



## NEWS ROUNDUP

13 JUNE 2023 [ 08:30 am]

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- Most nations get low marks on 'net-zero' climate plans
- Save the Children PH says climate disasters affect children, 5.6m poor families
- DBP offers credit assistance to expand water sources; address climate change effects
- Group airs concern for 5.6m kids of impoverished Filipino families
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- CCC holds Environmental Protection and Climate Action fora in Nasugbu
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### ABS CBN

#### [ADB appoints new country manager for PH](#)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday announced that it has appointed Pavit Ramachandran as Country Director for the Philippines. Ramachandran assumes office Friday, succeeding outgoing Country Director Kelly Bird, who served in the Philippines from 2018 and was recently appointed as Advisor for ADB's East Asia Department, ADB said.

## [Filipino kids from 5.6M families vulnerable to climate disasters - group](#)

An advocacy group has called on government to do more to mitigate the effects of climate change on children, particularly those from low-income households.

### **ARAB NEWS**

## [COP28 can be a catalyst for climate education in MENA](#)

DUBAI: In the early years of the 21st century, humanity finds itself confronted with an unparalleled environmental predicament: an intensified greenhouse effect fueling global warming and precipitous alterations in the delicate fabric of the climate system. Undeniably, this phenomenon stands as one of the most formidable challenges ever faced by our species. It defies resolution through the mere application of scientific knowledge, linear thinking, or analytical approaches alone.

### **GMA NEWS**

## [Environmental group says shift to electric vehicles to push country's decarbonization](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

An environmental group on Monday emphasized that the shift to electric vehicles would help the country in its measures toward decarbonization.

## [Most nations get low marks on 'net-zero' climate plans](#)

By: Marlowe Hood

Nearly all of 35 countries accounting for more than four-fifths of global greenhouse gas emissions got low marks for their net zero plans in a peer-reviewed assessment published Thursday.

### **JOURNAL ONLINE**

## [Save the Children PH says climate disasters affect children, 5.6m poor families](#)

Save the Children Philippines is deeply concerned for the safety and welfare of children from 5.6 million low-income households<sup>1</sup> who are exposed to various risks and hazards from disasters and emergencies as the country braces for 15 cyclones this year.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **[DBP offers credit assistance to expand water sources; address climate change effects](#)**

State-owned Development of the Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has offered to provide credit assistance to water districts, local government units and water utility firms to expand production capacity and explore additional water sources amidst the looming onset of El Niño phenomenon at the latter part of the year, a top official said.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[Group airs concern for 5.6m kids of impoverished Filipino families](#)**

“Millions of Filipino children remain poor due to inequality and discrimination, and their situation is exacerbated by the climate crisis. Many of them lack access to basic services on health, education, proper nutrition, or adequate housing.”

## **PALAWAN NEWS**

### **[Aussie ambassador to PH offers research aid to combat climate change](#)**

By: Gerald Ticke

The Australian government, through its embassy in the Philippines, is extending assistance to the province of Palawan through research programs to help mitigate the effects of climate change to Palawan’s coral reefs and other major marine concerns of the province, Provincial Information Officer Atty. Christian Jay Cojamco said.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[COP28, EC heads reaffirm commitment to deliver on ‘ambitions’](#)**

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 president-designate, recently met with Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission (EC), and reaffirmed their commitment to work together to facilitate the “highest possible ambition” for this year’s COP28 climate conference.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[BlueFloat Energy advancing offshore wind energy in the Philippines](#)**

In the context of the current global energy crisis and net-zero targets to fight climate change, scientists, policy makers and industry are working together to explore potential solutions that no longer rely on the earth's fast-depleting and polluting fossil fuel energy sources while ensuring energy independence to the countries. Offshore wind has emerged as one of the game changers in this global energy transition, providing scaled solutions to the governments looking to shift towards renewable energy sources while achieving energy security.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **MAHARLIKA TV**

#### **[CCC holds Environmental Protection and Climate Action fora in Nasugbu](#)**

In an effort to promote the national government's climate change mitigation and adaptation programs, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. spearheaded the Forum on Environmental Protection and Climate Action here on Thursday.

### **MANILA BULLETIN**

#### **[PH seeks concrete action vs climate change](#)**

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines has emphasized the need to transform the decisions of COP27 into tangible outcomes, saying there was a need for immediate and concrete actions to address the worsening climate crisis.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[COA's new rules to help implement effective climate projects: CCC](#)**

By: uth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has expressed optimism that the Commission on Audit's (COA) issuance of new regulatory guidelines would result in the effective implementation of climate-related projects and programs.

## **POLITIKO**

### **[Be climate warriors, CCC to Pinoys](#)**

By: Prince Golez

Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. urged Filipinos on the country's 125th Independence Day to become climate warriors.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[PH seeks swift action vs climate crisis](#)**

By: Moises Cruz

THE Philippines has issued a call for decisive action against the worsening climate crisis during the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB58) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **[ADB appoints new country manager for PH](#)**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday announced that it has appointed Pavit Ramachandran as Country Director for the Philippines. Ramachandran assumes office Friday, succeeding outgoing Country Director Kelly Bird, who served in the Philippines from 2018 and was recently appointed as Advisor for ADB's East Asia Department, ADB said.

Ramachandran will lead ADB operations in the Philippines, with an active portfolio of about \$8.7 billion.

"He will oversee the implementation of ADB's current country partnership strategy (CPS) for the Philippines, which identified up to \$4 billion worth of sovereign loans for 2023. This includes transformative infrastructure projects such as the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project and the Bataan–Cavite Interlink Bridge Project, both among the government's priority projects," the multilateral lender said.

"My immediate priority is to ensure we deliver on our commitments to help the country address its poverty, climate change, and infrastructure development challenges," said Ramachandran.

Prior to his appointment to the Philippine Country Office, Ramachandran was Country Director for Mongolia, ADB said.

## Filipino kids from 5.6M families vulnerable to climate disasters - group

An advocacy group has called on government to do more to mitigate the effects of climate change on children, particularly those from low-income households.

Save the Children Philippines noted the country ranked first in the 2022 World Risk Index with the highest risk of disasters in the world.

"In the Philippines alone, around 5.6 million Filipino families... including children, who are perennially living in poverty and are not able to adapt well to the climate crisis," Save the Children Philippines advocacy director George De La Rama told ANC's "Rundown" Monday.

