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06 JUNE 2024 [08:00 am]

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By: Zen Hernandez

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Women solving the climate crisis](#)

By: Ana Bobadilla

Over the recent weeks, there is no denying that the intense heat has impacted people's daily lives significantly. This includes changes in mood, health, noticeable spikes in utility bills, such as electricity and water, more frequent visits to malls and restaurants to seek relief in a cooler environment, and even opting to drive short distances instead of walking. Extreme weather plays a crucial role in influencing our choices, especially for women, who often handle multiple tasks throughout the day.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DWIZ

[Ph calls urgent climate action at UNFCCC session](#)

By: Gilbert Pardez

The Philippines, represented by Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Robert Borje, has called for immediate and transformative climate action during the joint opening plenary of the 60th Sessions of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Bodies.

PALAWAN NEWS

[Philippines now 'at a point of no return' on climate change](#)

The Philippines has reached the "point of no return" when it comes to climate change, emphasizing the urgent need for "transformative climate action" at the joint opening plenary of the 60th Sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Philippine role in 2025 UN Ocean Conference 'significant', says French envoy

By: Zen Hernandez

In preparation for the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC), to be hosted by France in the city of Nice on June 2025, the French Embassy in Manila launched the “Blue Nations - France and the Philippines: Partners for the Oceans,” in Manila on Wednesday.

The Blue Nations initiative aims to further strengthen maritime cooperation between the Philippines and France, particularly focusing on the environment and climate, blue economy and maritime security.

According to French Ambassador Marie Fontanel, the Philippines has a special role in the 2025 conference.

“France and the Philippines are maritime nations, reasonably oriented towards the sea due to our geography.... We do think that the Philippines has an important role to play at this conference. You have strength, and we could all benefit from your expertise and knowledge, being, for instance, a pioneer country for the protection of marine and the coastal ecosystem... And France wishes to work with the Philippines to leverage our common knowledge and expertise to ensure the success of UNOC,” Fontanel said.

The Philippines ranks as the 6th nation with the longest coastline at over 36,000 kilometers and France is 10th with 20,000 kilometers. The Philippines also has 25,000 square kilometers of coral reefs ranking 3rd in the world, while France is 4th.

“We thus share the responsibility of ensuring the protection of those ecosystems which are vital for the health of the oceans and hence for the planet. We also share the same values, particularly our mutual commitment to international law and multilateralism as exemplified by the United Nations convention on the law of the sea, UNCLOS, which is also the foundation of the UNOC,” Fontanel added.

France and the Philippines have long shared a partnership in climate and ocean protection. In 2015, then French President Francois Hollande and his counterpart President Benigno Aquino initiated the Manila Call to Action, culminating in the adoption of the Paris Agreement in the same year, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Paris, France.

“And since the old story started in Manila, we do share responsibility in the implementation of the Paris agreement. Ten years after, we will have to commit again for the preservation of our oceans,” Fontanel explained.

France will co-chair the third UNOC with Costa Rica. According to environmentalist and Senator Loren Legarda, the Philippines have just recently adopted Costa Rica’s pioneering environmental policies.

“The Philippines has followed suit when we recently enacted a law, signed by the President just last week, which I principally authored and sponsored, the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System Act...Natural capital accounting, as exemplified by Costa Rica, offers a transformative approach and perspective on how we view and manage our natural wealth...We’re also about to pass, we’re just in recess now, the Blue Economy Bill...France has demonstrated remarkable leadership in marine conservation through initiatives such as the creation of extensive marine protected areas and the promotion of sustainable fishing practices,” Legarda said.

Blue economy is defined by the World Bank as the “sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.”

A United Nations representative also defined it as an economy that "comprises a range of economic sectors and related policies that together determine whether the use of ocean resources is sustainable. An important challenge of the blue economy is to understand and better manage the many aspects of oceanic sustainability, ranging from sustainable fisheries to ecosystem health to preventing pollution.

Secondly, the blue economy challenges us to realize that the sustainable management of ocean resources will require collaboration across borders and sectors through a variety of partnerships, and on a scale that has not been previously achieved."

Legarda also assured that the United Nations agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction or the BBNJ agreement will be ratified as soon as it reaches the Senate. It is currently at the Office of the President.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is also looking forward to further cooperation with France and contributing in the environment climate agenda.

“To contribute in the environment climate agenda, we are establishing, for the first time, seven marine scientific research stations across the archipelago to secure, discover, and further understand the coastal and marine environment for informed decision making,

resource management, development strategies, and long term monitoring,” DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said.

Yulo-Loyzaga further underscored the importance of adhering to international law.

