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REUTERS

[Asia climate woes mount as heat shatters May records](#)

By: David Stanway

Countries across Asia have been hit by another round of extreme heat that has toppled seasonal temperature records throughout the region, raising concerns about their ability to adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[1.5C of warming is too hot for a just world — study](#)

By: Marlowe Hood

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

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By: Pilar Mabaquiao

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda pushed on the implementation of sustainable economic management with the submission of the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) bill and the "Blue Economy" bill.

POLITIKO

[CCC, MARINA join forces for greener, sustainable maritime sector](#)

By: Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) have teamed up to seek a common goal: a just and equitable transition to a greener, more sustainable maritime industry.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

GMA NEWS

PAGASA: Betty now outside PAR after thousands affected

By: Sundy Locus

Severe Tropical Storm Betty is now outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility, the state weather bureau PAGASA said Thursday.

As of 4 p.m., the center of the eye of the tropical cyclone was 685 kilometers northeast of Itbayat, Batanes.

It is heading north-northeastward at 15 kilometers per hour (km/h) and has maximum sustained winds of 95 km/h near the center, gustiness of up to 115 km/h, and a central pressure of 985 hPa.

Strong to storm-force winds extend outwards up to 520 km from the center, PAGASA said.

Rains may persist over parts of the country due to the southwest monsoon as Betty moves away from the country's responsibility.

The weather bureau warned that "under these conditions, flooding and rain-induced landslides are possible, especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards as identified in hazard maps and in localities that experienced considerable amounts of rainfall for the past several days".

Betty exited the country after thousands of families were affected.

A total of 14,908 people or 3,821 families have been affected by Typhoon Betty, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Wednesday.

In its 8 a.m. report, the NDRRMC said the affected persons were reported in 94 barangays in Ilocos, Cagayan, Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

A total of 5,981 individuals or 1,815 families were preemptively evacuated, it added.

Next 24 hours

In the next 24 hours, the enhanced southwest monsoon will bring occasional to frequent wind gusts over northern Cagayan including Babuyan Islands, Ilocos Region, Cordillera

Administrative Region, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Bicol Region, MIMAROPA, Western Visayas, Northern Samar and the northern portion of Samar.

A marine gale warning also remains in effect over the northern seaboard of Northern Luzon, the eastern seaboard of Luzon, and the western seaboard of Southern Luzon.

On the forecast track, Betty is expected to continue accelerating gradually northeastward until Friday morning before turning east-northeastward over the waters near the Ryukyu Islands in Japan. It is forecast to make landfall or pass very close to Okinawa Island Thursday or Friday early morning.

Betty is seen to steadily weaken throughout the forecast period due to the lower sea surface temperature of the sea surrounding the Ryukyu Islands.

The severe tropical storm may be downgraded to a tropical storm category on Saturday, although a faster weakening rate remains possible within the forecast period.

GREENPEACE

[The disproportionate impact of climate crisis on the LGBTQIA2S+ community](#)

By: Shanthuru Premkumar & Lina Atanasova

It's no secret that climate change is affecting everyone on this planet, but what is often forgotten is the disproportionate impact on already marginalised groups including LGBTQIA2S+, particularly if they are also members of other marginalised groups such as low-income, Black, Indigenous, or people of colour. This is because these groups are more likely to experience poverty, discrimination, and violence, which in turn can limit their ability to access resources and adapt to the changing environmental and societal conditions on our warming planet.

Now more than ever, it's critical to understand the overlap between the climate movement and the queer movement, so we can take on these interconnected struggles together as a united movement.

LGBTQIA2S+ individuals are often forced to leave their homes due to family conflicts, threats of abuse or actual violence, which makes them experience higher rates of homelessness. They also tend to move to segregated locations to reduce the risk of discrimination and harassment from neighbours and landlords. These areas are often the most polluted, which causes many health issues long term and also make them much more vulnerable to natural disasters.

Furthermore, climate change exacerbates the pre-existing inequalities found in society such as housing and medical care, among many others, leading to trans and queer people being disproportionately affected during climate disasters and by the wider effects of climate breakdown on society.

