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By: Lady Vicencio

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By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – To ensure the conservation of future generations of Philippine eagles and their territories, and allow new generations to thrive and co-exist with other threatened wildlife, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), calls on all Filipinos to help protect forest habitat.

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THE MANILA TIMES

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OVER the past few months, a common theme among institutions concerned with combating climate change is that there must be a substantial increase in private sector investment in climate adaptation and mitigation. Public sector resources coursed

through various institutions such as the UN-managed climate funds, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) are simply not enough to cover the enormous amount that is needed to protect vulnerable countries and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Climate disasters affect kids from 5.6 million poor Filipino families — group](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

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The Philippines on Monday highlighted its “whole-of-nation and whole-of-world” approaches in responding to climate change during an ongoing United Nations conference in Bonn, Germany.

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The Philippines delivered a resolute call for immediate and concrete actions to tackle the worsening climate crisis, emphasizing the need to transform the decisions of COP27 into tangible outcomes responsive to the needs of vulnerable developing nations.

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The Philippines is committed to advancing the whole-of-nation and whole-of-world climate action under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

IEA: Renewable energy growth projected to reach up to 1.7 trillion USD in 2023

By: Lady Vicencio

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-member states should increase investments in renewable energy to achieve the target in the Paris Agreement, according to the International Energy Agency.

In 2015, 196 parties committed to limit greenhouse emissions in a bid to control climate change.

But aside from mitigating the effects of climate change through transitioning to clean energy, the IEA said countries who will put their commitments into action will also see benefits in their economy should they increase in investments in renewable energy.

IEA Deputy Executive Director Mary Warlick emphasized during the Asian Clean Energy Forum 2023 that the industry's annual growth is expected to reach up to 1.7 trillion US dollars this year.

"Clean energy investment is now seeing double-digit annual growth... with the gap over fossil fuels widening. For every dollar invested in fossil fuels, about 1.7 dollars is now going to clean energy," Warlick said.

In the Renewables 2023 Global Status Report by renewable energy think-tank group REN21, demand for clean energy increased by 4.7% as high energy prices proved to have strong inflationary impacts across sectors.

For the world to be able to keep up with the demand, solar power capacities have to be doubled, while wind power capacity should increase by 3.7 times, according to Laura Williamson, Director of REN21 Membership and Institutional Partnerships.

Coming from the pandemic, this ACEF is once again back in-person for a 4-day gathering with policy makers, financiers, and energy experts as they aim to explore clean energy solutions leading to goal of transitioning to renewable energy.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific encouraged countries to accelerate financing to attain the Sustainable Development Goal of increasing the renewable energy of member states by 2030.

Aside from investing in clean energy, the United States Embassy to the Philippines stressed the need to address aging infrastructures and deploy modern energy technology to lower energy prices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

US Embassy in the Philippines Deputy Chief of Mission Heather Variava said this should be done with urgency especially for countries that are most vulnerable to climate change like the Philippines.

The IEA is pushing for international collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, which holds a critical role in leading the region.

For ADB Asia and the Pacific Director General Ramesh Subramanian, the challenge lies on the bankability of programs presented related to energy transition.

Subramanian also highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in achieving the global goal.

“We do bring in money, but countries also need solutions. Things that are cutting edge, innovative solutions... We’ve been building up on investments. We are on a more robust position. Our capital base is quite strong... We need to create bankable transactions, making sure that no opportunity is missed with regard to energy transition,” Subramanian said.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[\[Opinion\] The way to rice self-sufficiency](#)

The year 2013 was a milestone of sorts for the Philippine rice sector. Despite the onslaught of Super typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan), the country's rice self-sufficiency level reached nearly 97 percent—the target that the current administration wants to hit by 2028. One of the most powerful storms of all time also affected rice fields in the Philippines, but this did not result in an extensive damage to the local output of the staple.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) publishes regular reports on a number of agricultural indicators, including food sufficiency and import dependency. In its Agricultural Indicators System, the PSA reported that the rice self-sufficiency ratio (SSR), or the extent to which a country's commodities is derived from its own domestic production, reached 96.82 percent in 2013. The figure was almost 5 percentage points higher than the 91.89 percent recorded in 2012.

From 81.27 percent in 2010, rice SSR had averaged more than 90 percent in 2011 to 2016, based on data from the PSA. The highest SSR was recorded in 2013, when it reached nearly 97 percent, while the lowest was seen in 2015, when the figure was at nearly 89 percent.