“With our adoption and the ongoing process of ratification of the BBNJ treaty, the Philippines affirms furthermore the primacy of the UNCLOS and the constitution of the oceans... In recognition of the interconnectivity of species and ecosystems beneath one ocean, we are for transboundary cooperation, multilateralism, and we are a friend to all who were willing to establish a rules based international order,” Loyzaga added.

Independent policy think tank and research organization Stratbase ADR Institute also underscored that maritime security is directly related to upholding a blue economy.

“The Philippines, we all know, is at the receiving end of gray zone tactics, even cyber cooperation. But more than that, something that I want to emphasize is the West Philippine Sea also faces issues affecting its biodiversity and marine resources....The Philippines need to work together with other nations, and today, that's what we're celebrating collectively....we need to defend what is ours, defend what is defined by international as ours. But part of it, national security is economic security,” said Stratbase ADR Institute Professor Dindo Manhit.

Stratbase previously released a poll that shows 89% of Filipinos want the government to assert rights in the West Philippine Sea. The group ran another survey to determine the reason for that result and majority of the respondents said that it is about protecting marine resources and the rights of the people and coastal communities.

BBC

[Ban fossil fuel ads to save climate, says UN chief](#)

By: Matt McGrath and Mark Poynting

The world's fossil fuel industries should be banned from advertising to help save the world from climate change, the head of the United Nations said on Wednesday.

UN Secretary General António Guterres called coal, oil and gas corporations the “godfathers of climate chaos” who had distorted the truth and deceived the public for decades.

Just as tobacco advertising was banned because of the threat to health, the same should now apply to fossil fuels, he said.

His remarks were his most damning condemnation yet of the industries responsible for the bulk of global warming. They came as new studies showed the rate of warming is increasing and that global heat records have continued to tumble.

Data from the EU's climate service confirms that each of the past 12 months set a new global temperature record for the time of year. The high temperatures were driven by human-caused climate change, although they were also given a small boost by the El Niño climate phenomenon.

While a fading El Niño should soon bring a pause to the record-breaking sequence of months, temperatures will continue to rise in the long-term due to emissions of planet-warming gases from human activities.

Last year was the hottest on record and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Wednesday that the record could fall again as soon as this year.

A group of around 50 leading scientists separately reported that the rate of global warming caused by humans has continued to increase.

They found that ongoing high emissions of warming gases mean the world is moving closer to breaching the symbolic 1.5C warming mark on a longer-term basis.

To try to avert this outcome, the UN Secretary General has called for more rapid political action on climate change, and a “clampdown” on the fossil fuel industry.

“We must directly confront those in the fossil fuel industry who have shown relentless zeal for obstructing progress – over decades.”

He said many in the oil, gas and coal industries had “shamelessly greenwashed” with lobbying, legal action and massive advertising campaigns.

“I urge every country to ban advertising from fossil fuel companies,” he told an audience in New York.

“And I urge news media and tech companies to stop taking fossil fuel advertising.” In response, representatives of fossil fuel groups said they were committed to reducing their emissions.

“Our industry is focused on continuing to produce affordable, reliable energy while tackling the climate challenge, and any allegations to the contrary are false,” said Megan Bloomgren, Senior Vice President of Communications at the American Petroleum Foundation.

The UK Advertising Standards Authority has previously pledged to clamp down on misleading environmental claims, while the European Union recently announced a new law to tackle the problem.

Mr Guterres' call for an outright ban on all fossil fuel advertising goes further - but it has no legal standing, and the UN has no means of enforcing the idea.

However, it will be seen as a boost for campaigners who have fought against sponsorship and advertising from coal, oil and gas companies.

Both the Hay and Edinburgh book festivals have recently suspended sponsorship from investment company Baillie Gifford following controversy over links to fossil fuel firms. Sport is one of the biggest areas of fossil fuel advertising and sponsorship, with football having a long association with oil and gas producers.

Concerns over human health have seen alcohol and tobacco sponsorship banned in football in the past, and green campaigners will be hoping that the support of Mr Guterres will see fossil fuels go the same way.

In his address, Mr Guterres stressed that time was of the essence, with the impacts of rising temperatures already being felt - such as the recent deadly heatwaves in Asia or the floods in South America.

The record-breaking global heat means that average temperatures over the past 12 months have been 1.63C above "pre-industrial levels" of the late 1800s, according to Copernicus data.

"We are living in unprecedented times," says Carlo Buontempo, director of Copernicus. This does not constitute a breach of the Paris climate agreement, in which nearly 200 countries pledged to try to keep temperature rises below 1.5C, in order to try to avoid some of the worst impacts of climate change.