LGBTQIA2S+ people excluded from disaster relief

In the US, research showed that LGBTQIA2S+ individuals have a 120% higher risk of experiencing homelessness. Despite only 9.5% of the US youth identifying as LGBTQIA2S+, they make for 40% of the homeless youth. While those statistics are already disproportionate, the percentages are even higher for the population of Black and Indigenous People of Colour (BIPOC) LGBTQIA2S+.

Homeless people and those with inadequate housing such as the LGBTQIA2S+ community will always be the most affected by natural disasters, temperature rise and polluted air. Not only are they often on the front lines of natural disasters, but they also often get refused the help and shelter meant to assist climate impacted communities.

For example, during Hurricane Katrina, trans people were turned away from emergency shelters, and the ones who did get in faced discrimination. One transgender person was jailed for showering in the women's bathroom, even after having permission from a volunteer.

Another example of this discrimination is found in India in 2004, when the Indian Ocean tsunami took place. The Aravanis, a group of people who do not identify as either male or female, were excluded from temporary shelters and official death records. This excluded them from many of the relief and reconstruction agenda's, giving them less opportunity to bounce back after the crisis.

In times of disaster, privilege works. These are only a few examples of how LGBTQIA2S+ individuals are systematically discriminated against during times of climate crises. They show the interconnectedness of the queer movement and the climate movement, and why we need to work together to do what's right, for ALL people and the planet we call our home.

We are all connected in nature

Greenpeace might be best known for trees and whales, but we also focus on the interconnectedness of people and nature. Interestingly enough, the rainbow flag was even made with that idea in mind, as the green stands for 'nature', something we are all a part of. We fight for nature, and we fight for every single person, no matter their gender or ethnicity, or whom they choose to love.

MANILA BULLETIN

Driving ambition: A gear shift to TCFD toward achieving NDCs and beyond

The future as told by science. Trends show that the Earth's temperature is rapidly increasing. Science agrees that with a scenario of high GHG emissions, there is a high probability of a 1.5°C increase between 2021 and 2040 and by 2100, a 3.3°C to 5.7 °C increase in global average temperatures relative to pre-industrial levels. This increase can be attributed to the high concentrations of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere called greenhouse gases (GHG), primarily carbon dioxide. Its overabundance in the atmosphere is a pervasive threat globally and experts are calling for decarbonization, which entails the reduction and removal of GHG emissions resulting from human activity.

Based on data from Climate Watch of the World Resources Institute, the Philippines has a total GHG emissions level of 236.79 MtCO₂e, and a per capita emissions level of 2.19 tCO₂e. While the Philippines is well below the world average of GHG emissions per capita of 6.5 tCO₂e, there is still much to achieve in emissions reduction with the submission of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In April 2021, the Philippines provided its commitment to this global effort, with a 2.71% unconditional and 72.29% conditional avoidance and reduction, as part of the country's ambition to mitigate GHG emissions from 2020 to 2030, in line with business-as-usual projected emissions of 3,340.3 MtCO₂e.

Small steps, giant leaps

To effectively reduce and remove as much carbon emissions as possible, we must know which of our activities emit GHG and how much is being emitted. Hence, in December 2015, the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) was created to develop recommendations on corporate disclosures across the elements of corporate governance, strategy, risk management, and even corporate metrics and targets that would facilitate decarbonization.

Globally, the TCFD recommendations previously tagged as voluntary, were incorporated into regulatory frameworks in jurisdictions like the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, and Singapore. The TCFD framework gives the backbone of reporting climate-related information. Through the adoption of TCFD in sustainability disclosures, there is a more specific presentation of climate risk and opportunities related information, allowing stakeholders to examine how much exposure a company has, making it an avenue for a more comprehensive and standardized source of information. With the growing number of more than 3,800 companies supporting TCFD, the Philippines would do well to catch up with the world.

