



NEWS ROUNDUP

31 MAY 2024 [08:00 am]

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CEBU DAILY NEWS

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By: Niña Mae C. Oliverio

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MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Betheena Unite

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PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

[PPP Center, French Dev't Agency hold workshop on climate change and disaster risk considerations in PPP projects](#)

The PPP Center and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) ran a two-day hybrid workshop titled "Integrating Climate Change Considerations and Disaster Risk Resilience in PPP Projects" on May 27–28, 2024, at the Center's Board Room and online via Zoom.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DA expands climate info system to aid farmers, fishers](#)

By: Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

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Weather bureau PAGASA is predicting above normal rains starting October as the El Niño phenomenon gives way to the La Niña climate pattern cooling off sea surface temperatures.

PAGASA Climate Monitoring and Prediction chief Ana Liza Solis said more rain-bearing systems such as localized thunderstorms, shearline, frontal system, monsoons rains, low pressure areas, and cyclones are expected as the rainy season starts.

“Prevalent pa rin ang monsoon break pag May and June. Mararanasan pa rin natin ang maiinit na panahon. Possible pa rin ang dangerous heat index natin,” she said in a TeleRadyo Serbisyo interview.

“By August, September, October, November, 'yan 'yung nakikita natin na may mga bagyo na posibleng ang hatid nito ay mas maraming tubig.”

State weather bureau PAGASA earlier declared the start of the rainy season on Wednesday.

BOMBO RADYO

La Nina, malalakas na bagyo inaasahang parehong papasok sa bansa sa huling quarter ng taon – state weather bureau

By: Analy Soberano

Inihayag ng state Weather Bureau na Pagasa na parehong inaasahang papasok sa bansa ang La Nina at malalakas na bagyo sa huling quarter ng taon.

Sa ngayon kasi, papatapos pa lamang ang el nino, kaya nagpapatuloy ang transition sa mga susunod na buwan patungo sa neutral phase.

Ayon kay Dr. Marcelino Villafuerte III, PAGASA deputy administrator for research and development na sa July, August o September ay magkakaroon na ng 69% na tsansa na magsimula ang La Nina.

Sa huling quarter aniya ng taon hanggang sa unang quarter ng 2025 ang kasagsagan nito.

Paliwanag ni Villafuerte, kapag naranasan na ang la nina, nangangahulugan nito na above normal na ang mararanasang mga pag ulan, o mas mataas sa average na ulan.

Samantala, para sa taong ito ay inaasahan aniya ang average na 13 hanggang 18 bagyo na papasok sa bansa.

Karaniwan aniya ay pumapasok ang malalakas na bagyo sa central sections ng bansa lalo na sa mindanao sa huling quarter ng taon, masasabay pa sa kasagsagan ng LA Nina.

Ang Bagyong Aghon ang unang bagyong pumasok sa bansa, kaya asahan pa aniya ang 12 hanggang 17 bagyo na posibleng mabuo o pumasok sa loob ng area of responsibility ng Pilipinas.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

'Green skills' training program to combat climate change, unemployment launched in Cebu

By: Niña Mae C. Oliverio

A new initiative that aims to address climate change and unemployment in the Philippines has been launched in Cebu.

On Wednesday, May 29, the Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), supported by global finance services firm J.P. Morgan, introduced 'Project sustainABILITY' in Cebu City.

The project is in partnership with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Philippines Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Labor and Employment, and other government agencies.

"We aim to be able to train our youth on green skills so that they can have a meaningful work in participation in the green economy through green jobs," said Francis Macatulad, executive director of ASSIST.

Green industry

The green industry sector jobs include construction, metals and engineering, automotive and land transportation, as well as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

The project aims to equip at least 20 technical-vocational institutes to train over 750 instructors, who will in turn train 12,000 students. This initiative will provide valuable career exposure to the students and enhance the instructors' teaching and career guidance skills, particularly in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Macatulad stated their goal is to train 12,000 students within the next two years and secure good jobs for at least half of them.

Another goal is to empower students to secure green jobs in these sectors and enable instructors at Technical-Vocational Institutes (TVIs) to independently deliver green skills training, guiding students toward promising employment opportunities.

According to the project's background, TESDA's 2018 labor market assessment predicts that the green industry sectors will generate an additional 5.1 million jobs by 2025, offering significant opportunities for green-skilled Filipino workers.