That is because the Paris agreement is generally understood to mean a 20-year average - to smooth out natural variability. Taken as a whole, the past decade was about 1.2C warmer than pre-industrial levels.

But a new study released today by a group of leading climate scientists highlighted how close the world is getting to a long-term breach of the 1.5C mark.

They estimate that from the start of 2024 the world could only emit around 200 billion more tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) for a 50/50 chance of keeping warming to 1.5C - down from 500 billion tonnes at the beginning of 2020.

At current rates of emissions, this "carbon budget" could be exhausted by 2029 - although the world would probably not pass the long-term 1.5C mark until a few years later, because of warming effects from greenhouse gases other than CO₂.

There are uncertainties about how exactly the climate system will react to these factors, and of course whether countries make urgent cuts to emissions.

"We have a bit of control over this as a society," says lead author Prof Piers Forster, director of the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures at the University of Leeds. Despite the gloom, there has been some recent progress, with particularly rapid growth in renewable wind and solar electricity.

Greenhouse gas emissions are also showing signs of plateauing - but they are still at record highs.

They need to fall quickly if global targets have a chance of being met, with every fraction of a degree of warming worsening climate impacts.

"Every degree matters; every tenth of a degree matters," says Ko Barrett, WMO Deputy Secretary General.

"The difference between 1.5C and say 2C could mean [...] dire consequences, for coastal communities, for fragile ecosystems, and the biodiversity that is contained within them, and for glaciers and the frozen parts of the world."

BUSINESS MIRROR

Registered companies meet target to divert 20 percent of plastic waste

By: Jonathan Mayuga

Registered business establishments have met the target of diverting plastic waste by 20 percent in the first year of implementing the Expanded Producers' Responsibility (EPR) Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) reported that a total of 624,547 tons of unaudited footprint for plastics in 2023 was reported and 20 percent or 124,986 tons of plastic packaging was reported to have been diverted.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga credited businesses for achieving significant strides toward the "shared goal of building a circular economy where waste is minimized, resources are protected, and the delicate balance of our planet is restored."

Businesses have achieved this 20 percent target through waste collection and diversion, including recovery, transportation, and cleanup efforts in coastal and public areas, Loyzaga said in a statement.

At the event marking World Environment Day and Philippine Environment Month, Loyzaga expressed optimism that the Philippines will hit the target of recovering and diverting 80 percent of plastic packaging by 2028.

The early gains have been made in less than two years since the enabling law, Republic Act 11898 or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act, came into force in 2022, Loyzaga said in a keynote speech titled "Linking Opportunities and Partnerships Towards Circular Economy."

Circular economy is about the practice of reducing, reusing, and recycling, a 1970s concept of 3Rs which appeared to be modified and improvised in 2013 through a report titled "Towards the Circular Economy: Economic and Business Rationale for an Accelerated Transition," commissioned by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

The EPR law requires businesses to conduct proper waste management of plastic packaging products such as sachets, rigid plastic packaging products, plastic bags, and polystyrene.

The EMB also reported a 37 percent increase in the number of businesses that registered under the EPR program, from 667 in 2023 to 917 companies as of May 6, 2024.

Under the EPR Act, the targets for the recovery of plastic product footprint are: 2023, 20 percent; 2024, 40 percent ; 2025, 50 percent; 2026, 60 percent; 2027, 70 percent; and, 2028, 80 percent.

Following enactment of the EPR Act, the DENR has issued an Administrative Order (DAO) 2024-04 promulgating the interim guidelines on the compliance audit reporting for legally bound enterprises under that law.

The guidelines—developed by the DENR with the Audit and Assurance Standards Council and Financial and Sustainability Reporting Standards Council—were adopted, while the uniform standards for EPR compliance auditing and reporting, as well as the accreditation rules and procedures for independent third-party EPR compliance auditors, are yet to be finalized.

Titled “Compliance Reporting and Audit Guidelines for Republic Act 11898 or the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022,” the DAO aims to help EPR-registered obliged enterprises, collectives, and producer responsibility organizations and their respective independent third-party auditors with the annual EPR Compliance Audit Report (Ecar).

It provides temporary guidance and templates for developing the Ecar, constituting the EPR Compliance and Audit reports.

The deadline for the submission to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the ECARs is on June 30 or the first working day immediately after that of the year.

Loyzaga said, “The urgency of our mission is underscored by the growing impacts of linear consumption patterns as evidenced by the staggering volume of waste generated daily in our country.”

