



## NEWS ROUNDUP

30 MAY 2023 [ 08:00 am]

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- India: How is climate change impacting menstrual health?
- Guiding PH companies to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050
- Troops in climate change advocacy
- Bill on conservation, protection of PH peatlands passes 3rd reading in House
- PH Army, NGO launch key greening program
- Arnold Schwarzenegger calls fight against climate change his 'crusade'
- Climate change misinformation and the struggle to limit cars in Oxford
- Architectural toolbox to adapt to climate change in focus at Venice
- Philippines establishes supportive ecosystem for startups

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Deal inked to use military lands for planting trees, crops
- Whole-of-society approach needed to address climate change (PCI)
- Whole-of-society approach needed to address climate change (PNA)

### ABS-CBN NEWS

#### [Shanghai records hottest May day in 100 years: weather service](#)

By: Agence France-Presse

SHANGHAI — Shanghai on Monday recorded its hottest May day in 100 years, the city's meteorological service announced, shattering the previous high by a full degree.

### DW

#### [India: How is climate change impacting menstrual health?](#)

By: Midhat Fatimah

Women suffer increasing risks to their health in the wake of natural disasters, according to a UN report. Indian women tell the story of how Cyclone Amphan impacted their health.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

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## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[Troops in climate change advocacy](#)**

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Troops from the Philippine Army's Armor Division under Maj. Gen. Facundo Palafox IV break ground to plant bamboo seedlings to drum up public consciousness on climate change.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

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### **[PH Army, NGO launch key greening program](#)**

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Army is launching a key offensive against climate change by launching a reforestation project with the help of the group Tarlac Heritage Foundation.

## **PHILIPPINE STAR GLOBAL**

### **[UN body lauds Philippines aid for Pakistan](#)**

By: Pia Lee-Brago

MANILA, Philippines — The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has welcomed a contribution of \$100,000 from the Philippines to support flood response in Pakistan.

## **PHYS.ORG**

### **[Arnold Schwarzenegger calls fight against climate change his 'crusade'](#)**

By: Peter Sblendorio

The "Terminator" star—who founded the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative and annually hosts the Austrian World Summit—considers his two decades of work to save the environment to be his "crusade," he told "CBS Sunday."

## **RAPPLER**

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By: Maria Ramirez

What began as an ordinary local dispute over how to alleviate traffic in Oxford, UK, has become the subject of campaigns that have reached the United States, Canada, and Australia

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

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## **VIETNAM PLUS**

### **[Philippines establishes supportive ecosystem for startups](#)**

Hanoi (VNA) – A supportive ecosystem for startups has been established in the Philippines and it continues to evolve, providing a platform for the development of innovative enterprises, according to a new report of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### ABS-CBN NEWS

#### [Deal inked to use military lands for planting trees, crops](#)

By: Pia Gutierrez, ABS-CBN News

The Climate Change Commission on Monday said it partnered with the Armed Forces of the Philippines to utilize military bases across the country for planting trees and crops.

### PHILIPPINE CANADIAN INQUIRER

#### [Whole-of-society approach needed to address climate](#)

By: Philippine News Agency

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Monday called for a whole-of-nation and community approach to address the impact of climate change.

### PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY

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By Anna Leah Gonzales

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Monday called for a whole-of-nation and community approach to address the impact of climate change.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS-CBN NEWS**

### **Shanghai records hottest May day in 100 years: weather service**

By: Agence France-Presse

SHANGHAI — Shanghai on Monday recorded its hottest May day in 100 years, the city's meteorological service announced, shattering the previous high by a full degree.

"At 13:09, the temperature at Xujiahui station hit 36.1 degrees Celsius (97 degrees Fahrenheit), breaking a 100-year-old record for the highest temperature in May," a post on the service's official Weibo account read.

Scientists say global warming is exacerbating adverse weather, with a recent report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warning that "every increment of global warming will intensify multiple and concurrent hazards".