Legislation-wise, there have also been efforts to pursue a low-carbon economy through recent bills such as Senate Bill No. 1992 and House Bill No. 7705. The proposed Low Carbon Economy bills were drafted to be able to establish a “nationally appropriate market-driven system of tradable GHG allowance.” Under the proposed cap and trade system, annual emission avoidance or reduction targets, including the sector/s and levels to be covered, will be set yearly. A cap will be imposed on the GHG of covered sectors and an annual quantity of GHG emissions allowances equal to the allowed emissions under the yearly cap will be issued. To cushion the impact of a cap, the bills allow for trading of credits. Entities with excess GHG emissions may buy allowances from the market, while those with less GHG emissions may sell their allowances to the market, under a central registry, trading and reporting system under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Other provisions of the bills provide for institutionalizing a national GHG inventory and management system, led by a Climate Change Commission with strong involvement of relevant agencies; development of a Quality Assessment Review System of Local Climate Change Action Plans; institutionalizing a tagging and tracking tool for adaptation and mitigation programs and projects, known as the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging; and the establishment of a primary information platform known as National Integrated Climate Change Database and Information Exchange System.

Into the finish line and beyond

With this advancement in the country’s commitments to contribute to sustainability, it is also important to improve the reporting frameworks we use in our disclosures. The TCFD identifies companies that support the use of its framework. In the Philippines, only 22 entities are listed in various sectors, such as real estate, utilities, industrials, communication services, financials, government, materials, energy, and consumer staples. While we are making strides to report climate-related information such as emission inventories, and some identified risks and opportunities, aligning with the recommendations of TCFD allows companies to better assess and disclose risks and opportunities, and in turn allow for better decision-making as we transition to a low carbon economy.

The recent 2022 EY Global Climate Risk Barometer addressed the question, “When will climate disclosures start to impact decarbonization?” It cited findings on a 14% increase in the score for coverage of the TCFD recommendations for the analyzed corporate reports; however, the average score for quality was still at 44%, presenting a significant gap between coverage and quality of the reports. This means that while more companies are reporting on climate risk, they are still struggling to provide meaningful disclosures around the challenges they face. This gap can be narrowed by setting value-contributing targets and monitoring progress and by reviewing business and operational strategies regularly, applying scenario analysis. Partnering and fostering a

collaborative culture to allow the fruition of ambitious decarbonization targets is also a key strategy to bring about quality. Finally, companies can consider venturing into other opportunities which can transform business portfolios, keeping in mind emissions reduction.

Larger steps need to be undertaken not only in initiatives, but also in existing frameworks, regulations, and upcoming legislation. Climate action is a global effort that deserves more cooperation and partnership between the public, the corporate world, and the government. Now, more than ever, is our chance for a global turnaround. Our deadline is up ahead. Time is running out.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Close to 500 families evacuated in Iloilo City due to floods

By: Perla Lena

At least 477 families or almost a thousand individuals were sent to evacuation centers Thursday afternoon following heavy rains caused by Typhoon Betty-enhanced southwest monsoon flooded 50 barangays in this city.

Those who were evacuated came from hard-hit 11 barangays, said Charles Vincent Samodio, team leader of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO).

Samodio said 16 of the flooded barangays were in Jaro district, 10 in Mandurriao, six in City Proper, five each in Lapuz and La Paz, and four each in Molo and Arevalo Districts. Most of the flooded areas are caused by the overflowing of a creek, with water rising to knee level as per information coming from officials of affected barangays.

“We are closely monitoring Barangay Calubihan in Jaro because of the possible rise in the water level at the Dungon Creek,” he said.

The evacuees consisting of 477 families or 988 individuals are currently staying in their barangay hall, chapel, or gyms that have been designated as evacuation centers he added.

Mayor Jerry Trefias, as a precautionary measure, has suspended the holding of face-to-face classes from Kindergarten to Senior High School and allowed their temporary shift to modular or online classes for both private and public schools.

Selected offices in the city have been allowed to go home early.

Meantime, in a press conference on Thursday, Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. announced that no flooding was reported in the province as per data from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

However, nine families were preemptively evacuated in Barangay Igtuba in the municipality of Miagao on Wednesday evening as a precautionary measure amid the moderate to at a time heavy rain showers and a high level of water at the Naclub River.

The municipalities of Mina, Bingawan, Maasin, Oton, Guimbal, Zarraga and Miagao suspended classes in all levels.

“Generally there is no flooding in our municipalities but we continue to monitor,”
Defensor said.