Moving away from the linear economy model of take-make-dispose, EPR is crucial in advancing a circular economy. It enhances the efficient use of materials and redirects processes from the end of the supply chain back to the beginning.

“This supports the country’s achievement of its nationally determined contribution as mentioned by the Climate Change Commission especially in, concerning our waste wherein the circular economy and sustainable consumption and production have been identified as key mitigation measures against climate change. It also supports our sustainable development goals on climate action, on the protection of life on land and undersea, zero hunger, water and establishing sustainable cities, and regarding our poverty issues,” said Secretary Loyzaga.

“We have set very ambitious goals for reducing waste, which requires transformative, system-wide actions, and large-scale implementations,” she added.

[New Zealand 'decarbonization' firms keen on investing in PHL](#)

By: Rizal Raoul Reyes

TOP executives of New Zealand-based companies recently expressed optimism in investing in the Philippines because of its young population, serious commitment to development of renewable energy (RE), and geographic location.

In a recent online press briefing, CarbonClick Limited CEO and founder Dave Rouse told the BusinessMirror in an online press briefing the huge interest for the Philippines and its young population at 25 years old on average, which means it's a "dynamically changing and quickly advancing nation."

"When you've got a young driving force, that excites us, and this is the first time we have done business in the Philippines with Carbon Click. I have worked in previous companies, but the key for us was a very quickly evolving commitment to decarbonization and reducing climate change along with other environmental initiatives in the Philippines for a long time," Rouse pointed out.

Auckland-based CarbonClick is a certified "B Corp" that aims to help businesses understand, reduce, and offset carbon via high-quality, highly vetted climate projects that align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, while providing end-to-end transparency to show genuine impact. It integrates tech, so that businesses such as airlines, hotels, and event organizers can offer clients the opportunity to offset travel, while enabling teams and customers to create a movement by understanding and reducing their emissions.

Rouse said CarbonClick has a carbon-offsetting platform that measures emissions and helps to place offsets against those emissions for companies that want to aim toward "net zero," which complements their decarbonization or carbon-reduction strategy.

Paul Newfield, who is the CEO of Wellington-based major global infrastructure manager Morrison, pointed out that the Philippines's firm policy commitment toward growing RE has gotten the company interested in working closer with the country toward developing sustainable energy.

He said the country's plan to raise the use of RE to 50 percent by 2040 means "there's an enormous opportunity; and when you combine that with a growing population and a growing economy, you'll both need more energy, and you'll need more of it to be renewable, and that lines up nicely for us."

A New Zealand-based company, Newfield said Morrison is quite familiar with investing in RE for more than 30 years: "[Ours] is already a market that's over 90 percent 'renewable,'

so we've got experience, capability, and capital that we can bring to help with what the Philippines is trying to achieve RE," he said.

For the past 35 years, it has invested globally in private and listed infrastructure on behalf of institutional investors and sovereign wealth clients. Today, the firm has over NZ\$38 billion of assets under management globally. Morrison's long investment history, deep operating expertise, and wide networks inform its highly selective, long-term investment strategy.

PHL's advantages

CEO Wayne Mulligan of Wellington-based NZ Bio Forestry, concurred with his two counterparts that the Philippines's young population demographic is interesting, as well its geographical location in Asia: "There's a considerable amount of biomass, and what we do is convert forestry—the whole forest—into biochemicals and biomaterials."

NZ Bio Forestry is an innovative technology-based, Māori-led company that converts wood biomass into green biochemicals and biofuels. In turn, it creates a more sustainable economy and improves the economic value of New Zealand's forestry sector. Mulligan said it has the systems and technology to produce carbon-negative bio-plastics, biochemicals, and bio-fuel using biomass sourced from plantation forests.

While the company was doing projects in Taiwan and Singapore for coal replacements, the CEO said some Philippine government officials approached them and asked if NZ Bio Forestry can help the country in solving the challenges in its coal plants in the short term, while it transitions to wind, solar and other renewables in the long run.

"We looked at some of the forestry estates and the forestry policies from your departments, and how they managed and worked through [such]. We see that there's an opportunity, and we're in discussion with a couple of parties in the Philippines," shared Mulligan. "That's just providing coal replacement, so that they're not burning coal."

He said the Philippines can maintain its coal plants until it deploys the new capacity in place, "and whether this becomes biofuel or some other form, there are 28 coal-burning generators across the country. [Their emissions targets], or the emission liabilities on those, are fairly significant."

To enhance the business partnership between New Zealand and Philippine companies, Rouse pointed out the need to strengthen their free-trade agreement, alignment with the commitments within the Paris Agreement, and the ability for the two nations to work together.