Later in the afternoon, the temperature at the metro station in central Shanghai climbed even higher to 36.7 degrees Celsius, the meteorological service for the eastern Chinese city said.

That put it a full degree above the old record, 35.7 degrees Celsius, which has been recorded four times previously -- in 1876, 1903, 1915 and 2018, according to the weather service.

In May the United Nations warned that it is near-certain that 2023-2027 will be the warmest five-year period ever recorded, as greenhouse gases and El Nino combine to send temperatures soaring.

There is a two-thirds chance that at least one of the next five years will see global temperatures exceed the more ambitious target set out in the Paris accords on limiting climate change, the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said.

**DW**

**[India: How is climate change impacting menstrual health?](https://amp.dw.com/en/india-how-is-climate-change-impacting-menstrual-health/a-65761484)**

By: Midhat Fatimah

Women suffer increasing risks to their health in the wake of natural disasters, according to a UN report. Indian women tell the story of how Cyclone Amphan impacted their health.

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When Super Cyclone Amphan hit India's coast in 2020, 28-year-old Suchitra Jana, along with her family, moved to a government shelter where she found herself among the 800-odd people taking refuge at the camp.

While she stayed at the cramped school-turned-shelter for only 20 days, her ordeal lasted for months. After the cyclone, Jana found out that she had developed a vaginal infection.

"The infection lasted for 6-7 months. I had a severe burning sensation and a strong odor which was very uncomfortable to bear," said Jana, a resident of Khetramohanpur village in the Pathar Pratima block of 24 South Paraganas district, which lies along the coast of India's West Bengal state.

The shelter, where Jana stayed with her family, had just four toilets for the hundreds of people who sought protection from the cyclone and both men and women used the same washrooms.

"We would need to stand for hours in line to be able to use the toilet which was very filthy," Jana said, adding that access to water was a huge issue because "there was just one tubewell for all the people at the shelter."

During the cyclone, when Jana had her periods, she went on to use pieces of cloth for days at a time because she could not get sanitary napkins and there was no place to wash or dry the material at the shelter.

"We used to first stand in line for water and then for using the toilets. It used to take hours of our day."

When months of medication prescribed at the block hospital didn't help Jana, she consulted doctors in the state's capital, Kolkata — where she would arrive after a six-hour journey crossing multiple rivers.

Like Jana, Mamu Das, 32, a resident of the Nagaon district in Assam, also had to face conditions of inadequate sanitation facilities and poor access to menstrual products when floods wreaked havoc across several districts of Assam state last year.

When Das' family lost their livelihoods due to the floods, it impacted her ability to afford sanitary napkins. "I used to take sanitary napkins from shopkeepers as borrowings [a loan that would be paid for later]."

### 'Menstrual health during natural disasters'

Natural disasters like floods and cyclones lead to large-scale displacements. The displaced communities include women whose menstrual health takes a back seat during these calamities.

"At health camps during natural disasters, chronic diseases take priority so women usually don't bring up issues related to menstrual health management," said Sobhan Mukherjee, a menstrual health activist.

Women face numerous challenges at shelter camps like access to toilets, sanitary napkins, increased risk of infections etc.

"Due to the stress of the calamity, women's menstrual cycles also stop suddenly. Sometimes, they end up skipping their periods for months," said Dr Basab Mukherjee, vice president of the Bengal Obstetric & Gynaecological Society.

"The rate of urinary tract infections, vaginal infections, etc., generally increases after disasters like cyclones and floods because women are not able to maintain proper menstrual hygiene," he told DW.

Climate change may increase risks for women by shifting the timing of menarche, or first menstruation, according to a study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

A United Nations report last year highlighted that "extreme weather events due to climate change disproportionately affect women and girls and their ability to perform their everyday tasks."

"In Indian communities, it is usually the women who are left behind in climate-vulnerable zones as men leave in search of jobs. The women have to deal with the daily logistics which are greatly impacted by climate change," said Megha Desai of Desai Foundation, an NGO that works for menstrual equity.

