankroll major infrastructure projects after the Asian Development Bank (ADB) promised to give the government up to \$4 billion in loans this year, Malacañang said.

Presidential Communications Secretary Cheloy Garafil said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa made the commitment during a meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday.

"This 2023 alone, we expect to provide up to \$4 billion to support the government's Socio-Economic Agenda and the Build Better More infrastructure development program," Asakawa was quoted as having told Marcos during a reception at the ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

"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 had increased its financing to the Philippines by fourfold, reaching a total of \$12.7 billion between 2018 and 2022.

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

The ADB was the Philippines' top source of active official development assistance (ODA) among 20 development partners in 2022, accounting for 34 percent — \$10.74 billion for 31 loans and 28 grants — of the \$31.95 billion of the total active ODA.

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

With its continuing commitment to the Philippines, three loans amounting to \$1.10 billion were signed with the bank within the first nine months of the Marcos administration.

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

Marcos, for his part, expressed gratitude to the ADB, ensuring that the ADB-supported projects will be timely executed.

"Our goal remains clear: to transform our economy into one characterized by sustainability, climate resilience, responsiveness and inclusivity," he said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[CCC turns to social media to entice public support for positive action vs climate change](#)

By: Jonathan L. Mayuga

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is tapping social media to encourage the public's positive action against the destructive and hazardous effects of climate change.

The CCC led by Commissioner Albert dela Cruz recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) in Malacañang with the Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcaster ng Pilipinas Inc. (KSMBPI).

"With this MOA signing, we at the Climate Change Commission would like to manifest our resolute determination to address the problem of climate change in our country by talking directly to our people through various interactive social media platforms and networks nationwide. Climate Change is a very serious problem that impacts not only the Filipinos but the entire humanity due to its real threat on humankind extinction if left unattended," de la Cruz said in a statement.

"The Philippine contribution to the global carbon footprint is less than 1 percent yet our country is among the top 4 most vulnerable nations in the world to the deadly effects of climate change" dela Cruz added.

KSMBPI chairman Dr. Michael Raymond Aragon, meanwhile, expressed elation for the privilege of being of service to the public by being tapped by the CCC to help the government in its climate change advocacies.

"We are glad to be afforded this rare privilege of serving our people directly through our partnership with the Climate Change Commission. We intend to sustain this collaboration with the CCC for the greater interest of our beloved country and people,"Aragon said.

A nongovernment organization that advocates proper and righteous social media broadcasting, KSMBPI believes in the power of proper training and education, through the group's Technical Education and Skills Development Authority-recognized free online courses.

MAHARLIKA TV

[Dela Cruz, Magalong collaborate for sustainable, ecological development](#)

BAGUIO CITY, Benguet — Moving on to fulfill the initiative to reach out to local government units (LGUs) across the country to push for immediate climate action, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. visited Baguio City to collaborate with the LGU in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Commissioner Dela Cruz met with the City of Pines mayor Benjamin ‘Benjie’ Magalong to discuss Baguio’s local climate change action plan (LCCAP) to address climate-induced disasters and advocate the utilization of waste-to-energy (WtE) technologies as a solution to the city’s waste problems.

He explained to the mayor the importance of these measures to promote sustainable and ecological development as espoused by no less than President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr. in his administration’s national climate change action plan (NCCAP).

The climate official likewise noted to Magalong the former stature of Baguio City as a primary source of agricultural produce, particularly vegetables like cabbage, onion, lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli, and beans, which he noted should be reestablished through sound management of the city’s natural resources.

“We should focus on helping the agricultural sector to produce enough food for all your countrymen so that the food security we all seriously want to achieve could be attained and the Philippines will become self-sufficient and would no longer need to import basic agricultural and marine products from other countries,” he pointed out.

He added that in achieving food security where every Filipino household has enough sustenance for each family, programs for sustainable development would become easier to attain with people empowerment and equitable governance.