The average import dependency ratio from 2011 to 2017 was at a single digit, which means domestic production during those years was able to meet most of the rice requirements of the country. The rice SSR can be attributed to a number of programs implemented by the government, including the so-called "quick-turn-around" scheme, which encouraged farmers to plant immediately after the main wet season crop. Farmers participating in the QTA scheme were given free certified seeds and crop insurance coverage.

It also helped that the National Food Authority procured huge volumes of the staple at the time. The food agency purchased a buffer stock that is good for at least 15 days or around half a million tons. Having a sure buyer like NFA may have motivated farmers to increase their plantings.

What this means for the current administration is that the 97 percent rice SSR is not an impossible dream. While the government can no longer intervene via the NFA, it has the means to further increase production. For one, the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund guarantees that the state would always have the money to bankroll initiatives that will prop up rice output.

The target rice SSR, however, would mean that the Philippines should produce more than 20 million metric tons, something that has never been achieved before. The Aquino administration had set the target of producing 20 MMT of rice as early as 2013, but storms and dry spells made it difficult for the Philippines to hit it. In 2015, when the country recorded a rice SSR of below 90 percent, dry spells caused by El Niño struck 58 provinces and damaged crops worth billions of pesos.

Many of the policymakers in the current administration have seen first-hand the devastating impact of climate change on the rice sector. Droughts and typhoons have upended even the best-laid plans. It would take a combination of tried and tested mechanisms and innovative schemes to help farmers cope with weather aberrations, produce the staple required by a growing population amid spikes in production costs, and bring the rice SSR to 97 percent.

PANAY NEWS

[PH vows to advocate sustainable tourism](#)

THE Department of Tourism (DOT) renewed its commitment to champion sustainable tourism. The agency said it will promote Philippine destinations in a way that will encourage “regenerative tourism” while highlighting responsible resource management, environmental protection, and preservation of cultural heritage, among others.

“As we mark this global effort to manage the oceans for the benefit of mankind, the DOT is committed to its unique mandate in tourism, to both promote and preserve our destinations while ensuring a memorable and meaningful Philippine travel experience,” the DOT said during the World Ocean Day celebration on June 8.

The Philippines is considered as a center of marine biodiversity and is home to the world’s leading beach and dive destinations.

In a separate statement, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said Manila is resolute in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 14 or conserving and advocating the sustainable use of ocean, seas and marine resources.

He acknowledged that climate change remains the “greatest threat” to the Philippines given the number of its low-lying coastal areas and communities vulnerable to sea-level rise and underscored Manila’s commitment to addressing it and other pressures on the oceans.

Manalo said the Philippines also understands the fragile balance of marine ecosystems and the significant role they play and is exerting all efforts towards “finalizing an international legally binding agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).”

“Moreover, the Philippines reaffirms its dedication to the United Nations Ocean Decade — a global initiative that aims to catalyze transformative action for the sustainable use and conservation of the world’s oceans,” Manalo added.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[UAE looks to salty, muddy mangroves in climate change fight](#)

Against the heat, urbanization and sand of the United Arab Emirates, the placid, muddy waterways of the Gulf state's coastal mangroves are being restored and planted in an ambitious fight against climate change.

Tropical mangrove forests are complex ecosystems anchored around mangrove trees that thrive in inhospitable hot, muddy and salty conditions. They protect coastal communities against storms and floods, host diverse and threatened species and can soften climate change by capturing atmospheric carbon.

"What makes this species of mangrove, *Avicennia Marina*, in Abu Dhabi special, is the fact that they are extremely resilient to harsh conditions, they can withstand extreme high salinity and super high temperatures," said Hamad al-Jailani a scientist at the Environment Agency of the UAE capital Abu Dhabi.

"This is very important in the context of climate change, as temperatures around the world increase or become less stable," he said from inside Abu Dhabi's protected mangroves, just under 40% of which are planted rather than natural.

The UAE, which will host the COP28 climate summit in December, has been planting mangrove trees since its founding in the seventies and plans to plant another 100 million mangroves by 2030 on top of its current 60 million over 183 square kilometers (70 square miles) – which the climate ministry says capture 43,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually.

According to the United Nations Environment Program, global mangrove forests in 2020 had declined by 3.4% since 1996, but stabilized in recent years.

In Khor Kalba on the UAE's east coast, a sign tells visitors the mangrove forest they are in is over 300 years old and part of the fight against climate change.

"The species diversity is quite remarkable," said Brendan Whittington-Jones, a conservation scientist at Khor Kalba.

The forest used to be open to the public and there were cars and camels in there, he said, but it was then closed.

"It's enabled the system to recover quite substantially," he said.