“Unfortunately, the curricula of most Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs) do not incorporate the necessary green skills in the courses they offer, which contributes to a shortage of a green skilled workforce,” it added.

To address this gap, ‘sustainABILITY’ was launched.

Protect the environment

Vidal Villanueva III, TESDA’s deputy director general for special concerns, stated that the project also aims to protect the environment.

Villanueva and Macatulad attended the event, which included officials and representatives from TESDA, national government agencies, and various industry sectors.

“What we are doing right now is to revisit our training regulations, so that as we continue to cascade training and education to our students and our learners, it is consistent in sustainability, consistent with green technology,” Villanueva said.

They plan to review agricultural practices taught to students and address environmental pollutants in the construction sector.

“So that we can inculcate to the minds of our learners and our students that by using a green technology, dili na kinahanglan nga ma damage pa ang environment after we do the construction,” Villanueva said.

He added that revisiting these areas “are not challenging at all” as it helps them to “change directions.”

Pilot areas

To ensure the project’s sustainability, Macatulad said they are developing curricula and learning materials to extend its impact beyond the project’s duration.

The project was initially launched in Taguig, NCR, on April 12, 2024. Activities and strategies are already in progress, with ASSIST collaborating with national and local government agencies, Philippine trade associations, and industry partners to maximize reach and impact.

Macatulad and Villanueva highlighted that, besides NCR, Cebu was chosen as a pilot area because these are the “most developed urban areas” and “economic powers” of the country.

CLIMATE HOME NEWS

[Developing countries need support adapting to deadly heat](#)

By: Bill Hare and Fahad Saeed

Pakistan's southern province of Sindh has been sweltering under 52°C heat in recent days. Not in the news however is that wet-bulb temperatures in the region – a more accurate indicator of risk to human health that accounts for heat and humidity – passed a key danger threshold of 30°C.

Climate change is increasing the risk of deadly humid heat in developing countries like Pakistan, Mexico and India, and without international support to adapt, vulnerable communities could face catastrophe.

What is wet-bulb temperature?

Wet-bulb temperature is an important scientific heat stress metric that accounts for both heat and humidity. When it's both hot and humid, sweating – the body's main way of cooling – becomes less effective as there's too much moisture in the air. This can limit our ability to maintain a core temperature of 37°C – something we all must do to survive.

A recent study suggests that wet-bulb temperatures beyond 30°C pose severe risks to human health, but the hard physiological limit comes at prolonged exposure (about 6-8 hours) to wet-bulb temperatures of 35°C. At this point, people can experience heat strokes, organ failure, and in extreme cases, even death.

Climate change and deadly heat

Globally, around 30% of people are exposed to lethal humid heat. This could reach as much as 50% by 2100 due to global warming. To date, the climate has warmed around 1.3°C as a result of human activity, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels. And along with the extra heat, with every 1°C rise the air can hold up to 7% more moisture.

A comprehensive evaluation of global weather station data reveals that the frequency of extreme humid heat has more than doubled since 1979, with several wet-bulb exceedances of 31-33°C. Another recent study predicts a surge in the frequency and geographic spread of extreme heat events, even at 1.5°C warming.

What this shows is that the humid tropics including monsoon belts are all careening towards the 35°C threshold, which is very worrying for countries like Pakistan. The city of Jacobabad has already breached 35°C wet bulb temperatures many times. More areas of the country are likely to be exposed to such life-threatening conditions more often due to climate change.

At 1.5°C of warming, much of South Asia, large parts Sahelian Africa, inland Latin America and northern Australia could be subject to at least one day per year of lethal heat. If the world gets to 3°C, this exposure explodes, covering most of South Asia, large parts of Eastern China and Southeast Asia, much of central and west Africa, most of Latin America and Australia and significant parts of the southeastern USA and the Gulf of Mexico.

Areas of the world that will experience at least one day of deadly heat per year at different levels of warming

Even at 1.5°C of warming, there will be high exposure to lethal heat in large regions where billions presently live. This terrible threat to human life calls for urgent action to limit warming and help at risk communities adapt.

Adapting to hard limits

While 35°C can prove deadly, one study suggests a 32°C wet-bulb threshold as the hard limit for labour. More realistic, human-centred models found this overly optimistic, as direct exposure and other vulnerability factors were ignored. Vulnerable groups including unskilled labourers would be most at risk of losing their income.