For Newfield, the most important factor to attract investors in the country is to ensure stability in the business policies, and that people's climate commitments only get stronger over time: "[On infrastructure, we're building things that will last for 30 years] to 40 years....It's important for us that there is policy stability for long periods of time. That's what we're hoping to see in the Philippines."

Mulligan said both New Zealand and Philippine bureaucracies must work together to achieve synergy. According to him, it is vital to enable Kiwi and international companies to be able to work through those processes in the most expedient way possible and enable deployment: "I think that's the key, and when you see more people and more companies going through this, [there will be] much more attraction to the Philippines."

CNN

[UN chief says world is on 'highway to climate hell' as planet endures 12 straight months of unprecedented heat](#)

By: Laura Paddison

The planet just marked a “shocking” new milestone, enduring 12 consecutive months of unprecedented heat, according to new data from Copernicus, the European Union’s climate monitoring service.

Every single month from June 2023 to May 2024 was the world’s hottest such month on record, Copernicus data showed.

The 12-month heat streak was “shocking but not surprising” given human-caused climate change, said Carlo Buontempo, the director of Copernicus, who warned of worse to come. Unless planet-warming fossil fuel pollution is slashed, “this string of hottest months will be remembered as comparatively cold,” he said.

Copernicus released its data the same day as United Nations Secretary General António Guterres made an impassioned speech in New York about climate change, slamming fossil fuel companies as the “godfathers of climate chaos” and, for the first time, explicitly calling on all countries to ban advertising their fossil fuel products.

Guterres urged world leaders to swiftly take control of the spiraling climate crisis or face dangerous tipping points. “We are playing Russian roulette with our planet,” he said Wednesday. “We need an exit ramp off the highway to climate hell.”

As temperatures surge, global climate commitments are “hanging by a thread,” he warned.

Copernicus’ data showed each month since July 2023 has been at least 1.5 degrees warmer than temperatures before industrialization, when humans started burning large amounts of planet-heating fossil fuels.

The average global temperature over the past 12 months was 1.63 degrees above these pre-industrial levels.

Under the Paris Agreement in 2015, countries agreed to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. While this aim refers to warming over decades, rather than a single month or year, scientists say this breach is an alarming signal.

“This is a harbinger of progressively more dangerous climate impacts close on the horizon,” said Richard Allan, a climate professor at the University of Reading in the UK.

The news comes as the western US is experiencing its first heat wave so far this summer with temperatures soaring into the triple digits. But unprecedented heat has already left a trail of death and destruction across the planet this spring.

Dozens have died in India over the past few weeks as temperatures pushed toward 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit); brutal temperatures in Southeast Asia have caused deaths, school closures and shriveled crops; and as heat surged in Mexico, howler monkeys dropped dead from trees.

Hotter air and oceans also fuel heavier rainfall and destructive storms like those that have battered the United States, Brazil, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates, among other nations, this year.

The recent heat offers “a window into the future with extreme heat that challenges the limits of human survivability,” said Ben Clarke, a researcher at Imperial College London’s Grantham Institute. “It is vital people understand that every tenth of a degree of warming exposes more people to dangerous and potentially deadly heat,” he told CNN.

“Extreme events turbocharged by climate chaos are piling up, destroying lives, pummeling economies and hammering health,” Guterres said.

Humanity is having an outsized impact on the world, he said, likening it to the meteor that began the process of wiping out dinosaurs 66 million years ago.

“In the case of climate, we are not the dinosaurs,” Guterres said. “We are the meteor. We are not only in danger. We are the danger.”

An even hotter future

Global temperatures are expected to start dropping below record-breaking levels in the next few months as El Niño — a natural climate phenomenon that tends to boost the planet’s average temperature — weakens.

But that won’t mean an end to the long-term trend of rising temperatures as humans continue to burn planet-heating fossil fuels. “While this sequence of record-breaking months will eventually be interrupted, the overall signature of climate change remains and there is no sign in sight of a change in such a trend,” Buontempo said.

Guterres' speech also referenced new data released by the World Meteorological Organization, which found a nearly 86% chance that at least one of the years between 2024 and 2028 will break the hottest-year record, set in 2023.

The WMO also calculated a nearly 50% chance that global average temperatures over the entire five-year period between 2024 and 2028 would be more than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. That would bring the world closer to breaching the longer-term 1.5-degree limit at the heart of the Paris Agreement.

Guterres laid blame for the climate crisis firmly at the doorstep of fossil fuel companies that “rake in record profits and feast off trillions in taxpayer-funded subsidies,” he said.