Older mangroves store more carbon and the U.N. says the success rate of artificial mangrove restoration projects can be quite low.

Whittington-Jones says the focus should be on the survival of mangroves rather than on the number planted.

“We have certainly seen there is a very narrow band of areas that either have the correct salinity or temperature or hydrology to allow mangroves to persist,” he said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[DENR calls for forest habitat conservation to preserve PH Eagle](#)

By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – To ensure the conservation of future generations of Philippine eagles and their territories, and allow new generations to thrive and co-exist with other threatened wildlife, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), calls on all Filipinos to help protect forest habitat.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, DENR Assistant Secretary and concurrent BMB Director Marcial Amaro Jr. said that as the country celebrates the 25th Philippine Eagle Week (PEW) from June 4 to 10, the department looks back at its achievements in conserving the iconic and critically endangered Philippine eagle for a quarter of a century now.

Amaro said that by conserving national patrimony, the DENR-BMB improved and harmonized conservation efforts and has put forward strategies to curb the direct and indirect threats to Philippine eagle populations.

He said relevant conservation actions include habitat restoration, law enforcement, management of captive and wild populations, research, and conservation education.

“The habitats conserved locally and protected by communities significantly contribute to environmental stability and security of human well-being, in the looming threats of climate change,” Amaro said.

However, Amaro said more work needs to be done to ensure the survival and viability of the prized raptor which is considered a “national treasure.”

He said the Philippine eagle, whose scientific name is *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, is continually being threatened by hunting and loss of habitat.

In line with the celebration, several activities were held that include an art exhibit showcasing artworks depicting the Philippine eagle by Filipino artists, among others.

Amaro said the artists themselves even paid a registration fee that will be donated for the installation of a water system to a community that helps protect a Philippine eagle habitat in Davao City.

In September last year, DENR Secretary Antonia Loyzaga called on lawmakers to prioritize the passage of proposed measures to help strengthen Republic Act (RA) 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Loyzaga said the support of lawmakers in the amendment of RA 9147 is crucial in advancing collective efforts and initiatives to sustainably manage the country's wildlife resources.

The Philippine eagle is endemic to the Philippines and is the largest forest raptor in the country.

Found in the islands of Luzon, Samar, Leyte, and Mindanao, the majestic bird has been classified as critically endangered under Department Administrative Order 2019-09 or the Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and Their Categories, and by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Its uniqueness, strength, and love of freedom reflect the qualities of the Filipino people, that in 1995, the critically endangered Philippine Eagle became a national emblem through Proclamation No. 615.

Macron restates invitation for Marcos to visit France

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The French government has restated its invitation for President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to conduct a state visit to France as it congratulated the Philippines in its 125th Independence Day anniversary.

In a letter to Marcos, France President Emmanuel Macron conveyed his best wishes on the occasion of the Philippine Independence Day and highlighted the “fruitful relations and the rich cooperation” between the two states.

“President Macron restated, on that occasion, expressed (sic) his wish to host President Marcos in France for a State visit,” the French Embassy in Manila said Tuesday.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has yet to comment when asked for updates regarding discussions on the possible trip.

French Ambassador to Manila Michèle Boccoz earlier said Macron has sent a written letter of invitation for Marcos. And should the meeting happen, the two governments intend to make the trip as “as fruitful as possible.”

Diplomatic ties between France and the Philippines were formally established in 1947.

Over the years, Manila and Paris have strived to partner in promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region and upholding international law; fighting against climate change, and promoting cultural exchanges.

In marking 75 years of relations, the French Embassy in Manila had been organizing a series of cultural activities since June 2022.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] Climate investment must be good business](#)

OVER the past few months, a common theme among institutions concerned with combating climate change is that there must be a substantial increase in private sector investment in climate adaptation and mitigation. Public sector resources coursed through various institutions such as the UN-managed climate funds, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) are simply not enough to cover the enormous amount that is needed to protect vulnerable countries and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts.

The challenge this poses to climate-vulnerable countries like the Philippines that need funding for climate adaptation is that attracting private sector investment is an entirely different value proposition than that for institutional funding. If this challenge cannot be overcome, the negative impacts on communities and people may become unmanageable.

Climate adaptation refers to measures to help populations cope with the impacts of climate change, while mitigation refers to measures intended to reduce those impacts. As the Philippines is not a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions but is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, adaptation is the chief concern here. Some simple examples of climate adaptation measures that might be implemented include flood control projects, seawalls and mangrove planting to protect against stronger storm surges, and relocating at-risk populations to safer areas.