In densely populated urban centres, lethal humid heat is not just a future projection but a current reality. This calls for urgent adaptation measures which integrate the risk of deadly heat into urban planning, public health, early-warning systems and emergency response.

Investments in green spaces, heat-resilient buildings and urban cooling are vital adaptation strategies. Community initiatives like awareness campaigns, indigenous cooling strategies and local heat action plans are also essential. Households could consider investing in cooling technologies or migrating – options mostly available to the wealthy.

As climate change makes lethal humid heat a growing threat in some of the world's most populous areas, more attention must be paid to understanding its risks – especially in vulnerable regions with huge data gaps. This demands a multidimensional response that combines scientific research, policymaking and community engagement.

The potential scale and level of risk to human life also reinforces the importance of ensuring that the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C global warming limit is met. To do this, we need to halve emissions by 2030. Countries should therefore strengthen their 2030

emissions targets in line with the warming limit as they prepare equally ambitious 2035 targets in updated NDCs.

The Pakistan heatwave is a terrible reminder of this often-underestimated threat. We must act now to limit warming while we adapt to the growing danger of deadly heat if we are to avoid potentially wide-reaching tragedies in the future.

GMA NEWS

Late start to cyclone season possibly due to El Niño - PAGASA

By: Sundy Locus

The Philippines was transitioning to the wet season when Typhoon Aghon entered the country last week. Aghon brought much-needed rain to communities affected by El Niño-induced drought, but it also caused fatalities and the proclamation of a state of calamity in several parts of Luzon.

Meanwhile, the heat index reached 55°C in Guiuan, Eastern Samar on May 26, the highest so far this year, while Aghon was in Philippine territory.

In this three-part series, GMA News Online looks into the effects of Aghon on the weather during the transition period, the reasons behind the country's first tropical cyclone forming only in May, and what to expect in the months ahead.

The state weather bureau PAGASA officially declared the onset of the rainy season on Wednesday, May 29.

The announcement also means an expected increase in tropical cyclone activity in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

According to PAGASA, most storms enter or develop inside the PAR between May and November. In recent years, however, the first tropical cyclones entered the PAR in April.

Why did Typhoon Aghon, the first storm to hit the country in 2024, only enter the PAR in the third week of May? PAGASA said the El Niño phenomenon may have played a role.

The El Niño phenomenon is characterized by the abnormal warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, leading to below normal rainfall.

“Maaaring may direct influence ang El Niño. Ang usual na genesis o simula ng mga bagyo ay sa Central Pacific o malayo-layo pa sa PAR,” Dr. John Manalo, PAGASA weather specialist, told GMA News Online.

(The El Niño phenomenon may have directly influenced the arrival of the tropical cyclone. The usual genesis of tropical cyclones occurs in the Central Pacific, away from the PAR.)

PAGASA has also identified "delayed onset of the rainy season" as one of the climatic indicators of the El Niño phenomenon in the Philippines.

Based on historical data, Manalo said the Philippines may expect fewer tropical cyclones this year but warned that the number of powerful storms may increase.

He attributed the stronger tropical cyclones to climate change but clarified that it has yet to be seen if the El Niño phenomenon or the looming El Niña will directly impact the storms entering the PAR.

"Hindi certain. Dahil isa na rito yung transition to La Niña then remaining time ng year, more likely, baka La Niña condition na," he said.

(It is uncertain if the tropical cyclones forming in PAR will all be stronger this year compared to recent years. There are several factors to consider, such as the transition to La Niña and the climate pattern itself.)

"Isa ito sa maaaring contributing factor, and also, 'yung climate change may effect sa na-observe natin," added Manalo.

(But we have observed that climate change has an effect.)

PAGASA previously said the Philippines may see 13 to 16 tropical cyclones in 2024.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Bill proposes PH refuge to foreign residents of drowning islands

By: Peter Tabingo

A bill has been filed in the House of Representatives proposing that the Philippines offer a new home for climate refugees or foreigners from island states that are threatened by rising sea levels.

Among those who introduced House Bill No. 10490 which amends Section 47 of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 are Reps. Edcel Lagman (Albay), Robert Ace Barbers (Surigao del Norte), Zia Alonto Adiong (Lanao del Sur), Pablo John Garcia (Cebu), and Samuel Verzosa (PL, Tutok to Win).