Japanese bank interested in PH energy sector, MIF

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has expressed interest for energy tie-ups in the Philippines and the Marcos administration's proposed Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF), Malacañang said Thursday.

JBIC's planned partnerships with Philippine firms for energy development and interest in the proposed MIF were raised during Marcos' meeting with the bank's Board of Directors led by Tadashi Maeda at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Wednesday.

Maeda pitched JBIC's plan to address the liquefied natural gas' (LNG) role as the Philippines' traditional source of power and tap other energy sources such as hydropower, solar and wind.

Maeda told Marcos that he had met with Private Sector Advisory Council lead convenor and Aboitiz Group chief executive officer Sabin Aboitiz to discuss JBIC's interest to sign a memorandum of understanding with several Philippine companies including Metro Pacific and San Miguel.

"We have the potential...between Japan and the Philippines to work together," Maeda, as quoted by the Presidential Communications Office, said, adding that there is a need to identify specific projects to ensure the successful transition to more efficient energy and the development of new technology like hydrogen.

The JBIC is seeking investments in renewable energy projects to address the Philippines' power supply needs, as well as mitigate the effects of climate change in the country, according to a statement posted on state-run Radio Television Malacañang's Facebook page.

The JBIC also had a separate meeting with Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman to discuss opportunities to accelerate sustainability efforts in the Philippines, in line with the bank's Environment, Social and Governance Policy which outlines its goal to contribute to global carbon neutrality through energy transition.

Maeda, in a meeting with Pangandaman, mentioned the JBIC's financing options, which include Green Finance and Social Impact Finance that helped countries fast-track their transition to renewable energy, create waste treatment systems, and establish countermeasures for marine plastic waste.

MIF approval

During the courtesy visit to Marcos, Maeda also congratulated the Philippine government for the Senate and the House of Representatives' approval of the MIF bill which seeks the creation of the proposed sovereign wealth fund.

Marcos said his administration is eyeing the establishment of the MIF to attract more investments.

"It's so that we, the Philippines, can participate in what would be, what is regarded, of course, as an investment for us. It is a necessary infrastructure that we are investing in," he said.

"So, that is the plan for the sovereign fund. We now have to go and look at the design or the structuring of the fund. But it is basically seen as our government participation in projects that, mostly, it will really be in the Philippines," Marcos added.

The proposed MIF is an independent fund that adheres to the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability and shall be sourced from the investible funds of select government financial institutions, from contributions of the national government, declared dividends of the BSP and other fund sources.

Under the scheme, the MIF shall be used to invest in strategic and commercial activities in a manner designed to promote fiscal stability for economic development and strengthen the top-performing GFIs through additional investment platforms that will help attain the national government's priority plans.

Maeda said the JBIC wants to know more details about the Philippines' potential and targeted projects, including those in the pipeline, so it could make "more tangible, specific" proposals to upgrade the value of Tokyo and Manila's strategic cooperation.

The JBIC is a policy-based financial institution wholly-owned by the Japanese government that conducts lending, investment and guarantee operations. It is also a leading public financial institution in the international financial market.

The bank's main operational principle is to supplement the financial transactions implemented by private financial institutions.

The JBIC has supported projects all over the world such as infrastructure, natural resources and renewable energy, with the primary mission of contributing to the sound development of Japan, the international economy and society.

Asia climate woes mount as heat shatters May records

By: David Stanway

Countries across Asia have been hit by another round of extreme heat that has toppled seasonal temperature records throughout the region, raising concerns about their ability to adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

After punishing heatwaves struck large parts of the continent in April, temperatures spiked again in late May, normally the start of the cooler monsoon season.

Seasonal highs were registered in China, southeast Asia and elsewhere, and experts warned that there was more to come.

"We can't say that these are events that we need to get used to, and adapt to, and mitigate against, because they are only going to get worse as climate change progresses," said Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick, a climate scientist with the University of New South Wales in Australia.

The heatwave in Vietnam, expected to last well into June, has already forced authorities to turn off street lights and ration electricity as air conditioning demand threatened to overwhelm the power grid.