Save the Children's "Born into the Climate Crisis" report revealed that children born in 2020 in the Philippines will live through 4.9 times more scorching heatwaves, 2.3 times more river floods, 1.2 times more droughts and 1.5 times more crop failures than their grandparents or people born 60 years ago.

"You can just imagine the generational gap and the generational impact of what's happening to them versus to those who were able to live in the past and how children are bracing themselves for the future with the impacts they are experiencing right now," De La Rama added.

In a statement, Save the Children Philippines CEO Atty. Albert Muyot stressed that no child deserves to grow up in poverty and an unsafe environment.

"But the reality is grim. Millions of Filipino children remain poor due to inequality and discrimination, and their situation is exacerbated by the climate crisis," he said. "Many of them lack access to basic services on health, education, proper nutrition, or adequate housing."

## ARAB NEWS

### [COP28 can be a catalyst for climate education in MENA](#)

DUBAI: In the early years of the 21st century, humanity finds itself confronted with an unparalleled environmental predicament: an intensified greenhouse effect fueling global warming and precipitous alterations in the delicate fabric of the climate system. Undeniably, this phenomenon stands as one of the most formidable challenges ever faced by our species. It defies resolution through the mere application of scientific knowledge, linear thinking, or analytical approaches alone.

As the 28th Conference of the Parties, or COP28, approaches, hosted by the UAE, it is important to acknowledge the value of such international platforms in addressing the region's unique climate challenges and proposing innovative solutions through climate education.

Unlike the localized environmental issues of the past, wherein a single source of pollution caused readily identifiable consequences, today's global environmental problems encompass a complex amalgamation of interwoven global and local dynamics. This intricate interplay involves ecological, political, economic, and social factors, necessitating novel strategies of learning and thinking to comprehend and address its multifaceted nature.

The recently released report "Advancing Regional Climate Education" by the Fiker Institute brings together the insights of two experts — Dr. Sonia Ben Jaafar, CEO of the Abdulla Al-Ghurair Foundation and Joe Y. Battikh, head of the Energy & Water Knowledge Hub at the International Committee of the Red Cross. Their efforts have resulted in a report that underscores the significance of climate education and offers practical solutions for advancing it.

Amidst this intricate landscape, the importance of climate education emerges as a critical catalyst for change. It is within this context that Ben Jaafar and Battikh's report sheds light on the current state of climate education in the region, presenting a compelling case for transformative action. With their expertise in educational leadership, sustainability management, and a shared commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by the Middle East and North Africa, the authors provide valuable insights for change.

They outlined the key elements of their work in an exclusive interview with Arab News recently.



## The paradox of collaboration and localization

One of the key implications highlighted in the report is the importance of addressing region-specific issues. Ben Jaafar underscores the spotty nature of these solutions and advocates for a more comprehensive approach.

During the 2023 World Government Summit held in Dubai, stakeholders recognized the imperative of employing both top-down and bottom-up strategies to address the complexities of climate change. Ben Jaafar underlined the paradoxical nature of the situation, wherein fostering cross-border collaboration and knowledge-sharing is crucial, while concurrently respecting and empowering local communities. She emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts in establishing a novel framework that adapts to the present realities while encompassing future scenarios.

“It’s a paradox because we’re asking for these very big pieces and we’re asking for localization. And the only way that we’re going to move forward that was really clear at the summit is if we do that together. So I think that it’s significant because what we need is to work collaboratively while respecting local solutions and the ability for communities to solve their own issues. And that means creating the next kind of whatever this is going to look like in the future. Creating it and also adapting to the realities of right now,” said Ben Jaafar.

Battikh discussed their involvement with the Fiker Institute, an organization dedicated to amplifying the voice of West Asia and North Africa, and further highlighted the importance of regional representation in the fight against climate change.

He drew attention to the existence of multiple entities in close proximity within the region that are working on similar solutions, yet often lack awareness of each other’s efforts. This lack of awareness and communication hampers collaboration and the sharing of knowledge and resources. Moreover, he underscored the prevailing dependence on external catalysts or events from other countries to bring stakeholders together and facilitate collaboration in the region. Battikh emphasized the need to overcome this dependence and establish a self-driven approach to collaboration within the region.

By shedding light on this issue, Battikh effectively underscored the significance of nurturing internal coordination mechanisms and establishing platforms that actively encourage stakeholders to congregate and collectively address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. This compels people to recognize the necessity of cultivating a collaborative space where individuals and organizations can convene, exchange ideas, and synergistically work toward discovering solutions. The observed

fragmentation within the region, if left unaddressed, not only limits opportunities for fruitful collaborations but also undermines the optimal allocation of resources.

In view of Battikh's perspective, the forthcoming COP28 assumes a pivotal role in facilitating the realization of this collaborative framework. Battikh said that the event provides a significant platform for deliberating regional issues and proposing context-specific solutions. This aligns seamlessly with the report's overarching emphasis on the imperative of addressing region-specific challenges in the context of education and training, thereby accentuating the need to incorporate diverse perspectives and insights into the collective endeavor to combat climate change.

### Role of education in climate action

The pivotal role of education in addressing climate change is widely recognized as it equips individuals and communities with the necessary knowledge, skills, and behavioral changes needed for climate-resilient sustainable development. Education serves as a catalyst for informed decision-making and proactive engagement in climate action.

An important aspect of education is its potential to empower young people and future generations, enabling them to assume environmental leadership roles within their communities and drive inclusive adaptation efforts. It is through education and training that these individuals gain the expertise and know-how required to address climate challenges effectively.

In the context of climate action, educational institutions play a crucial role in driving scalable and effective adaptation programs. The Abdulla Al-Ghurair Foundation recognizes the significance of incorporating education into collaborative partnerships and supports initiatives that focus on green technologies, solar energy efficiency, and e-mobility in partnership with universities including the American University of Beirut. However, Ben Jaafar emphasized that going beyond the curriculum is essential, urging for the strengthening of research and development partnerships between industry and universities for accelerated progress in solving climate-related challenges.

The Abdulla Al-Ghurair Foundation has made significant investments in youth education, particularly in STEM fields — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — to align future-focused careers with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The report by the World Economic Forum on the potential of the green transition to create 30 million jobs in clean energy efficiency and low emission technologies by 2030

reinforces the link between climate action and socio-economic development. Ben Jaafar highlighted the opportunities for employment generation and addressing pressing issues such as high-water scarcity and unemployment in the region. This highlights the importance of integrating climate education and preparing future generations for the jobs of the future.