The authors said the measure is a humanitarian response towards addressing the critical issue of climate-induced migration, noting the emerging international crisis of migration for populations of low-lying island nations who are at risk of losing their homes due to rising sea levels and severe weather.

“This legislative action seeks to establish protections for environmental migrants, particularly those from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific, who are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change,” the lawmakers said.

The bill seeks to amend Section 47 of the Philippine Immigration Act by including a new paragraph giving the President authority “to admit foreign nationals who are environmental migrants seeking protection from climate change-related harms.”

“As a nation that has historically opened its doors to refugees, we must recognize and respond to the new challenges posed by climate change,” Rep. Adiong said.

Citing research from the Intercontinental Panel on Climate Change, the lawmakers underscored the urgency of the issue due to imminent threats to habitability, safety, and human dignity in SIDS.

Through the proposed amendment, House members are hoping to facilitate a dignified and legally sound approach to assisting those forced to leave their countries due to environmental changes.

“This legislation is a testament to our commitment to upholding human rights and our international responsibility,” said Rep. Versosa. “It is a proactive measure that not only

addresses the immediate needs of climate refugees but also sets a precedent for global responses to similar crises.”

The bill’s authors said the Philippines, with its own experiences of severe weather impacts, is positioned as a leader in advocating for the rights and protections of climate refugees.

“By recognizing and addressing the plight of climate refugees, the country reaffirms its role as a compassionate and proactive member of the global community,” they added.

MANILA BULLETIN

Marcos keen on adopting Brunei's waste-to energy approach

By: Betheena Unite

The Philippines intends to adopt the latest state-of-the-art technology used by Brunei's power industry, President Marcos told Bruneian firms.

During a high-level meeting with key players in Brunei's energy sector during his state visit in the neighboring country, Marcos emphasized the government's interest in waste-to-energy projects as the country shift from fossil fuels to renewables

He discussed the potential investments in the Philippine renewable energy sector and enhancements on oil and gas collaborations.

“There's a great deal of interest in that (waste to energy). But right now, it is not at the very macro level. It's very much at the micro level. Yeah, it's basically local governments because there is the problem, the attendant problem of what do we do with our waste?” Marcos said.

“The old solution was to ship them somewhere else and pay somebody else to put them in a landfill. Nobody wants it anymore. Nobody is not worth [the] money anymore for anyone. That's a problem, especially in the big cities. But then that's also where that solution could be most viable,” he added.

But there must be appropriate infrastructure to harness the energy coming from landfills especially as technology continues to evolve, the President said.

He mentioned several challenges such as legal and regulatory issues and scaling of wastes by local government units (LGUs) to make such venture commercially viable.

“We had to organize garbage collection in half the province to be able to support that technology. And there's with the problem this politics entered into it. It was just a little difficult. You must be familiar with the problem,” Marcos pointed out.

“But I think the legislators are coming around to the understanding that there actually are viable and clean solutions to the problem of waste disposal. So you take care of two very difficult problems at the same time,” he added.

Among those who met the President were representatives from Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd (BSP), Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd (BLNG), Total Energies in Brunei, Serikandi Oilfield Services Sdn Bhd, and Adinin Group of Companies.

Brunei is actively exploring the potential for renewable energy-based connectivity by establishing interconnections with neighboring countries, while oil and gas will remain integral to the regional energy mix during the ongoing energy transition.

The Philippines has made a commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting renewable energy, aligning itself with global efforts to combat climate change.

MINDANAO TIMES

Siargao youth empowered to lead local climate and waste management solutions

Siargao Island's youth leaders are championing climate change and sustainability through the community-based and campus-wide campaigns and initiatives they have crafted during their participation in "Klima Eskwela: Science, Arts, and Action" in Del Carmen, Siargao, Surigao Del Norte last May 16 to 17.

Organized by The Climate Reality Project Philippines, Klima Eskwela is a knowledge exchange program equipping youth leaders with the skills and knowledge to tackle the interlinked challenges of the climate and plastic crises. This year's Klima Eskwela is particularly focused on training young advocates on local campaigning and movement building.

The two-day Klima Eskwela in Siargao was a collaboration between Climate Reality Philippines, the Municipal Government of Del Carmen, and Surigao Del Norte State University (SNSU).