“It is the advocacy of our President to establish a strong nation that is self-reliant and resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change, so it is imperative for the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to help LGUs like Baguio City achieve success through farm inputs and modern technology,” Dela Cruz concluded. (ai/mtvn)

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CCC Partners With AFP For Reforestation, Carbon Sequestration

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have affirmed partnership for the implementation of programs aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change and global warming.

The collaboration was the result of CCC Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr.'s meeting with AFP chief of staff Gen. Andres Centino at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, the commission said on Wednesday.

The CCC said Dela Cruz and Centino discussed a plan for closer cooperation to further enhance the advocacy of a "whole-of-nation and -community approach" in the implementation of immediate climate action.

It said the two officials agreed to conduct activities such as tree-planting, carbon sequestration, urban gardening and other initiatives for agricultural productivity.

Centino cited the broad expanse of military camps and preserves across the country that can be utilized to promote tree-growing and urban gardening, the CCC said.

"Centino noted that in actively joining the CCC in its program of climate action, military personnel can significantly contribute to the Marcos administration's national climate change action plan to help in the efforts for carbon sequestration and likewise in enhancing food productivity while ensuring the country's resiliency through adaptation and mitigation," it added.

Dela Cruz said tree-planting and reforestation initiatives would strengthen bonds among communities and serve as a "catalyst for socio-economic development."

"We need to act if we want to save the only home we have," he said.

"Trees have lots of benefits and planting trees is an essential way for everyone to avert the harsh impact of severe atmospheric occurrences triggered by climate change. We have seen how climate change and global warming has wrought upon us in the form of super typhoons, monsoon rains, landslides and erratic weather conditions," Dela Cruz added.

Academe's participation

Meanwhile, Dela Cruz also urged the academe to take part in the government's efforts to address climate change.

He made the call when he attended the Climate Change Summit at the Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU) in Balanga town, the CCC said.

Dela Cruz said it is incumbent to promote sustainable and ecological development based on research, empirical data and collective action.

He also underscored the urgent need for paradigm shift on environmental protection and climate action because the challenges in food and water security and population control are “all anthropogenic or caused by human activities.”

“We have a climate problem but we also have the solution amidst the problem,” Dela Cruz said. “What we do now will determine the future of our children. So I call on the academe and the education sector to join hands with us and unite in climate action for the common good and for the whole world.” (PNA)

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[President Marcos commits to climate resiliency, sustainability in PH](#)

By Alice Sicat

QUEZON CITY (PIA) -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s strong support to climate resiliency and sustainability in social and infrastructural endeavor has been commended by the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

At a gathering organized by the Asian Development Bank, the President emphasized his administration's aspirations for a Philippines that is both climate-smart and climate-resilient.

The Marcos administration has pledged to implement resiliency measures across various sectors, including water supply, sanitation, energy and transport systems, and agriculture and food production. These priority areas are aligned with the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) outlined by the CCC. The NCCAP focuses on long-term strategies for climate change adaptation and is integrated into the national development plan from 2011 to 2028.

The President's commitment to sustainability and climate resilience is reflected in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2023 to 2028. The PDP specifically devotes a chapter to climate change and resilience, demonstrating a whole-of-government approach that has been welcomed by the CCC.

Chapter 15 of the PDP, titled "Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience," sets the goal for communities, institutions, and the natural and built environment to become more resilient to natural hazards and climate change impacts by 2028. The inclusion of this chapter highlights the administration's dedication to transformative climate actions.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje commended President Marcos Jr.'s guidance, emphasizing its importance in reinforcing the commitment of the Philippine Government on this goal.

The government's commitment to climate change is further demonstrated by the increase in climate change expenditure. For the fiscal year 2023, National Government Institutions have allocated P453.1 billion for adaptation and mitigation programs, representing a 56% increase from the previous year's budget.