These companies have spent billions of dollars over decades “distorting the truth, deceiving the public and sowing doubt,” he added. He called on every country to ban fossil fuel ads, similar to advertising bans implemented around the world for other products that harm human health, such as tobacco.

“We are at a moment of truth,” he said, adding that the battle for a liveable planet would be won or lost in this decade.

He called on world leaders to take immediate action, including huge cuts in planet-heating pollution and an immediate end to any new coal projects. He pushed rich countries to commit to quitting coal by 2030, reducing oil and gas by 60% by 2035 and increasing the flow of funding to the poorest, most climate-vulnerable nations.

“We cannot accept a future where the rich are protected in air-conditioned bubbles, while the rest of humanity is lashed by lethal weather in unliveable lands,” Guterres said.

GMA NEWS

PH Environment Day 2024: Treading rising sea level in Bohol islands

By: Eleanor Valeros

The Provincial Government of Bohol has acknowledged that their most vulnerable communities today are Batasan Island in the Municipality of Tubigon, and Matatao Island in the adjacent Municipality of Calape.

Tide waters have not receded since a magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit Bohol severely in 2013, and the situation is made even worse by the aftermath of Super Typhoon Odette (Rai) in December 2021.

The two islands are exhibits A and B of “waterworldliness” in Bohol.

The waters in Batasan Island, for example, have not subsided due to coseismic uplift or subsidence as the land mass lies at the North Bohol fault, according to Maria Isabel Abigania, senior science researcher of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Dennis Bringas, chief of the Physical Oceanography Division of National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), said that based on studies, 3.2 mm is the average global rise in sea water levels annually.

In Bohol, sea levels rose by 10.8 mm yearly, Bringas said.

By acknowledging the effects of climate change, the province becomes the first in the country to have shaped a Committee on Climate Change at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Board) level to develop an action plan particular to the effects of rising sea levels, such as permanent relocation, and not just evacuation every time the tides are high or the weather is bad.

“The creation of a Climate Change Committee was approved this year because of our strong engagement knowing the effects of climate change, sea level rise, and because typhoons are getting stronger, we expect flooding by the end of this year, and because of La Niña, we will be closely working with national government agencies,” Dr. Damalerio said in a media discussion initiated by Internews-Earth Journalism Network’s reporting trip with Cebu and Bohol journalists.

The level of water in Batasan Island is about half-a-meter high, or water that reaches high above the ankle or below the calf of a person with average height for an Asian.

Around a hundred residents would tread the waters to their houses that have been improved to include a second floor that ensures dry space. However, garbage floating in the said community becomes a disgusting sight.

According to Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Chief, Dr. Anthony Damalerio, the residents in Batasan Island are set to leave their settlement to embrace a safer life in the mainland.

The residents have shown resistance to the permanent relocation offered by the local government unit because their livelihood is in Batasan where a number of them were born, thus the emotional connection.

"Where will be their next source of livelihood, mao gyud na ang concern nganong mo-resist sila sa permanent relocation," Damalerio said.

He cited that the province has allocated approximately P5 million for permanent relocation.

SYNTHESIS REPORT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Urgent climate action can secure a liveable future for all, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said in a press release on March 20, 2023 in Interlaken, Switzerland after issuing its synthesis report.

"More than a century of burning fossil fuels as well as unequal and unsustainable energy and land use has led to global warming of 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels. This has resulted in more frequent and more intense extreme weather events that have caused increasingly dangerous impacts on nature and people in every region of the world," the report reads.

IPCC accentuated that every increment of warming results in rapidly escalating hazards.

"More intense heatwaves, heavier rainfall and other weather extremes further increase risks for human health and ecosystems. In every region, people are dying from extreme heat. Climate-driven food and water insecurity is expected to increase with increased warming. When the risks combine with other adverse events, such as pandemics or conflicts, they become even more difficult to manage," the report further reads.

The report, approved during a week-long session in Interlaken, brings to sharp focus the losses and damages experience and will continue into the future, hitting the most vulnerable people and ecosystems especially hard.

"Taking the right action now could result in the transformational change essential for a sustainable, equitable world. Climate justice is crucial because those who have contributed least to climate change are being disproportionately affected," Aditi Mukherji, one of the 93 authors of the Synthesis Report, the closing chapter of the Panel's sixth assessment, stated.

This is true to the Philippines battered constantly by disasters of sorts.

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) in its journal on the "Impact of Climate Change" pointed out that responding to climate change is to manage its impacts.