Local waste initiatives from youth leaders

By the end of the Klima Eskwela sessions, the following action plans were presented by students from the SNSU-Del Carmen Campus (DC) and Siargao Island Institute Technology (SIIT), and representatives from the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation:

Single-use plastic ban on campus: SNSU-DC students are advocating for a single-use plastic ban within their campus.

Zero-waste collaboration: SNSU-DC students are proposing a joint campaign with street vendors to promote eco-friendly alternatives and zero-waste practices.

Investing in infrastructure: Securing funding for a comprehensive waste segregation system within SNSU-DC is another goal, with approval sought from the campus director.

Waste management policy: SIIT students are proposing a waste management policy for their institution.

Barangay-wide segregation: SK officials are spearheading an agreement among barangay officials and community leaders to implement a waste segregation program across all 20 barangays in Del Carmen.

With the support of Climate Reality Philippines, campus administrators, and the Municipal Government of Del Carmen, the participants will formalize these into resolutions or manifestos for implementation in the coming months.

Intergenerational collaboration for climate action and sustainability

Expressing his full support for these initiatives, Mayor Alfredo M. Coro of Del Carmen pledged to collaborate with the young leaders to translate their plans into action.

In his remarks, Mayor Coro implored the students to leverage their skills and knowledge to champion local solutions for the climate and plastic crisis. He emphasized the importance of holding national and local leaders accountable for the future of the youth and the generations to come.

“Just because we are a small island doesn’t mean you don’t have the right to demand what is ours. Nature is ours... [Your generation is] smarter, you’re more educated, and you have access to resources we could never imagine in our time—information. You have to demand from your government, from your leaders, from your business community the right kind of behavior,” Mayor Coro said, acknowledging the shortcomings of the older generations in taking care of the planet.

Drawing from his experiences and insights as a Climate Reality Leader, Mayor Coro encouraged the over 40 youth leaders in attendance to become vocal advocates for local fishermen, farmers, and the most vulnerable members of society who are disproportionately affected by climate change.

Global youth leader Bodhi Patil, Co-Creator of Ocean Uprise, also graced the event, igniting a spark of inspiration in the participants. Reframing climate and plastic crises as an opportunity, he urged the youth of Surigao Del Norte to use their voices to push for intergenerational collaboration and to build solutions for a sustainable future.

Del Carmen’s local policies to address the climate and plastic crises

As a coastal community, the Municipality of Del Carmen is at the forefront of stronger typhoons, sea-level rise, and other climate change impacts, endangering the lives and livelihoods of its people.

Engr. Norman Sulima, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator-Designate of Del Carmen, shared during the event the local government’s ongoing climate change

adaptation and mitigation efforts as outlined in its Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP).

Adopting a ridge-to-reef approach in charting its path toward sustainable development, Sulima said the municipality is employing nature-based solutions and eco-based approaches in its local growth strategy, including the management of its mangroves, marine protected areas, and watersheds.

As one of the initial recipients of the People's Survival Fund, the only national climate change fund in the Philippines, Del Carmen has also established the Siargao Climate Field School for Farmers and Fisherfolk. This end-to-end institutional system is designed to generate locally tailored climate information and capacitate farmers and fisherfolk to undertake appropriate interventions to address the effects of climate change on their livelihoods, health, and safety.

The program goes beyond weather forecasting and crop management. It also includes training on agricultural technologies, financial planning, disaster preparedness, and early detection of pests and diseases. Importantly, it seeks to introduce alternative livelihood options for those struggling to make ends meet.

Gina Mozo Barquilla, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer of Del Carmen, highlighted the municipality's ongoing 'Ways to Zero Waste' campaign. This initiative enforces Ordinance No. 31, which prohibits single-use bags and commodities, promoting eco-friendly alternatives like reusable bags.

Barquilla acknowledged challenges in implementing the ordinance, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, she emphasized that stricter enforcement efforts are now underway.

Building a sustainable future together

The workshop also featured Climate Reality Leaders Vincent Cotoron and Katherine Mana-Galido, whose presentations on the latest science on climate change and plastic pollution solutions provided a strong foundation for the discussions.

Quoting United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, Cotoron emphasized that "the era of global warming has ended, global boiling has arrived." Mana-Galido, on the other hand, shared her journey in founding Back to Basics Eco-store, a refillery store providing affordable and convenient access to household essentials without wasteful packaging.

Aimee Oliveros, Deputy Branch Manager of Climate Reality Philippines, emphasized the need for national policies that address plastic waste at the source, not just disposal. She advocated for a national ban on single-use plastics as a crucial step towards a solution.