The Philippines' vulnerability to climate change was underscored by its ranking as the first among 193 countries in the World Risk Index 2022. President Marcos Jr. emphasized the urgency of the climate crisis, stating that nature's fury is already impacting communities and people.

Furthermore, the President stressed the importance of partnerships between the government, private sector, and other stakeholders in addressing the climate crisis. He called for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, focusing on the need for public-private partnerships and international collaborations.

In line with this, VCED Borje emphasized the significance of meaningful convergence among sectors and stakeholders. By pooling resources, knowledge, and expertise, Borje highlighted the necessity of scaling up climate action, as the lives, livelihoods, and future of the Filipino people are at stake.

In the National Capital Region, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' priority programs focuses on clean air, clean water, solid waste management, enhanced national greening, intensified forest protection and anti-illegal logging, geo-hazard, groundwater assessment and responsible mining, enhanced biodiversity, scaling up of coastal and marine ecosystem, improved land administration and management, and the Manila Bay rehabilitation which are all dedicated and part of the country's climate action goals.

With President Marcos Jr.'s commitment to climate resiliency and sustainability, the Philippines is poised to address the challenges of climate change and work towards a more resilient and sustainable future.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Gov't launches free 'The Philippine Gazette' newspaper

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – The Marcos administration has launched “The Philippine Gazette,” a printed newspaper that will be distributed to the public for free to raise awareness about its policies and programs.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said its attached agency, the Bureau of Communications Services (BCS), led the free distribution of the Philippine Gazette on Wednesday.

“Inilunsad ng Presidential Communications Office - Bureau of Communications Services kahapon, May 24, 2023 ang The Philippine Gazette, isang libreng pahayagan na magsisilbing tulay upang maiparating sa mga Pilipino ang mga impormasyon ukol sa mga programa at proyekto ng administrasyon ng Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (The Presidential Communications Office - Bureau of Communications Services on May 24 launched the Philippine Gazette, a free newspaper that will serve as a bridge to deliver to Filipinos information about the programs and projects of the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.),” the PCO said.

It said the public may get a free copy of the newspaper at the Recto, Cubao, and Santolan stations of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) - Line 2; Philippine National Railway's Tutuban station; and Manila North Harbor Terminal and Victory Liner Terminal in Pasay City.

Under Executive Order 16 signed by Marcos on Feb.13, the PCO led by Secretary Cheloy Garafil serves as the primary office of the Executive branch in engaging and involving the citizenry and the mass media in enriching the quality of public discourse on all matters of governance.

The PCO is responsible for crafting, formulating, developing, enhancing, and coordinating the messaging system of the Executive branch and the Office of the President.

The PCO-BCS, on the other hand, develops and provides communications services relating to policy formulation, communications planning, project development, research and evaluation, and coordination of information planning within the framework of the overall thrust and priorities of the national development plan.

Multimedia project on climate change

Meanwhile, the Climate Change Commission (CCC), in collaboration with the Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas, Inc. (KSMBPI), will launch in June a multimedia content project titled “Tara... Green Na!”

CCC Commissioner Albert dela Cruz and KSMBPI founding chairperson Michael Raymond Aragon signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to establish the partnership aimed at helping the commission in formulating policies attuned to the Marcos administration’s climate action program.

Under the MOA, the “Tara... Green Na!” climate change advocacy project will be aired on PTV4, with the support of print, broadcast, and social media, to disseminate information and educate the public about the government’s national climate change action plan.

The program will be aired every Saturday starting in mid-June, the CCC said in a statement.

The commission noted that the KSMBPI would also assist it in implementing several initiatives to ensure the Philippines would be able to respond to the global call for climate action, as espoused in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

Dela Cruz said the partnership with KSMBPI is a significant step in public and private collaboration to ensure the successful implementation of climate action plans in the country.

“We are thankful that we are gaining traction in our call for partnerships to aptly respond to climate change because we cannot singularly do this but must act collectively in order for us to save our environment, our planet, and humankind from the threat of extinction,” he said. (PNA)

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