Ben Jaafar emphasized the importance of empowering young people to address community needs and solve their own issues by providing them with toolkits and knowledge related to solar power, green energy, and other STEM topics. This comprehensive approach contributes to building a workforce that prioritizes sustainability, he said.

“Nobody is ever going to care about your community, the way you care about your community, and nobody will ever understand the needs as much as you will understand those needs because you’re living in them. So creating a space for these young people to actually learn about solar power, energy, green energy, all these different topics embedded within STEM gives them the toolkits and the knowledge to be able to live in their communities and solve their own issues and solve their own community issues so that they can adapt, so that they can understand it,” Ben Jaafar said.

Ben Jaafar also mentioned the collaboration between the Abdulla Al-Ghurair Refugee Education Fund and the Makani centers, emphasizing their alignment with the UN’s SDGs and their focus on global innovation that addresses local community needs. One example highlighted in the report is the hydroponic rooftop gardens in the Jerash Camp, which provide valuable training opportunities for vulnerable young women and men. This training equips them with the skills to sustain and manage the gardens, creating new income-generating opportunities and addressing agricultural needs within the camp.

“The hydroponic rooftop gardens in the Jerash camp came out of a training session at the Makani center, but I don’t know that somebody in Toronto is going to understand that a hydroponic garden could actually save lives because it can actually produce what they need in that context. So making those kinds of connections to us is very important. And that’s why to me, you know, climate education in the region, for the region, is so incredibly important,” Ben Jaafar said.

“It’s not just about what we’ve done with the scholarships. It’s also what we’ve done with His Excellency’s Refugee Education Fund, you know, making sure that we have learners who have automotive technology for the hybrid technology, hybrid maintenance, things that are small like that, that allows them to have jobs. And we’ve done that through Luminous Technical University in Jordan, for example,” Ben Jaafar said.

“So I think, at least for me, what was important about this paper was to present these examples, and these were only select examples. We have so many more in the region. When the education is there and when the opportunity is there, there are so many intelligent individuals who, if given the space and the opportunity and the knowledge and the skills, they can actually create solutions.

“And that to me was the power of what we’ve been able to do with the foundation and the Refugee Education Fund. It is to be able to enable communities to rise above the challenges that they live in, be they conflict conditions, the refugee conditions or simply impoverished conditions. And I think that those are realities in the region that we just need to face head on,” Ben Jaafar added.

Battikh, supporting the notion that education institutions can contribute to climate-adaptation programs, pointed out the need to focus on curriculum integration, research and training. He mentioned the partnership between the ICRC and Grundfos, a major pump manufacturer, as an example of how collaboration and curriculum development can be mutually beneficial. The partnership involved training sessions for engineers from conflict-affected areas, facilitating knowledge exchange and feedback between academia and industry.

“During the first training session with Grundfos, we had 11 engineers coming from six countries around the world. So we had people from the Philippines, Myanmar, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan. And so they came here and they spent a week within the Grundfos workshop. And it was a two-way kind of conversation. So in a way, we developed the curriculum and we pushed it towards the students, but at the same time, the engineers gave feedback to us in terms of what kind of solutions they need from the ground. I think the fact that they work in specific conflict areas where there’s a specific need, which is different from what the industry is working on, (is) a unique setup for developing these curricula.”

### Challenges in climate education and the need for adaptation

Ben Jaafar identified two major challenges hindering the advancement of climate education. The first is the rapid pace of change, requiring the education sector to respond quickly. The second challenge lies in the existing problems within the education sector itself, such as high rates of “learning poverty” and diverse situations across the region. She emphasized the need to view climate education as critical to the future and called for a shift in perception that sees it as an integral part of the curriculum, rather than an optional addition.

“We have serious challenges in education, period, writ large. Leave alone climate education in the region. We have an extremely high rate of learning poverty at 60 percent in the MENA region, which is essentially a 10-year-old kid who cannot read a text. We have extremely diverse situations in the region from those who invest a lot in education, to those who cannot. So being able to kind of look at climate education and say this is not an add-on, this is critical to our future, is one of the challenges that we have, to say that it is not this extra thing,” Ben Jaafar said.

Ben Jaafar referenced, as a viable proposition, the Green Education Partnership, an initiative aimed at providing schools in the UAE with a national framework to bolster climate education and foster youth engagement in environmental action. This partnership seeks to imbue schools with a green ethos by incorporating sustainability principles into their operations, curricula, teacher training programs, and wider systemic capabilities, while also forging connections with local communities. It sets ambitious targets and utilizes the COP28 platform as a catalyst to drive collaboration among various partners, including the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Renewable Energy Agency, and the UN Children’s Fund.

She also drew attention to the need for concerted effort from academia, industry and government because their collective endeavors remain vital for realizing the SDGs and addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change. By fostering an ecosystem of collaboration, where knowledge is shared, research is disseminated, and policies are informed by evidence, the region can unlock its full potential in the pursuit of sustainable development.

“If higher education in particular, continues to isolate themselves, where they’re finding solutions and the industry keeps on being protective of their solutions for corporate reasons, we’re not going to move forward. We see this with generative AI and the very recent kind of very public statements regarding what the corporate sector wants in terms of regulation.

“I think that we have to create greater collaboration. We absolutely need to create platforms that are structured for collaboration so that they’re no longer accidental or relational in terms of if I have a professional relationship with a colleague, then they’ll listen, right? It should be more systematic. It should be a strategy that universities and higher education and R&D (research and development) centers should have together with the government, to be able to serve the common purpose,” Ben Jaafar said.

“When I look at common purpose, I look at the Sustainable Development Goals because I believe that was what we agreed on, right? We all agreed on those targets.

And so we do have this common framework that we've agreed on and universities are coming up with solutions. They're also training the next generation and the current generation because we do have lifelong learning becoming part of just the normative practices. Governments cannot come up with policies without appropriate research, without appropriate data and evidence. And we absolutely need those different stakeholders to work collaboratively," Ben Jaafar added.

According to Battikh, one hindrance to effective implementation of climate adaptation solutions is the lack of connection between industries, research and development, and universities. He highlighted the importance of establishing platforms that bring together all stakeholders to integrate solutions, theories, and practical applications.