"Future impacts on the environment and society are now inevitable, owing to the amount of greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere from past decades of industrial and other human activities, and to the added amounts from continued emissions over the next few decades until such time as mitigation policies and actions become effective. We are therefore committed to changes in the climate. Taking steps to cope with the changed climate conditions both in terms of reducing adverse impacts and taking advantage of potential benefits through adaptation," DOST-PAGASA stated.

DATA-DRIVEN APPROACHES

According to the World Bank (WB), decisions about climate change are complex, costly and have long-term implications.

Therefore, it is vital that such decisions are based on the best available evidence.

"We need to understand the quality and provenance of that evidence, and whether any assumptions have been made in generating it," WB said in its journal entitled "Why are climate data and evidence important?"

In Baclayon town, some 11.1 kilometers away from Tagbilaran City, the capital of the Province of Bohol, its vice mayor said that the lack of data on rising water levels along the coastlines of Baclayon and Pamilacan, a barangay-island where over a thousand residents thrive on marginal fishing and ecotourism opportunities, has delayed the creation of a committee specific to response and management of the impact and challenges of climate change.

"Maglisud ta og forecast about specific programs directed at challenges of communities regarding rising sea level kay wala man gud tay data. Based on science man gud ang pagbuhat nato og mga policy," Vice Mayor Romulo Balingkit said when the journalists on a reporting tour were on a courtesy visit at his office on June 4, 2024

Databases allow organizations to establish baselines, benchmarks, and performance goals.

The baseline serves as the basis for the implementation of a particular solution.

Further, a solution is in turn measured by data to test whether the approach is effective, or if it needs revision or termination.

INTERGENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Now, more than ever, despite complexities and challenges, conservation efforts are our intergenerational responsibility, not just to the current generation, but to generations yet unborn.

As the country marks Philippine Environment Day today, June 5, 2024, people's pivotal roles in the worldwide web of life are magnified a thousand folds.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Women solving the climate crisis

By: Ana Bobadilla

Over the recent weeks, there is no denying that the intense heat has impacted people's daily lives significantly. This includes changes in mood, health, noticeable spikes in utility bills, such as electricity and water, more frequent visits to malls and restaurants to seek relief in a cooler environment, and even opting to drive short distances instead of walking. Extreme weather plays a crucial role in influencing our choices, especially for women, who often handle multiple tasks throughout the day.

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Climate change is a global crisis that affects everyone, but its impact is not evenly distributed. Women, particularly in developing countries like those who reside in the Asean region, are disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change. The Philippines is not spared in this regard highlighting the urgent need for gender-responsive policies and initiatives to empower women and build resilience in the face of this continuing environmental issue.

Impact of climate change on women in the Philippines and Asean. Filipino women as well as women in Asean countries are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to existing social and economic inequalities. In many communities, women are responsible for tasks such as mothers juggling jobs, breadwinners caring for family members and the household, all of which become more challenging in the face of extreme weather events, natural disasters, and environmental degradation.

According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme, women and children are 14 times more likely to die in natural disasters than men, highlighting the gender disparities in disaster risk reduction and response. Moreover, climate change exacerbates existing challenges faced by women, such as limited access to resources, economic opportunities, and decision-making power. It is not just a human rights issue, failing to address it also undermines hard-fought development gains.

It is no news that the Philippines ranks high in terms of vulnerability to climate change impacts. We are one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, facing frequent

typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and landslides, and these disasters have a significant impact on women and children, particularly in rural areas where they are more vulnerable due to limited access to resources, connectivity, and therefore, information.

Policy initiatives for empowering women in the Philippines. To address the intersection of gender inequality and climate change, the Philippine government can implement various policy initiatives to empower women and build resilience in communities. Some key strategies include:

Policies for gender-inclusive climate adaptation and mitigation. To address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women (and children), the government can integrate gender perspectives into strategies for adapting to and mitigating climate change. At the sidelines of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, then Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno emphasized the importance of recognizing the distinct needs and opportunities of women and men in climate action. He highlighted the significance of collecting sex-disaggregated data to identify and address underlying inequalities that exacerbate vulnerability. Additionally, it is crucial to ensure the fair, active, and meaningful participation of both genders in decision-making processes, program implementation, and impact assessment related to climate change. Lastly, efforts should be made to provide women with gender-equitable access to the advantages of climate finance and programs.

Capacity building and education. Investing in women's education and skills training in climate-resilient livelihoods can enhance their adaptive capacity and empower them to participate in decision-making processes related to climate change.

Access to finances and resources. Ensuring women's access to financial resources, technology/information, and markets can help them adapt to climate change impacts and build sustainable livelihoods, especially in rural areas.