The country recorded its highest temperature ever on May 6, at 44.1 Celsius (111.4 Fahrenheit), in Thanh Hoa province, about 150 km (93 miles) south of Hanoi. Another province came close to the record on Wednesday, hitting 43.3C.

Vietnam's national weather forecaster warned on Thursday of residential fire risks due to high power consumption. With temperatures set to range from 35C and 39C in the coming two days, it also warned of the risks of dehydration, exhaustion and heat strokes.

In China, Shanghai endured its hottest May day in more than a century on Monday. A day later, a weather station in the southeastern tech manufacturing hub of Shenzhen also set a May record of 40.2C. The heatwave is set to continue across the south for a few more days.

India, Pakistan and southeast Asia already experienced a punishing heatwave in April, causing widespread infrastructure damage and a surge in heat stroke cases. Bangladesh was also at its hottest in 50 years, while Thailand hit a record 45C.

Seasonal temperature records also continued to tumble through May, with steamy Singapore at its hottest for the month in 40 years.

The April heatwave was "30 times more likely" because of climate change, a team of climate researchers said last month, and the current temperature spike "is likely to be caused by the same factors," said Chaya Vaddhanaphuti from Thailand's Chiang Mai University, who was part of the team.

India and other countries have established protocols to deal with the health risks arising from extreme heat, opening up public "cool rooms" and imposing restrictions on outdoor work, but Vaddhanaphuti said governments need to plan better, especially to protect more vulnerable communities.

Researchers from the University of Bristol warned in a paper published in April that regions with little prior experience of extreme heat could be most at risk, identifying eastern Russia as well as the Chinese capital Beijing and surrounding districts among the more vulnerable.

But for countries like India, where humidity is already pushing "wet bulb" temperatures to unsafe levels, preparing for the worst might not be enough, said Vikki Thompson, the paper's lead author.

"At some point we get to the limit of humans actually being able to cope with the temperatures," she said. "There could be a point where nobody could cope with them."

As many as 2 billion people will be exposed to dangerous heat if the world remains on its current track to rise an average 2.7C this century, with India likely to be the worst hit, scientists warned in another study published last week.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[1.5C of warming is too hot for a just world — study](#)

By: Marlowe Hood

Curbing global heating at 1.5 degrees Celsius will avert runaway climate change but not mass suffering in developing nations, a consortium of 50 researchers warned Wednesday.

Some 200 million people in poorer regions will be exposed to unliveable heat, and half a billion will face the destructive ravages of rising seas even if the world meets the more optimistic Paris target of a 1.5C cap, they reported in a major study.

If exposing large swathes of humanity to "significant harm is to be avoided, the just boundary should be set at or below 1C," the scientists said.

The Earth's average surface temperature has already risen 1.2C.

These are sobering conclusions because greenhouse gas emissions remain at record levels, and current policies are on track to see 2.7C of warming by century's end.

We are "putting the stability and resilience of the entire planet at risk," said Johan Rockstrom, lead author of the new study.

The scientists say atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide must also be cut by a sixth, with the world's richest one percent emitting twice as much as the poorest 50 percent, the study noted.

Rockstrom is among the originators of the concept of "planetary boundaries"—red lines that must not be crossed.

In 2009, he and colleagues identified nine such boundaries and said we had already stepped outside the safe zone of three: planet-warming gases in the air, accelerating species extinction, and an excess of nitrogen and phosphorus in the environment (mostly from fertiliser).

Today we have breached three more: deforestation, overuse of fresh water, and the omnipresence of synthetic chemicals, including plastics.

'Scientific backbone'

Outdoor particle pollution, which shortens more than four million lives every year, could be added this year to the list of our transgressions, and ocean acidification may not be far behind.

"The Earth system is in danger—many tipping elements are about to cross their tipping points," said co-author Dahe Qin, director of the Chinese Academy of Science's influential Academic Committee.

The Greenland ice sheet, large swathes of permafrost and the Amazon forest, for example, are approaching points of no return beyond which they will, respectively, lift oceans by meters, release billions of tonnes of CO₂ and methane and turn tropical forests to savannah.

Only the restoration of the life-protecting ozone layer—the ninth boundary—is clearly moving in the right direction.