"Talking about climate adaptation or integrating climate adaptation to the curriculum today is a must because we need to come to the reality and face reality that climate change is here and it's not going away. We need to adapt to it, especially as a region that will suffer from it. I mean, if you think about it, we're expecting the decline in rainfall to hit 60 percent if we're above 4 degrees Celsius. Knowing that our agriculture uses more than 80 percent of the water, there will be a big problem," Battikh said.

Stressing the need to adopt more efficient agricultural practices and water-management strategies, Battikh pointed to the UAE's exceptionally high water consumption per capita, and emphasized the importance of teaching current and future generations how to employ resources more efficiently.

"We need to adapt to how to do agriculture in a more efficient way, use our water in a more efficient way. The UAE uses like 570 liters of water per person per day, the highest in the world. On average we're around 178 liters per day. It's a reality that we need to teach this generation, next generations on how to adapt to climate change," Battikh added.

There are discrepancies between countries that promote the SDGs but fail to implement governmental policies that reflect those goals. For instance, in the UAE and the GCC region, high water consumption per capita contrasts with the inadequate pricing of water that fails to reflect its true cost. Policy changes, including increased water tariffs, are imperative, but collaboration between organizations, academia, and industry is equally vital, he said.

Battikh illustrated the impact of climate change by highlighting the major drought experienced by Tunisia this year, and that responded by imposing restrictions on tap-water usage for agricultural purposes, car washes, and other activities until September.

He criticized such measures for lacking the depth of a comprehensive policy that fosters adaptation or a viable solution. Merely imposing temporary restrictions does not address the underlying issue or provide long-term adaptation strategies. It is crucial to recognize that this is not an isolated incident, but rather a manifestation of a recurring pattern of diminishing rainfall, he said.

While policy measures are essential, Battikh argued that they should not be merely punitive or incentivizing in nature. Rather, they should be the outcome of collaborative efforts between organizations, academia and industry. The complexity and multifaceted nature of climate change and climate adaptation necessitate a holistic approach that considers diverse perspectives and expertise. There is no singular solution that can be universally applied, and it is imperative to acknowledge that addressing climate change and climate adaptation requires a comprehensive and collaborative effort.

#### Collaboration and financing

He said another critical aspect that demands attention is the financing of climate adaptation in conflict-affected countries. Historically, climate financing commitments made in previous COPs have largely overlooked countries in conflict. However, COP28 presents an opportunity to rectify this oversight. It was imperative to ensure that a portion of the financing dedicated to climate adaptation reaches conflict-affected nations.

“We need to focus on conflict areas, specifically, if you look at the least-developed or least-ready countries for climate change, 14 out of the 25 countries least ready for climate change are in conflict, which represents almost 60 percent. These countries already lack the capacity to adapt to climate change due to ongoing conflicts. The unique setup we have (with the Energy and Water Knowledge Hub) can address these issues. However, we also need to address how we finance climate adaptation in conflict-affected countries,” Battikh said.

While there may be political considerations regarding the distribution of funds, Battikh said that an effective approach could involve leveraging organizations. “We have a setup like the ICRC that is already building these solutions for climate adaptations for countries already in conflicts. So maybe that could be a party that could address that issue. And the fact that we can do that with Grundfos here, because the UAE, for example, is a hub for multinationals, could be a great setup.

“We work with Grundfos from the water perspective, but for the energy we work with Schneider Electric, which is another multinational, whose regional hub in the Middle East is in Dubai. So it’s a great place where we can kind of bring these private-sector

players with academia and address them. And have this place as a platform to address these challenges and use COP28 as a platform, for example, for financing of these solutions as a climate adaptation,” Battikh said.

He added that a significant development that signals progress in climate education is the inclusion of an education pavilion at COP28. This pioneering initiative recognizes the importance of education in driving sustainable change and ensuring that climate education is embedded in formal curricula. The Ministry of Education in the UAE deserves credit for taking this step, Ben Jaafar said, as it brings together academia, schools, and other stakeholders under one roof. Such a platform fosters knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the development of innovative solutions to address climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Also, to strengthen the connection between academia and global climate strategies, the appointment of the head of sustainability for the American University of Sharjah as the Education Partnership Coordinator for COP28, was a significant milestone, Battikh added. This role would facilitate the engagement of universities and schools in the COP28 process, ensuring that education plays a crucial role in shaping national and global climate strategies.

Bringing together their distinct areas of expertise, Ben Jaafar and Battikh have produced a report that addresses the urgent need for tailored, regional climate education. They argue, quite convincingly, that by fostering collaboration, integrating education into the curriculum, and prioritizing adaptation efforts, stakeholders can build a sustainable and resilient future in the face of this century’s most compelling environmental challenge.



## GMA NEWS

### [Environmental group says shift to electric vehicles to push country's decarbonization](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

An environmental group on Monday emphasized that the shift to electric vehicles would help the country in its measures toward decarbonization.

In a statement, the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines (PCAPI) pointed out that tax incentives to electric motorcycles would allow the majority of Filipinos to shift to a more affordable and eco-friendly transportation.

"This will allow more of the majority of the public access to affordable transportation... Also this can minimize what I believe [is] a major issue of pollution in highly urbanized [communities], idling in traffic," PCAPI Vice President for External Affairs, Mr. Jeremiah Dwight Sebastian, said.

Sebastian also said policies which will improve the country's air quality should be enforced, including the Executive Order No. 12.

"The point here is there is a need for stakeholders and [implementers] to communicate and also capacitate enforcers to avoid miscommunication and implement this properly," Sebastian said.

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s Executive Order No.12 gives tax breaks to electric vehicles and their components for the next five years to promote their use among Filipinos.

Meanwhile, the PCAPI cited data from the Department of Energy which states the agency is targeting to roll out 2,454,200 electric vehicles by 2028, comprising cars, tricycles, motorcycles and buses.

The group added that the DOE also aims to set up 65,000 charging stations nationwide.

In December 2022, only 13,934 units of EVs have reportedly been sold in the Philippines.

The National Economic Development Authority has said the inclusion of e-motorcycle in the list of EVs with tax breaks will be up for deliberation by February 2024.

The Philippine government has been pushing for the PUV Modernization Program, which aims to replace traditional jeepneys with vehicles that have at least a Euro 4-compliant engine to lessen pollution.

In 2022, DOE's Energy Utilization and Management Bureau Director Patrick Aquino said "Shifting to EVs can reduce the oil consumption to around 43 liters of gasoline per 300 kilometers or equivalent to 98.9 kilograms of carbon dioxide CO2 avoidance (at 2.3 kilograms of CO2 per liter of gasoline)."