Oliveros, together with Engr. Elaine Lopez, Country Program Manager of AktivAsia Philippines, facilitated Klima Eskwela's skill-building session on campaigning for plastic-free and waste management solutions in the campus and community.

In five groups, students brainstormed creative solutions, built strategies to address these challenges, and drafted action plans to effectively communicate their ideas for campus-wide and community-wide implementation.

The creativity and passion of Siargao Island's youth during Klima Eskwela offered a glimpse of hope in the fight against climate change and plastic pollution. Their initiatives, backed by strong community and political support, mark a significant step towards a brighter, more sustainable future.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

[PPP Center, French Dev't Agency hold workshop on climate change and disaster risk considerations in PPP projects](#)

The PPP Center and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) ran a two-day hybrid workshop titled “Integrating Climate Change Considerations and Disaster Risk Resilience in PPP Projects” on May 27–28, 2024, at the Center’s Board Room and online via Zoom.

The workshop’s objective is to foster understanding and assist national and local implementing agencies in better integrating climate change and disaster risk (CCDR) resilience into their PPP projects portfolio across key sectors such as water and sanitation, solid waste management, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and transportation.

Discussions were led by Phoenix Consulting International’s Project Director, Pierre Etienne and legal expert, David Desforges. Participants included representatives from selected national government agencies and local government units.

“It was the right time to talk more about CCDR resilience because it is the main pillar of our strategy here now in the Philippines: supporting the country with its low carbon trajectory and also supporting the resilience of ecosystems and populations in the Philippines,” said AFD Philippines’ Country Director Bénédicte Gazon.

This workshop was the culmination of the Technical Assistance (TA) program grant, since 2022, from AFD to the PPP Center. The program sought to mainstream the inclusion and consideration of green, climate, and disaster-resilient tools and resources into the Center’s PPP project portfolio.

“As this workshop also marks the conclusion of this engagement, we express our gratitude to the French Development Agency for their fruitful collaboration and for granting us this technical assistance. We also extend our appreciation to Phoenix Consultants for implementing this program and for the conduct of field missions since 2022,” PPP Center Executive Director Ma. Cynthia C. Hernandez stated.

Other than project support in CCDR considerations and integration, the scope of the TA program also included the development of knowledge products such as the CCDR Screening Tool, the Affordability Analysis Tool, and template PPP contract clauses related to climate change issues.

Country Director Gazon emphasized, “PPP is so important for all investments in the country; we find it very useful and interesting to bring these tools and to make this development partnership with the PPP Center the most compliant to all these big issues of climate and disaster risk management.”

By mobilizing both the public and private sector, AFD encourages the strategic structuring and financing of sustainable PPPs that prioritize climate change considerations. On the other hand, the PPP Center reaffirms its commitment to advancing sustainable development, resilience, and inclusivity in the country by concretizing and mainstreaming CCDR resilience considerations within the Philippine PPP Program.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

DA expands climate info system to aid farmers, fishers

By: Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is expanding its climate information system across all regions with the adoption of the Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal (ACAP) to help farmers and fisherfolk cope with weather disturbances.

The ACAP is a new digital tool developed and piloted by the DA through its Climate Resilient Agriculture Office in the Bicol Region. It is an online web portal capable of “automatically generating and disseminating climate information services” such as climate- and weather-informed farming and fishing advisories, the DA said.

“All concerned are hereby directed to implement the expansion of climate information services across all regions,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in Department Order 9.

The DA regional field offices were instructed to develop their own ACAP that would be integrated to the central ACAP-Philippines portal “for better coordination and dissemination” of advisories especially in preparation for the onset of La Niña and other climate-related risks.

Tiu Laurel noted that the ACAP would help the department in managing future agricultural losses due to extreme climatic conditions since farmers and fisherfolk would be equipped with advanced information regarding weather and climate situations.

The DA noted that the number of climate-related threats to the agriculture sector has been rising in recent years. It said that the average number of destructive typhoons has increased to nine every year from eight.

Furthermore, the DA said the annual average production losses due to climate hazards have increased to P30 billion between 2013 and 2022 from P29 billion in 2010 to 2019.

The department emphasized that the rice sector remains as one of the agriculture sectors greatly affected by climate hazards, resulting in rising food prices and food insecurity.

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