Rockstrom, head of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, and colleagues applied the same yardsticks to measure the limits for a "just" world in which human exposure to harm is minimised.

Besides climate change, they found the tolerable threshold of ambient particle pollution—especially across Asia—must also be lowered compared to the original planetary boundaries schema.

"Justice is a necessity for humanity to live within planetary limits," said co-author Joyeeta Gupta, a professor at the University of Amsterdam. "We cannot have a safe planet without justice."

The scientists have proposed the new thresholds as the "scientific backbone" of evolving sustainability standards for government and business.

The study, published in *Nature*, was supported by the Global Commons Alliance, a coalition of more than 70 research and policy centres, including the World Economic Forum, The Nature Conservancy and Future Earth.

"Nothing less than a just global transformation across all Earth system boundaries is required to ensure human well-being," the authors concluded.

"Such transformations must be systemic across energy, food, urban and other sectors, addressing the economic, technological, political and other drivers of Earth system change, and ensure access for the poor through reductions and reallocation of resource use."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

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[CCC, MARINA Seek Greener, More Sustainable Maritime Industry](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) have forged partnership in pursuit of a greener and more sustainable maritime industry. The collaboration was a result of the two agencies' recent meeting to discuss objectives and strategies for decarbonization aligned with MARINA's Maritime Industry Development Program (MIDP) 2019-2028, the CCC said in a news release on Wednesday.

One of the MIDP's core objectives is the promotion of an environmentally sustainable maritime industry.

The CCC and MARINA committed to strengthening their partnership further through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

"The cooperation between the CCC and MARINA is significant, given that the shipping industry contributes to climate change and accounts for over 3 percent of the global annual carbon dioxide emissions," the CCC said.

"The CCC will provide technical expertise, including guidance on mitigation and adaptation measures, to support MARINA's policies and programs on decarbonization, and sharing of scientific studies and data sources on GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions," it added.

From 2007 to 2012, the shipping industry caused about 1.015 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions globally, according to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) report.

The CCC said forging a partnership with MARINA is in line with the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

"The proposed collaboration forms part of the CCC's goal of building and strengthening strategic partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders to influence greater climate action," it said.

MARINA wanted to align the decarbonization strategies in the technical, operational and economic measures with the country's mitigation targets.

It invited the CCC to become a member of the technical working group under the National Task Force: Inter-agency Coordinating Committee to Facilitate the Ratification and Accession to and Implementation of Maritime Conventions (ICCFRAIMC).

MARINA also asked the CCC to attend the meeting of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 80) from July 3 to 7 and the meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 15) from July 26 to 30.

The CCC joined the MARINA in the recently-held IMO Regional Conference on Seizing Opportunities for Green Shipping in Asia and the Pacific in Manila.

The conference was attended by key maritime stakeholders from Pacific Islands and Southeast Asian States to discuss energy efficiency, short sea segment, education of seafarers and global regulations.

CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert Borje stressed the importance of collaboration and cooperation among international organizations, governments, non-government organizations, shipping firms, and other maritime stakeholders to enhance the region's capacity to face the challenges of climate change toward a more sustainable and green sector.

“Shipping is a vital part of our economy, but it also has a significant impact on our climate. Through collaborating with MARINA on green shipping initiatives, we can develop a sustainable maritime industry that benefits both our economy and climate,” Borje said.

“We need a whole-of-world approach in order to effectively address climate change and to modernize the shipping industry —through an investment-led, accelerated, just, and equitable transition. This is the one thing that the CCC asks from all of our stakeholders. There is an existential threat and challenge of climate change and this is the right time for us to integrate all of these concerns, particularly in the shipping industry,” he added.

MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Sonia Malaluan said the collaboration with the CCC is an important step towards the goal of achieving carbon-neutral shipping in the Philippines.

“We hope that the CCC can support us in developing and implementing policies that will help reduce the carbon footprint of our shipping industry,” she said.

MARINA is an attached agency under the Department of Transportation that is mandated to integrate the development, promotion, and regulation of the maritime industry in the country.

Industrial waste

Meanwhile, CCC Commissioner Albert dela Cruz Sr. called on industries operating around the country's largest lake to be mindful of the disposal of their industrial waste which pollutes the waters and ecosystem.