## [Most nations get low marks on 'net-zero' climate plans](#)

By: Marlowe Hood

Nearly all of 35 countries accounting for more than four-fifths of global greenhouse gas emissions got low marks for their net zero plans in a peer-reviewed assessment published Thursday.

Of the four biggest carbon polluters, only the European Union's plan was deemed credible, while those of China, the United States and India were found lacking.

Most nations have set targets to eliminate their carbon footprint around mid-century, with commitments from China and India for 2060 and 2070, respectively.

The extent to which Earth remains hospitable in a warming world depends in large measure on whether these pledges are kept, but assessing their credibility has proven difficult.

Many net-zero goals lack details, and some do not even specify if they cover just CO<sub>2</sub> or other important planet-warming gases as well, such as methane and nitrous oxide.

These uncertainties, in turn, have confounded attempts to project global temperature increases, and whether the Paris climate treaty goals of capping global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius, and at 1.5C if possible, remains within reach.

If both short-term and long-term plans from all countries are accepted at face value, global warming could stabilize in that critical range between 1.5C and 2C.

But if only policies already in place are taken into account and more-or-less vague promises are set aside, temperatures are more likely to settle between 2.5C and 3C.

"The two outcomes could not contrast more," Joeri Rogelj, director of research at Imperial College's Grantham Institute, and a team of international scientists wrote in the journal Science.

'A high-risk track'

One scenario sees climate damages capped a "potentially manageable levels," and the other "a world where climate change continues toward levels that undermine sustainable development."

Every country in the world whose greenhouse gas emissions comprise at least 0.1 percent of the global total was then given a "credibility rating" of higher, lower or much lower.

A handful of countries besides the European Union got top marks, including Britain and New Zealand.

But around 90 percent inspired lower or much lower confidence, including the US and China, which together account for more than a third of global emissions.

Most of the world's major emerging economies -- Brazil, India, South Africa and Indonesia, for example -- got the lowest ratings, as did Gulf states Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, hosts respectively of last year's COP27 climate summit and COP28 in Dubai in December.

Among wealthy nations, only Australia was in the least credible tier.

Today, a third of the 35 nations have net zero policies enshrined in law.

"Making targets legally binding is crucial to ensure long-term plans are adopted," said co-author Robin Lamboll, from Imperial College's Centre for Environmental Policy.

"We need to see concrete legislation in order to trust that action will follow promises."

Detailed, step-by-step plans showing how emissions cuts will be distributed over time across all economic and social sectors is key, the authors said.

The researchers applied the new credibility ratings to model different scenarios for future emissions and the temperatures they will yield.

When only net-zero plans that inspired high confidence were added to policies already under way, global warming was projected to top out at 2.4C by 2100 -- still far above the Paris targets.

"The world is still on a high-risk climate track, and we are far from delivering a safe climate future," Rogelj said in a statement.

## JOURNAL ONLINE

### [Save the Children PH says climate disasters affect children, 5.6m poor families](#)

Save the Children Philippines is deeply concerned for the safety and welfare of children from 5.6 million low-income households<sup>1</sup> who are exposed to various risks and hazards from disasters and emergencies as the country braces for 15 cyclones this year.

With the Philippines ranking first in the 2022 World Risk Index with the highest risk of disasters in the world, families living in poverty have less protection from the impacts of climate disasters and have less support and resources to adapt to climate-related change.

During climate emergencies, many affected families find it hard to send their children to school or even access healthcare. Children suffer the most because they look for work to help augment their daily needs. Filipino girls are at greater risk of being abused, neglected, exploited, or subjected to child marriage.

“No child deserves to grow up in poverty and an unsafe environment. But the reality is grim. Millions of Filipino children remain poor due to inequality and discrimination, and their situation is exacerbated by the climate crisis. Many of them lack access to basic services on health, education, proper nutrition, or adequate housing. Hence, our work for and with children also focuses on building the resilience of children and families from the negative impacts of the climate and inequality crises,” said Save the Children Philippines CEO Atty. Albert Muyot.

To help address the issue, Save the Children Philippines’ child-led “Generation Hope Campaign” is asking the government and concerned sectors to prioritize actions that would contribute to a safer, fairer, and healthy environment for children.

“We demand child-centered climate change mitigation and adaptation plans. Let us save the planet to save the children,” said Jan, 17, a Generation Hope youth advocate.

In celebration of World Environment Day, GH youth and children advocates in Eastern Samar program areas will hold a symbolic paper boat activity this week. The paper boat contains letters appealing for local and national leaders to adopt and implement environmental policies that protect their futures.

In partnership with the Department of Education, Save the Children Philippines also deployed a holistic Disaster Risk Reduction Management Information System which

implements the Comprehensive School Safety Ecosystem in the country. The system safeguards schools and communities and ensures uninterrupted learning during disasters or other emergencies.

“Without urgent and concrete actions to mitigate the negative impact of climate change and support for the most vulnerable families, we are at a setback in fulfilling children’s right to survive, learn, be protected, and thrive,” said Save the Children Philippines Environmental Health Advisor Rexel Abrigo.

Support Save the Children Philippines’ work for and with children. Build a Generation of Hope by being a Life Changer for Children!

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) data on the Third Round of Nationwide Household Assessment (Listahanan 3 Survey) in 2022 where 5.6 million families x 6 persons (average Filipino family size) = around 33+ Million Filipinos, including children, living in perennial poverty.

Save the Children’s Born into the Climate Crisis report revealed that children born in 2020 in the Philippines will live through 4.9 times more scorching heatwaves, 2.3 times more river floods, 1.2 times more droughts and 1.5 times more crop failures than their grandparents or people born 60 years ago.

Save the Children’s study titled Generation Hope: 2.4 billion reasons to end the global climate and inequality crisis, found that an estimated 774 million children – one third of the world’s child population, including the Philippines – are living with the dual risks of poverty and high climate risk.

## MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

### [DBP offers credit assistance to expand water sources; address climate change effects](#)

State-owned Development of the Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has offered to provide credit assistance to water districts, local government units and water utility firms to expand production capacity and explore additional water sources amidst the looming onset of El Niño phenomenon at the latter part of the year, a top official said.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Michael de Jesus said DBP funding assistance would be channeled under its pioneering Water for Every Resident (WATER) program, which was designed specifically to support projects that would provide affordable water supply at the community level.