'Climate change to blame'

In 2020 and 2021, floods and cyclones, which are influenced by the southwest and northeast monsoon seasons, were the main reasons for disaster displacement.

The eastern coast of India is highly prone to tropical cyclones. However, in recent years they have grown to become more intense. Scientists have warned the reason behind this increased intensity is climate change.

Amphan, which had struck India's eastern coastline as a category 5 cyclone, triggered the evacuation of more than 2.4 million in India, according to a 2021 report by the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Center.

Amphan had led to nearly five million evacuations across Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Bhutan in May, making it the largest disaster displacement event of the year globally.

"With increased temperatures, the moisture-holding capacity of the atmosphere has increased which is why cyclones are able to retain their energy for longer periods," Uma Charan Mohanty, a meteorologist and an emeritus professor at the School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology in Bhubaneswar, told DW.

Assam, which is prone to floods, has 15 of India's most climate-vulnerable districts.

"We are also seeing more erratic patterns of rainfall because of rising temperatures that are the reason behind frequent floods," he said.



## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Guiding PH companies to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050](#)

Every business has a responsibility in climate change mitigation. Carbon neutrality, acquiring an equilibrium between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, is deemed as a beneficial approach. In the Philippines, Energy Development Corporation (EDC) strives to ensure that it absorbs more carbon than its entire operation emits. This is attributable to its renewable geothermal operations coupled with its forest management program.

Still, being a pure renewable energy company that maintains vast watersheds, while something to be proud of, is not enough to reverse our worsening climate – it cannot be done alone. This prompted EDC to convene businesses and form an alliance. The Net Zero Carbon Alliance (NZCA) is the first private sector-led initiative toward attaining net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or carbon neutrality by 2050.

Now in its second year, the NZCA continues to encourage local enterprises to commit to become carbon neutral and adhere to its strategy that is largely based on the proven approach of EDC – (1) avoiding and reducing emissions and (2) offsetting those that can no longer be reduced.

NZCA guides its partners in their journey toward carbon neutrality, which includes suggesting various strategies to lower their carbon emission such as shifting to renewable energy.

“Avoiding and reducing emissions can happen when businesses shift to renewable energy sources. To support this, other energy efficiency and conservation measures may be implemented; the idea is to reduce the overall reliance on fossil fuels. Simple organizational lifestyle and operational changes like food waste reduction, telecommuting have great impact,” explains Allan V. Barcena, Executive Director of NZCA. He is concurrently EDC’s assistant vice president and head of Corporate Relations and Communications.

For processes where reduction of emissions is no longer feasible, offsetting is seen as the solution. “Businesses can look into carbon sequestration, which is basically capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. This can be done through forest protection, conservation, and restoration.”

NZCA abides by its conceptual framework which involves the cycle of commitment, measurement, planning, action, tracking, and validation.

The Net Zero Carbon Alliance held their first quarter assembly on March 8, 2023, where they highlighted the importance of their collaborative efforts in combating the ongoing challenge of climate change. Through their joint work, the NZCA and its partners are striving toward a sustainable and regenerative future, with a focus on achieving carbon neutrality for all.

“The first step after making a commitment to carbon neutrality is to assess their readiness and ability, as well as the extent of their commitment to go through net zero emissions. Then they should have the quantitative data of their greenhouse emissions, carbon footprint. Knowing these will allow them to measure how much emission they need to reduce.”

In the planning stage, NZCA partners could identify and plan the solutions based on the two main strategies – avoidance/reduction and offsetting. “Businesses will identify how much emission should be avoided, how can these be avoided, and if avoidance and reduction would be impossible, how could they offset.”

As they implement their avoidance/reduction and offsetting strategies, they should also be able to track their progress. “To know if the actions in place are working, businesses should be able to measure its actual emissions and compare the results based on their target. While internal assessments are helpful, validation from independent/third-party validators can aid in the authenticity of the implementation.”