Dela Cruz made the call after a study conducted by Mindanao State University (MSU) scientists Cris Gel Loui Arcadio and Hernando Bacosa found that a high concentration of microplastics was found in Laguna de Bay's 900-square-kilometer waters.

Citing the study, Dela Cruz said the presence of harmful microplastics could lead to adverse effects on humans and marine life.

"We must intensify our convergence to address the negative impacts of plastics and microplastic pollution in Laguna de Bay. If we will not do the necessary action, it will severely affect public health, food production and the livelihood of our fisher folks. Buhayin natin ang Lawa ng Laguna, bubuhayin din tayo ng lawa," he said.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Legarda pushes for PENCAS, 'Blue Economy' bill](#)

By: Pilar Mabaquiao

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda pushed on the implementation of sustainable economic management with the submission of the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) bill and the "Blue Economy" bill.

The Antiqueña senator presided over the Subcommittee on Economic Affairs' joint hearing with the Committees on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, and Finance, which tackled the two mentioned significant bills.

In a press release, she said that this is probably the best time to institute this commonsensical approach to managing our national patrimony, but the truly best time would have been when she first filed the Philippine Economic, Environmental and Natural Resources Accounting (PEENRA) bill in 2007.

"We would have realized then what we stood to lose, the damage we stood to suffer, and we would have planned and invested accordingly," Legarda said.

She also underscored the need for comprehensive planning and investment to address the potential losses and damages to the nation's resources.

Acknowledging the full support of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Climate Change Commission (CCC), Legarda expressed her optimism that the time has come for concrete action.

"Restoration must use economic indicators that value more than just the incomes and ignore the destruction of our natural capital in generating revenues and in calculating what is lost," she stated.

Legarda added that as we face an age of changing climate and unprecedented biodiversity loss, the challenge is how we can use our vulnerability as an opportunity to examine the role and impact of natural resources on the economic growth of a developing nation such as the Philippines.

The proposed PENCAS aims to integrate environmental inputs and outputs into national income accounts, accurately reflecting the country's development and economic performance.

Aside from the PENCAS bill, Legarda also championed the Blue Economy bill.

The hearing addressed the promotion of effective maritime governance, which is crucial for ensuring the sustainability of the blue economy and safeguarding the Philippines' maritime interests.

Legarda explained that the United Nations defines the blue economy as a range of economically sustainable activities related to oceans, seas, and coastal areas, focusing on social equity.

"We are a maritime nation with up to 88% of our territory covering 2.2 million square kilometers of water area, so it is crucial to enhance the health and well-being of marine resources for coastal communities and aid preservation efforts for the environment," she said.

POLITIKO

[CCC, MARINA join forces for greener, sustainable maritime sector](#)

By: Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) have teamed up to seek a common goal: a just and equitable transition to a greener, more sustainable maritime industry.

“Shipping is a vital part of our economy, but it also has a significant impact on our climate. Through collaborating with MARINA on green shipping initiatives, we can develop a sustainable maritime industry that benefits both our economy and climate,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje.

Borje said cooperation among international organizations, governments, NGOs, shipping companies, and other maritime stakeholders will enhance the region’s capacity to face the challenges of climate change, toward a more sustainable and green sector.

“We need a whole-of-world approach in order to effectively address climate change and to modernize the shipping industry—through an investment-led, accelerated, just, and equitable transition,” he added.

MARINA, for its part, expressed their target to align their decarbonization strategies in their technical, operational, and economic measures with the country’s mitigation targets.

“This is an important step towards our goal of achieving carbon-neutral shipping in the Philippines. We hope that the CCC can support us in developing and implementing policies that will help reduce the carbon footprint of our shipping industry,” said MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Sonia Malaluan.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the CCC will provide technical expertise, including guidance on mitigation and adaptation measures, to support MARINA’s policies and programs on decarbonization, and sharing of scientific studies and data sources on GHG emissions.

The CCC is also invited by MARINA to be a member of the Technical Working Group under the National Task Force: Inter-agency Coordinating Committee to Facilitate the Ratification and Accession to and Implementation of Maritime Conventions.

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