Community-based approaches. Promoting community-based approaches that engage women in climate change adaptation initiatives can enhance their resilience and strengthen local responses to climate-related disasters.

By implementing these policy initiatives and empowering women, the Philippines can enhance its climate resilience and contribute to sustainable development in the Asean region. Governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector need to work together to address the gender dimensions of this global issue and ensure that women are key actors in building a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Ana Bobadilla is secretariat of the Philippine Women's Economic Network (PhilWEN) and the partnerships manager of the Philippine Business Coalition for Women Empowerment.

She is a women/youth empowerment, environment, and diversity, equity, and inclusion advocate.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DWIZ

[Ph calls urgent climate action at UNFCCC session](#)

By: Gilbert Pardez

The Philippines, represented by Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Robert Borje, has called for immediate and transformative climate action during the joint opening plenary of the 60th Sessions of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Bodies.

Borje stressed the importance of robust climate action rooted in science and indigenous knowledge, highlighting the critical decade ahead.

Under President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s leadership, the Philippines has integrated climate change goals into its national policies.

Borje urged nations to build upon outcomes from COP28 and emphasized the urgency of advancing agenda items, particularly regarding climate finance.

The Philippines also expressed concerns over the impact of extreme weather events and stressed the need for collective action to address mitigation and adaptation gaps, operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund, and ensure a just transition to green economies.

Borje underscored the importance of inclusive processes and universal participation in achieving global climate goals.

The SB60 session in Bonn, Germany serves as a crucial platform for dialogue and negotiation leading up to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

PALAWAN NEWS

Philippines now 'at a point of no return' on climate change

The Philippines has reached the “point of no return” when it comes to climate change, emphasizing the urgent need for “transformative climate action” at the joint opening plenary of the 60th Sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

Secretary Robert Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission and co-head of the Philippine delegation, explained that it is imperative to accelerate the momentum for climate action, and this must be anchored in science, evidence, and indigenous knowledge, as the coming times are critical.

Borje’s call is for countries to build on the outcomes of COP28, including the results of the Global Stocktake (GST-1), the UAE Global Climate Resilience Framework, and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.

He emphasized the need for urgency in advancing all agenda items, especially the determination of a new collective quantified goal on climate finance.

“The Philippines expresses grave concerns over the destruction caused by extreme weather events in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and other regions. We need to change these stories of developing countries from fragility to agility,” Borje said.

Under the leadership of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., the Philippines has aligned its economic and prosperity agenda with climate change goals. Climate change is now integral to national policies, guiding planning, implementation, and decision-making at all levels.

The Philippines has recently completed its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP), becoming the third ASEAN country and the 56th in the world to submit a NAP.

Driven largely by domestic resources and bilateral partnerships, the Philippines is working on the NDC Implementation Plan, Just Transition Work Programme, Biennial Transparency Report, Long Term Strategy, and NDC updating.

Borje called for collective action to:

- Close mitigation and adaptation gaps and support the development and implementation of NAPs and NDCs by developing nations.

- Urgently operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund, with the Philippines ready to participate in the decision-making process.
- Implement the Just Transition Work Programme to uphold human rights, create green jobs, enhance livelihoods, and develop green and blue economies.
- Accelerate the provision, mobilization, and delivery of finance, technology, and capacity from developed to developing countries.
- Ensure transformative climate action for all vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples, local communities, women and girls, children and youth, the elderly, and differently-abled individuals.

With the evolving needs of developing nations, Borje underscored the need for collective action, that is transformative, long-term, and sustainable.

“But we must be clear: in our joint work, we cannot be satisfied with providing temporary reprieve for the weak, the least, and the last. This approach will only lead us to a permanent retreat, and certain perdition. This cannot and must not happen,”

Borje also stressed the need for inclusive processes and universal participation to restore trust and confidence in the multilateral process of the UNFCCC. He reaffirmed the Philippines’ commitment to engage all Parties and stakeholders to achieve global climate goals.

“There is no turning back. We must forge ahead and move forward together for humanity’s sake, particularly for the most vulnerable and at-risk. Let us work together and create the results we want and need,” Borje declared.

As one of the 198 Parties to the UNFCCC, the Philippines participates in SB60 intersessional climate negotiation.

The Philippine delegation is composed of 11 agencies, namely: CCC, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines (DFA), Department of Energy Philippines (DOE), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Agriculture – Philippines (DA), Department of Labor and Employment – DOLE, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG Philippines), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Presidential Communications Office (PCO), and Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

SB60 held in Bonn, Germany from 3 to 13 June 2024 provides a crucial platform for dialogue and negotiation leading up to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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