“DBP’s broad experience in bankrolling water supply projects would be a boon to our collective efforts to find suitable and sustainable solutions to address the rising demand for an important natural resource such as water,” de Jesus said.

DBP is the eighth largest bank in the country in terms of assets and provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy – infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; the environment; and social services and community development.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has previously raised the El Niño Alert, which it expects to emerge by June and may persist until the first quarter of next year. The weather phenomena may cause below-normal rainfall condition and may entail dry spells and droughts in some of areas of the country.

## MANILA STANDARD

### Group airs concern for 5.6m kids of impoverished Filipino families

“Millions of Filipino children remain poor due to inequality and discrimination, and their situation is exacerbated by the climate crisis. Many of them lack access to basic services on health, education, proper nutrition, or adequate housing.”

The advocacy group Save the Children Philippines made this unsettling observation as it urged the government to act decisively and mitigate the effects of climate change of the children, particularly the impoverished families.

In an interview with ANC network, the group noted that the country was on top of the 2022 World Risk Index in terms of calamities and disasters worldwide.

“In the Philippines alone, around 5.6 million Filipino families... including children, who are perennially living in poverty and are not able to adapt well to the climate crisis,” according to the group’s director George De La Rama.

In a report titled “Born into the Climate Crisis,” Save the Children Philippines said Filipino children born in 2020 will live through 4.9 times more scorching heat waves, 2.3 times more river floods, 1.2 times more droughts and 1.5 times more crop failures than their ancestors who were born 60 at least years ago.

“You can just imagine the generational gap and the generational impact of what’s happening to them versus to those who were able to live in the past and how children are bracing themselves for the future with the impacts they are experiencing right now,” De La Rama said.

In a statement, Save the Children Philippines chief executive officer lawyer Albert Muyot stressed that no child deserves to grow up in poverty and an unsafe environment.

Save the Children Philippines is deeply concerned for the safety and welfare of children from 5.6 million poor families who are exposed to various risks and hazards from disasters and emergencies as the country braces for 15 cyclones this year. With the Philippines ranking first in the 2022 World Risk Index with the highest risk of disasters in the world, families living in poverty have less protection from the impacts of climate disasters and have less support and resources to adapt to climate-related change.



During climate emergencies, affected families may find it hard to send their children to school or even access healthcare. Children suffer the most as many of them will be forced to work to help their family's daily needs. Filipino girls are at greater risk of being abused, neglected, exploited, and/or subjected to child marriage.

"No child deserves to grow up in poverty. But the reality is grim. Millions of Filipino children remain poor due to inequality and discrimination where many of them lack access to basic services on health, education, proper nutrition, or adequate housing. Hence, our work for and with children focuses on building children and families' resilience from the negative impacts of the climate and inequality crises," Muyot said.

The cause-oriented group also launched "Generation Hope" campaign calling for urgent action by the government and concerned sectors to create a "safer, fairer, and healthy environment for the children."

"We demand child-centered climate change mitigation and adaptation plans. Let us save the planet to save the children," the group said.

In celebration of World Environment Day, the drive particularly cited the youngsters in Eastern Samar holding a symbolic paper boat activity, sending letters demanding local and national leaders to implement and adopt environmental policies.

In partnership with the Department of Education, Save the Children Philippines also deployed a holistic Disaster Risk Reduction Management Information System for a comprehensive school safety ecosystem in the country.

The system safeguards schools and the community, ensuring learning continuity during disasters or other emergencies.

"Without urgent and concrete actions to mitigate the negative impact of climate change and support for the most vulnerable families to adapt, we are at a setback in fulfilling children's right to survive, learn, be protected, and thrive," said environmental health advisor Rexel Abrigo.

## **PALAWAN NEWS**

### **Aussie ambassador to PH offers research aid to combat climate change**

By: Gerald Ticke

The Australian government, through its embassy in the Philippines, is extending assistance to the province of Palawan through research programs to help mitigate the effects of climate change to Palawan's coral reefs and other major marine concerns of the province, Provincial Information Officer Atty. Christian Jay Cojamco said.

The offer was made by Australian Deputy Head of Mission to the Philippines and acting Ambassador to the Philippines Dr. Moya Collett during her visit to the province where she met with Governor Victorino Dennis Socrates and some members of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) last Wednesday.

"The main purpose of her visit is more on research in partnership with PCSD because there are four universities in Australia that are offering scholarships and research funding for our coral reefs affected by climate change. Most of our coral reefs are experiencing coral bleaching because of sudden rise in water temperature," Cojamco said in a media interview, Thursday.

"And of course our problem with crown of thorns in the towns of El Nido and San Vicente which also affects the corals," he added.

Cojamco explained that the Australian Embassy wants to partner with the provincial government for a research on how to address the problems on crown of thorns and how to re-propagate the affected corals.

He said Collet mentioned a technique which is being applied in Australia that can propagate corals and revive those that are dying.

"And in fact they already have an ongoing research in San Vicente regarding problems in corals there,"

Aside from these, the water quality in Coron and El Nido were also discussed where they will also conduct a research on how to resolve the problem on e-coli.

He said Australia will send a team to conduct study and assess the situation to find out possible solutions.

“She gave no particular date but said they already have a schedule to return before the end of the year to bring necessary equipments and infrastructure that will be based on the results of their preliminary research,” he said.

He also said the Australian government also expressed concern with the maritime security in the West Philippine Sea, particularly the fishermen that are affected by weather conditions in the area.

The ambassador asked about projects being implemented by the provincial government in the Kalayaan town that they want to be able to help. So we mentioned the sheltered port in Pag-asa Island which can be used by fishermen during weather disturbances,” Cojamco stated.

He also said there are other mini shelters that are being lined up to be constructed in four other islands in WPS where fishermen can also seek refuge.

“Because when weather suddenly turns bad, we cannot expect all fishermen to be able to reach Pag-asa Island. So we will have these mini shelter ports where there are prepositioned water and solar power,” he said.

“What we can expect is that they can survive with enough food and water supplies that will last for three days,” he said, adding that the Australian embassy is looking at how they will be able to extend assistance to the project.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [COP28, EC heads reaffirm commitment to deliver on 'ambitions'](#)

Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 president-designate, recently met with Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission (EC), and reaffirmed their commitment to work together to facilitate the “highest possible ambition” for this year’s COP28 climate conference.