With more companies abiding by this framework, NZCA hopes to achieve carbon neutrality for the country by 2050. “The Philippine government has committed to the Paris Climate Change Agreement to reduce emissions by as much as 75% by 2030. And with more local enterprises working towards carbon neutrality through NZCA, we hope to contribute to this commitment.”

The pioneering partners of NCZA include Arthaland, First Balfour, Drink, Silliman University in Dumaguete, Knowles Electronics, and Unilever. Seven more companies have joined the alliance: Cemex, Converge ICT Solutions Inc., Ecolab, INAEC Aviation Corporation, Menarco Development Corporation, SGV & CO., and The Linden Suites.

## MANILA STANDARD

### Troops in climate change advocacy

By: Norman Cruz



Troops from the Philippine Army's Armor Division under Maj. Gen. Facundo Palafox IV break ground to plant bamboo seedlings to drum up public consciousness on climate change.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Bill on conservation, protection of PH peatlands passes 3rd reading in House](#)

By: Jean Mangaluz

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Monday passed on the third and final reading a bill to conserve and sustainably develop the Philippines' peatlands, as they were deemed natural solutions versus climate change.

All 262 members voted yes.

House Bill 8204 defines peatlands as wetland ecosystems from accumulated decomposing plant materials in waterlogged conditions.

“The conservation and restoration of peatlands sought to be enhanced under this Act shall be aimed at enabling the country to manage peatlands sustainably, taking into account their value as natural solutions to address climate change such as by functioning as carbon sinks,” said the bill.

The bill designates the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the implementing agency of the bill should it become a law.

The proposal also moves for a National Peatland Conservation and Restoration Program within one year of its passage.

“The National Peatland Conservation and Restoration Program shall define national targets for the conservation and restoration of peatlands and the development of its national coordinating mechanism,” said the bill.

## [PH Army, NGO launch key greening program](#)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Army is launching a key offensive against climate change by launching a reforestation project with the help of the group Tarlac Heritage Foundation.

An eight-hectare pilot project will soon break ground at the Armor (Pambato) Division camp.

Giant bamboo seedlings are among the mainstays of this greening program.

Leading this effort are Col. Charlemagne Batayola, chief of staff of the Armor Division; Maj. Gen. Facundo Palafox IV, division commander; and Isabel Cojuangco Suntay, founder of Tarlac Heritage Division.

## PHYS.ORG

### [Arnold Schwarzenegger calls fight against climate change his 'crusade'](#)

By: Peter Sblendorio

The "Terminator" star—who founded the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative and annually hosts the Austrian World Summit—considers his two decades of work to save the environment to be his "crusade," he told "CBS Sunday."

Arnold Schwarzenegger calls fight against climate change his 'crusade'  
by Peter Sblendorio

The "Terminator" star—who founded the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative and annually hosts the Austrian World Summit—considers his two decades of work to save the environment to be his "crusade," he told "CBS Sunday."

"I'm on a mission to go and reduce greenhouse gases worldwide," Schwarzenegger said, "because I'm into having a healthy body and a healthy Earth. That's what I'm fighting for. And that's my crusade."

The actor-politician, 75, launched the Austrian World Summit eight years ago as a forum to combat climate change. The conference takes place in Vienna, about 125 miles north of the actor's hometown of Thal.

During his stint as governor of California, Schwarzenegger signed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 in a push to reduce the state's emissions.

"As long as they keep talking about global climate change, they are not gonna go anywhere. 'Cause no one gives a s— about that," Schwarzenegger told CBS. "So my thing is, let's go and rephrase this and communicate differently about it and really tell people we're talking about pollution. Pollution creates climate change, and pollution kills."

A documentary series about the star titled "Arnold" premieres next month of Netflix, which recently released his CIA action series "FUBAR."

"This is the first TV series that I've done," Schwarzenegger told CBS. "It was a lot, a lot of work. I have never really worked that hard in my life."



## RAPPLER

### [Climate change misinformation and the struggle to limit cars in Oxford](#)

By: Maria Ramirez

What began as an ordinary local dispute over how to alleviate traffic in Oxford, UK, has become the subject of campaigns that have reached the United States, Canada, and Australia

At some point in 2024, six streets at the entrance to Oxford city center will restrict private car traffic during the central hours of the day. The measure will have a trial period of a few months to promote the use of public transport, cycling, and walking.

Its announcement has led to death threats to local representatives, burning of street poles, and shouting town hall meetings, while fake news about “climate confinement” circulated by anti-vaccinationists, an anti-feminist Canadian psychologist, 1990s British pop idols, and a former Trump adviser and ringleader of the climate change denialist movement.

The debate over “traffic filters” – restrictions on private cars on certain streets at specific times – began as an ordinary public dispute between shopkeepers, councilors, and transport experts over how to ease traffic and limit carbon emissions in a university city of 150,000 people, with almost no pedestrian crossings and narrow streets built before cars existed. But in recent months the tone and scope of the controversy have turned Oxford into an unexpectedly dark battlefield that shows how climate change misinformation travels.

“Hello, guinea pig,” reads a leaflet handed out a few days ago through Oxford’s letterboxes, with a coat of arms like the city’s but with a guinea pig in the center instead of an ox. A three-page text claims that because of a “United Nations” plan in Oxford, it will be very difficult to “visit your mother in residence” or “take your children to a nice park on the other side of the city on a sunny day.” “Say goodbye to meals on the go at the pub by the river or to spontaneous surprise visits to a sick friend to walk their dog,” says the climate change denial letter, which is signed by a group called Not Our Future.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [Architectural toolbox to adapt to climate change in focus at Venice](#)

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The exhibition, titled the "Laboratory of the Future," aims to offering "ideas, projects, ways of making, ways of thinking as a kind of gift to the audience," curator Lesley Lokko told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

Here are some of the examples to inspire from the Biennale, the prestigious international show that opened on May 20 and runs until November 26.

**No more flushing!**

Water is a precious commodity, but homes in Western countries use "about 30 percent of potable water by flushing the toilet," lamented Eero Renell, an architect from Finland.

It doesn't have to be this way. In the middle of Finland's national pavilion, Renell installed a fully functioning example of a toilet requiring no water or sewers, similar to those found in chalets across the forests of his Nordic country.

A tank placed under the bowl collects the waste, onto which a handful of bark is thrown after use, while urine is collected in a small auxiliary tank. When full, the contents can be emptied onto a vegetable patch and used as fertilizer.

"We've learned to recycle almost everything else during the last few decades, but human waste is still seen as a waste, not as a resource," Renell said.

Aware of the taboo that still surrounds the subject, he mischievously shows a video of him sporting a pitchfork as he empties his own dry toilet, then harvesting some magnificent pumpkins grown with the help of his homemade manure.

**A stone is forever**



Stacks of skillfully arranged stones are piled up in the pavilion presented by the United Arab Emirates, inspired by a dry wall technique traditional to the country and now being used to present another way of recycling.

Faysal Tabbarah, an associate professor at the American University of Sharjah, says about 30 percent of stones extracted from quarries around the world are rejected for a variety of reasons, "aesthetic, sometimes structural, sometimes the shape."

But the 36-year-old architect demonstrates how stones of all shapes and sizes can be fitted carefully together without cement to make walls that blend into the landscape.

"The dry stack has lots of advantages: if you want to reshape, reconstruct, move somewhere else," he said, adding that the stones can be "reused over and over again."

### **New out of old**

Over in Italy's pavilion, architect Alessandra Rampazzo said she was focusing "on the use of existing heritage, trying not to demolish" structures when rebuilding.

Developers often knock down old buildings to replace them with more energy-efficient ones, but both parts of that process can contribute to climate change.

Rampazzo highlights a former North Atlantic Treaty Organization base between Vincenza and Verona in northern Italy, where "they do not have very high-quality architecture," but where the old buildings have been transformed into a new research and training center.