The leaders released a joint statement following a meeting at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Also attending the meeting were Franz Timmermans, EU Commission executive and vice president for the European Green Deal; Josep Borrell, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Special Envoy to the EU; and Mohamed Al Sahlawi, UAE ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium.

The statement highlighted a common vision for a just energy transition that leaves no one behind and that promotes policies and investments that scale up renewable energy while working towards an energy system that is free of unabated fossil fuels while ensuring energy security, accessibility and affordability.

Dr. Al Jaber said, “Europe, and the European Union, are already playing a leading role in climate action, and will be vital and trusted partners at COP28. We appreciate the European Commission’s support for our call to triple renewable energy by 2030. We can’t achieve our shared objectives unless we work together in a collective effort.”

The COP28 president-designate and EC president urged all governments to align their national efforts with the shared commitment to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including pursuing efforts to keep global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.

With the first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement concluding at COP28, the leaders also agreed on the importance of ensuring that it informs climate action going forward, setting out pathways for emissions reductions, enhanced resilience and finance flows that are aligned with climate objectives.

Both organizations will work together in multiple areas to drive a just energy transition, including targeting tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030 and doubling clean hydrogen by unlocking global cross-border trade.

Operationalizing funding arrangements for the loss and damage fund to assist the most vulnerable communities was seen as key, with both parties supporting the full implementation of the USD100 billion delivery plan so that the goal can be met in 2023.

Doubling adaptation finance from 2019 levels will help ensure that all countries remain focused on supporting climate action, and the COP28 presidency and the EC will also look to deliver on commitments made on existing facilities, such as the Green Climate Fund.

Both organizations will also look to lay the groundwork for a larger mobilization of climate finance from all sources that meets the needs of developing countries to embark on the energy transition.

This will include advancing reforms to existing international financial institutions and identifying innovative mechanisms that will accelerate climate action and unlock private finance flow to emerging markets and developing economies.

“Capital will be key across every climate pillar – and what I have heard repeatedly on my travels is that climate finance is nowhere near available, affordable or accessible enough,” Dr. Al Jaber said.

The Commission also expressed its support for the initiative of the incoming COP28 presidency to organize the first-ever health day and climate-health ministerial.

The European Commission and the incoming COP28 presidency intend to maintain close coordination at the political and technical level in the coming months, working together at a number of events.

These include the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact on June 22 and 23, Ministerial on Climate Action on July 13 and 14, G20 Energy Ministers Meeting on July 22, G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Ministers Meeting on July 28, G20 Leaders Summit on Sept. 9 and 10, UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit on Sept. 20, and multiple regional political fora around the world.

“Combatting climate change will require a collective effort – and that means everyone, everywhere” Dr. Al Jaber said. “We need solidarity, unity and partnership across all

sectors and between all stakeholders to move from goals to getting it done. COP28 must be a COP of action and a COP for all if we are to deliver the system-wide transformation that the world needs.”

Over the course of his visit to Brussels, Dr. Al Jaber also held meetings with Charles Michel, president of the European Council.

**[BlueFloat Energy advancing offshore wind energy in the Philippines](#)**

In the context of the current global energy crisis and net-zero targets to fight climate change, scientists, policy makers and industry are working together to explore potential solutions that no longer rely on the earth's fast-depleting and polluting fossil fuel energy sources while ensuring energy independence to the countries. Offshore wind has emerged as one of the game changers in this global energy transition, providing scaled solutions to the governments looking to shift towards renewable energy sources while achieving energy security.

The Philippine offshore wind roadmap released in April 2022 by the Department of Energy and the World Bank Group, estimated that the Philippines has the potential to install 21GW of offshore wind power by 2040. BlueFloat Energy has been working more than 18 months on unlocking this offshore wind potential by exploring the development of floating wind. An agile and fast-growing offshore wind developer with a focus on floating wind technologies, BlueFloat Energy has announced today its market entry in the Philippines through the acquisition of the Wind Energy Service Contracts (WESCs) for four sites in the Philippines – Central Luzon, South Luzon, Northern Luzon, and Southern Mindoro.

Carlos Martin, CEO of BlueFloat Energy, said during his visit to the country announcing the company's market entry into the Philippines: "We are thrilled to bring BlueFloat Energy's expertise and experience in offshore wind energy to the Philippines. We believe that by tapping into the country's vast clean energy potential, we can make a significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions and fostering a sustainable future for generations to come."

**Offshore wind opportunity**

The Philippines, known for its abundant natural resources and favorable coastal conditions, is well-positioned to harness the power of offshore wind. The country's total technical potential for offshore wind is estimated at 178 GW in the World Bank's offshore wind roadmap for the Philippines. Large areas around the country's coast have technically extractable wind resources.

BlueFloat Energy plans to leverage its floating wind expertise and global experience to develop projects along the Philippine coasts.

Raymund Pascual, Country Manager of BlueFloat Energy in the Philippines, said: “We see and believe that our plan aligns well to enable the Transformative Agenda of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 as it focuses on developing and protecting the capabilities of individuals and families, enables production sectors to generate more quality jobs and competitive products, and of course consequently, economic prosperity.”

BlueFloat Energy will work closely with the local communities, government entities, and other stakeholders to ensure that its projects comply with environmental regulations, respect local cultures, and provide long-term benefits for the communities in which it operates.

BlueFloat Energy’s entry into the Philippine market fits well within the company’s strategy for the Asia Pacific region, with project developments already underway in Australia (first feasibility license application submitted for Greater Gippsland area in April this year), New Zealand and Taiwan. BlueFloat Energy now looks forward to supporting the Philippine government in the deployment of the cutting-edge floating wind technology and paving the way for the energy transition.



## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### MAHARLIKA TV

#### [CCC holds Environmental Protection and Climate Action fora in Nasugbu](#)

In an effort to promote the national government's climate change mitigation and adaptation programs, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. spearheaded the Forum on Environmental Protection and Climate Action here on Thursday.

During the forum, Commissioner Dela Cruz emphasized the significance of a collaborative approach involving the entire nation and local communities in formulating and implementing programs to address the adverse effects of climate change.

These effects have not only impacted the environment but also livelihoods and food security.

Joining the climate official at the forum were Assistant Secretary Virgilio Lazaga of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), President Joyce Hufton of EcoDive, Founding Chairman of the Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas (KSMBPI), and consultant at the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Dr. Michael Raymond Aragon, along with various public and private stakeholders and partners.