"It's nothing new, actually, it's what has always happened in our cities," she said, whether rebuilding on existing foundations or taking marble, for example, from grand monuments such as the Colosseum to create others.

### **Grandmother's recipes**

In Slovenia's pavilion, no less than 50 architects were invited to propose examples of nonprofessional, so-called vernacular architecture from the past as an inspiration for the future.

"Architecture was intrinsically ecological. With scarce means, the aim was to retain heat or cold," said Jure Grohar, one of the organizers of the project.

It's not about romantic attachments to old ideas, but instead focuses on "something that could be used for today," he insisted.

One example is "spatial compression," as seen in a design from Poland, where a room with high ceilings has a textile layer halfway to trap the heat, said Grohar. Simple and effective, a similar idea was at the heart of the four-poster beds of our ancestors.

There is also a Slovenian specialty — a room within a room — in which humans live with their livestock between them and the outer walls, providing heat.

### **Water from the aircon**

A drop of cold water falling from an air-conditioning unit is rarely pleasant, but the occurrence gave ideas to Latifa Alkhatat, architect and researcher behind Bahrain's pavilion in Venice.

Hot and humid Bahrain "is one of the most water scarce regions of the world," where water collected from the air by conditioning units "is being fed into the drain," she says.

"What we realized is that there is a lot of potential in collecting that water... it's quite ideal for use in irrigation, like date palm agriculture" or in the replenishment of old springs that have dried out.

"It's not really expensive," as the water is already connecting up to drains, which could be diverted to reservoirs, she adds.

## VIETNAM PLUS

### Philippines establishes supportive ecosystem for startups

Hanoi (VNA) – A supportive ecosystem for startups has been established in the Philippines and it continues to evolve, providing a platform for the development of innovative enterprises, according to a new report of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The report said there are about 700 active startups in the Philippines, a significant increase from only 100 in 2015.

Most of the startups are active in fintech, media and entertainment, and e-commerce. Other market segments are emerging but still in the early stages of development, said the report.

Startups with high development impact on education, health, agriculture and the environment are emerging, according to the report.

The report added that startup innovations in these sectors support human capital development by improving health and education, assist poor people in rural areas by increasing farm productivity, and help create a cleaner environment through mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

"Promoting innovation is seen as a key strategy for the Philippines to recover from the pandemic, accelerate its growth, and achieve high-income status by 2040," the report said, adding that startups can play a vital role in these processes through their innovative capabilities.

In the Philippines, venture capital provided by large corporations was the earliest investment source for startups, which remains a primary funding source today./.

## CCC IN THE NEWS

### ABS-CBN NEWS

#### [Deal inked to use military lands for planting trees, crops](#)

By: Pia Gutierrez, ABS-CBN News

The Climate Change Commission on Monday said it partnered with the Armed Forces of the Philippines to utilize military bases across the country for planting trees and crops.

Under a recent memorandum of agreement, the AFP allowed "a portion" of lands to be used for the carbon sequestration program, CCC Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz said.

"Ang carbon sequestration program, [itanim] yung mga halaman [na] humihigop ng carbon. Pangalawa, yung tinatawag natin ng food security program, magkakaroon ng inter-cropping ng halaman, mga short crops at iba-ibang uri ng gulay" Dela Cruz said in a public briefing.

"Sa pamamagitan nyan yung idle lands na tinatawag, yan ay matataniman. And we will reduce heat index, at yung iba't-ibang uri ng bagyo, mga kabundukan na maraming halaman ay ay nag-aavoid ng landslide, at nagpapahina ng bagyo," he added.

(The carbon sequestration program will grow plants that reduce carbon. Second, we will also have a food security program that uses inter-cropping for short crops and various vegetables. Idle lands will be used and we could reduce heat index, prevent landslides in mountainous areas.)

Dela Cruz also thanked the AFP "for having open arms to support (our) fight against climate change."

## PHILIPPINE CANADIAN INQUIRER

### [Whole-of-society approach needed to address climate](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales and 'Philippine News Agency

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Monday called for a whole-of-nation and community approach to address the impact of climate change.

“For our whole-of-nation and whole of community approach, we are urging our national government agencies, local government agencies, private industry partners, including what we call the different homeowners association, to have their own action plan,” CCC Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz said during the Laging Handa briefing.

“On the national level, we have what we call the national adaptation plan. We have the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). For the local level, you have the LCCAP or Local Climate Change Action Plan, and then we have also the Industry Climate Change Action Plan,” he said.

The National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028 outlines the country’s adaptation and mitigation agenda.

The action plan focuses on food security, water sufficiency, ecological and environmental stability, human security, climate-smart industries and services, sustainable energy, and knowledge and capacity development.

Under the NDC, the Philippines earlier committed to a 75-percent greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance by 2030.

For the local level, Dela Cruz said local government units (LGUs) should immediately pass their LCCAP.

“We are calling on our local government units to pass the LCCAP in a form of an ordinance. We have a joint memorandum circular with the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) to cascade information to the different local government units so that our LGUs will have LCCAP,” he added.

Dela Cruz said LCCAP mandates LGUs to have a specific action desk, have their own action officer, and a local climate action plan, including village level.

He said LCCAP also mandates the creation of a specific committee on climate change aside from the committee on environment.

“The industry climate change action plan is also included. The big malls, subdivisions, and other business establishments should have their own industry climate change action officer. They will cascade the information to our local government units, to our industry sectors, so that we will have the whole of society approach in our battle against climate change,” he said.

Dela Cruz also encouraged consumers to only patronize businesses that help fight climate change.

“Let’s look at [products’] label. Do they have what we call, a net zero carbon by 2030 or by 2050? If they have that program, we patronize them. If they don’t have that program, then we don’t buy their products or services because they have no programs for sustainability,” he said.

Aside from these initiatives, Dela Cruz said CCC is also urging LGUs and the public to adopt edible landscaping.

“We at the CCC, we have a resolution that discourages ornamental plants. As much as possible, we should adopt edible planting,” he said.

Dela Cruz said once this policy is signed by the secretary of the Department of Environment, the edible landscaping will be implemented in public offices and private industries.

“We need to wake-up and we need to do our responsibility. We live in one planet. There should be equal responsibility for all sectors,” he said.

## PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY

### Whole-of-society approach needed to address climate change

By Anna Leah Gonzales

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Under the NDC, the Philippines earlier committed to a 75-percent greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance by 2030.

For the local level, Dela Cruz said local government units (LGUs) should immediately pass their LCCAP.

"We are calling on our local government units to pass the LCCAP in a form of an ordinance. We have a joint memorandum circular with the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) to cascade information to the different local government units so that our LGUs will have LCCAP," he added.

Dela Cruz said LCCAP mandates LGUs to have a specific action desk, have their own action officer, and a local climate action plan, including village level.

He said LCCAP also mandates the creation of a specific committee on climate change aside from the committee on environment.

"The industry climate change action plan is also included. The big malls, subdivisions, and other business establishments should have their own industry climate change action officer. They will cascade the information to our local government units, to our industry sectors, so that we will have the whole of society approach in our battle against climate change," he said.

Dela Cruz also encouraged consumers to only patronize businesses that help fight climate change.

"Let's look at [products] label. Do they have what we call, a net zero carbon by 2030 or by 2050? If they have that program, we patronize them. If they don't have that program, then we don't buy their products or services because they have no programs for sustainability," he said.

Aside from these initiatives, Dela Cruz said CCC is also urging LGUs and the public to adopt edible landscaping.

"We at the CCC, we have a resolution that discourages ornamental plants. As much as possible, we should adopt edible planting," he said.

Dela Cruz said once this policy is signed by the secretary of the Department of Environment, the edible landscaping will be implemented in public offices and private industries.

"We need to wake-up and we need to do our responsibility. We live in one planet. There should be equal responsibility for all sectors," he said. (PNA)

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