The forum took place ahead of World Oceans Day, which was also celebrated in Nasugbu at Canyon Cove. Enthusiasts and advocates for the environment gathered for a coastal and underwater clean-up drive, with volunteers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) participating.

Commissioner Dela Cruz underscored the importance of local government units (LGUs) formulating and implementing their own climate change action plans. Additionally, he highlighted the need for initiatives focusing on the transition from landfills to waste-to-energy (WtE) technologies, the enhanced utilization of the People's Survival Fund, and the CCC's Enhanced Community Engagement and Coordination program.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [PH seeks concrete action vs climate change](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines has emphasized the need to transform the decisions of COP27 into tangible outcomes, saying there was a need for immediate and concrete actions to address the worsening climate crisis.

Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje said this as he delivered the Philippine Statement at the opening of the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB58) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Bonn, Germany, on June 8.

In his speech, Borje reminded the other countries' representatives of "undelivered commitments."

"As we build on the progress Parties made in Sharm El-Sheikh, we believe in the real possibility that we will be able to transform COP27 decisions into actions with outputs and outcomes that are concrete, relevant, appropriate, responsive to the vulnerable, developing nations' needs and priorities, and based on best available science and evidence," he said.

"This is no longer the time to explore. Now is the time to ensure that we implement and deploy the most appropriate measures so that we no longer need to grieve but survive and thrive with higher levels of adaptive capacities and climate resilience," he added.

Citing statistics on the loss and damage incurred by the Philippines and nearby Southeast Asian countries over the past decade, Borje lamented that the Philippines suffered loss and damage amounting to \$12 billion, equivalent to two times its national budget for crucial health services.

Within the region, the Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand emerged as four of the 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change and disasters. This makes nearly 50 percent of the ASEAN population exposed to climate change impacts.

Moreover, the region endured economic and human losses of \$97.3 billion, nearly matching the global commitment of \$100 billion by Annex I or industrialized countries from 2009 to 2020.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Group of Finance Ministers reported a staggering loss and damage figure of \$525 billion over the past two decades for the 58 vulnerable country members.

"These numbers manifest in no uncertain terms, that in the face of worsening climate change, it is our lives, our livelihood, and our collective future at stake," Borje said.

Emphasizing the importance of inclusive participation, Borje urged the involvement of civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, women and girls, youth, differently abled, and other stakeholders in developing holistic and multidimensional climate solutions.

"We have talked ourselves out these past years, and at times, we were driven to tears. It is time to act on our commitments and deliver what we said we would do – with the highest speed and on the largest scale possible," Borje said.

The Marcos Administration has prioritized climate change as a critical national concern and has even allocated \$8.2 billion, or nine percent of its 2023 national budget, for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [COA's new rules to help implement effective climate projects: CCC](#)

By: uth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has expressed optimism that the Commission on Audit's (COA) issuance of new regulatory guidelines would result in the effective implementation of climate-related projects and programs.

This is after the COA released on April 18 COA Circular 2023-01, which provides guidelines in the audit of programs, activities and projects with Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) to validate the budget utilization and implementation in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

The recently issued COA Circular No. 2023-01 provides guidelines to national government instrumentalities (NGIs) and COA auditors when auditing programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) part of the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) process, under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The COA circular also aims to assess the economy, effectiveness and efficiency of the existing climate change programs.

CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert Borje said the new guidelines would pave the way for the proper use of climate funds.

"The CCC welcomes this audit policy of COA to support the CCET process. The new guidelines ensure not only the efficiency and effectiveness of its implementation, but also the proper utilization of resources intended for climate action," Borje said in a news release on Thursday.

"This initiative will go a long way in encouraging transparency and accountability from the government in how climate expenditures are allocated. We will work closely with COA and extend the necessary technical assistance for the conduct of post-implementation assessment of climate-tagged programs in our annual appropriations," he added.

Borje said the regulatory guidelines would serve as a tool to promote a low-carbon future and build resilience to climate-related risks and disasters.

Government programs aimed at building climate resilience and promoting a low-carbon future such as the Enhanced National Greening Program, Flood Mitigation projects, and Early Warning Systems are tagged in the CCET.

The CCET budget has increased by 64.46 percent from PHP282.36 billion in 2021 to PHP464.50 billion in 2023.

The CCET is a tool used to track and monitor climate-tagged budgets in the annual appropriations.

The COA Circular emphasizes that all climate-related programs, activities, and projects for 2021 onwards should be implemented and delivered.

## **POLITIKO**

### **[Be climate warriors, CCC to Pinoys](#)**

By: Prince Golez

Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. urged Filipinos on the country's 125th Independence Day to become climate warriors.

In a news release Monday, Cruz spoke of a war in which every Filipino must fight bravely and in unity.

"We need to act because what is at stake is the future not only of Filipinos and our country but of the whole world and the human race," the Climate Change Commission executive said.

The country, he noted, is under threat from the effects of climate change, which have caused adversity in people's lives.

"The only way to address this is to unite and show our patriotism by protecting our environment," said Cruz.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [PH seeks swift action vs climate crisis](#)

By: Moises Cruz

THE Philippines has issued a call for decisive action against the worsening climate crisis during the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB58) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Climate Change Commission Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje said that COP27 decisions must be converted into tangible outcomes responsive to the needs of vulnerable developing nations.

"As we build on the progress Parties made in Sharm El-Sheikh, we believe in the real possibility that we will be able to transform COP27 decisions into actions with outputs and outcomes that are concrete, relevant, and appropriate, responsive to the vulnerable, developing nations' needs and priorities, and based on the best available science and evidence," Borje said.

He presented data on the losses and damages suffered by the Philippines and neighboring Asean countries over the past 10 years, noting that the Philippines lost \$12 billion during the period, an amount twice its annual budget for important health services.

The Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand were found to be four of the 10 most disaster- and climate-change-prone nations in Southeast Asia. Approximately 50 percent of Asean's population is now vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum and the V20 Group of Finance Ministers reported loss and damage amounting to \$525 billion for 58 vulnerable member countries over the last two decades.

Borje said that the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has prioritized climate change as a critical national concern and vowed to embed climate resilience and accelerated climate action into its development agenda.

This year, the Philippines has allocated \$8.2 billion, or 9 percent of its national budget to climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

Held in Bonn, Germany from June 5 to 15, SB58 is a meeting of representatives from governments, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to discuss climate change concerns.

**=END=**