All of this takes money, of course, a lot of it. At the landmark Paris climate summit in 2015, a target of \$100 billion per year was agreed, but it has since been recognized that even this figure is woefully inadequate. According to estimates from the MDBs, who all seem to agree on the question, the actual funding need for both adaptation and mitigation is somewhere between \$1 trillion and \$1.6 trillion per year through at least 2030, and probably beyond. Thus, the emphasis on calls for more private sector investment, since that is where those vast amounts can be found.

According to World Bank executives at a climate finance conference held in Spain last week, however, the world is falling short on investments in technology for climate adaptation because of a lack of metrics that can measure clear financial returns or help investors quantify the impact these investments have on affected communities. Investment in mitigation technology, things like renewable energy systems and electric vehicles, which produce more measurable returns and can even be profit-generating, is not a problem, but adaptation investment is being avoided because, as one World Bank executive explained, it is seen by investors as costly if they cannot foresee the net

benefits of their investments. As a result, investments in mitigation, which primarily go to developed countries where the most mitigation is needed, currently outweighs adaptation investment by about 10 times, whereas investment in the two purposes ideally should be approximately equal.

To be clear, it is not strictly necessary that an investment in climate adaptation generate a return in the form of revenue, and most responsible private investors account for this in their environmental, social and governance (ESG) frameworks. However, the effectiveness of ESG from the point of view of stakeholders is judged according to whether or not an investment has clear positive results. The outcomes of potential adaptation investments are often not clearly defined, hence the critical shortfall in investment.

Developing a global set of standards to measure adaptation impacts has proved difficult, and in the view of the World Bank and its peers, might be impossible due to differences in the needs for different countries. Therefore, it becomes critical for the Philippines to prioritize the development of a clear and applicable set of standards for its own adaptation needs and create a value proposition for prospective investors in adaptation. This means defining exactly what constitutes a climate adaptation-relevant investment, and defining exactly what outcome in quantifiable terms that investment is supposed to achieve. It is a difficult undertaking, but there are examples — Colombia is one cited by the World Bank — of countries whose models Philippine policymakers can study and adapt to our needs.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Climate disasters affect kids from 5.6 million poor Filipino families — group](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Children from 5.6 million low-income families in the Philippines are exposed to the worsening impacts of climate change—a problem they will inherit even though they are least responsible for it.

This was according to advocacy group Save the Children Philippines, which stressed that climate change will make the existing challenges that children face much worse.

“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,” Save the Children Philippines CEO Albert Muyot said.

Families living in poverty and in rural areas have increasingly shouldered the brunt of climate disasters. Poor households also have less support and resources to adapt to climate-related changes.

According to a 2021 report published by the Save the Children Philippines, Filipino children born in 2020 will experience 4.9 times more scorching heat waves, 2.3 times more river floods, 1.2 more droughts, and 1.5 times more crop failures than their grandparents or people born 60 years ago.

“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,” Save the Children Philippines said.

It added that climate change exacerbates violence against women, putting Filipino girls “at greater risk” of being abused, neglected, exploited or subjected to child marriages.

Climate change at the center

The advocacy group called for child-centered climate change mitigation and adaptation plans.

“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 Rexel Abrigo, environmental health advisor of Save the Children Philippines.

Climate scientists backed by the United Nations earlier called on countries to strengthen measures that will help people cope in a warming world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also warned that “rapid and far-reaching transitions” across all sectors and systems are needed to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

[Phi highlights climate change efforts at UN meet in Germany](#)

The Philippines on Monday highlighted its “whole-of-nation and whole-of-world” approaches in responding to climate change during an ongoing United Nations conference in Bonn, Germany.

Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje was among the participants speaking at the plenary of the 58th Sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation or SB58 of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change, which will run until 15 June.

During the session, Borje said the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is putting a premium on relevant programs and policies that would sustain climate change adaptation not only in the Philippines but also in the global community.

The Philippine government, he added, has allocated about US\$ 8.2 billion, or 8.82 percent of its national budget this year, for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs “towards meeting the unconditional Nationally Determined Contribution targets.”

This year’s allocation is 60 percent higher than the previous year’s climate budget, based on data from the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging—a government tool to monitor, track and report the national and local budgets and investments on climate change adaptation and mitigation programs.

“This is the biggest budget allocation for climate change ever recorded, signifying the country’s commitment to increase domestic resources dedicated to climate action,” Borje noted.

The CCC chief emphasized that the Philippine government’s efforts to accelerate climate action and enhance climate resilience are “firmly embedded” in the Philippine Development Plan for 2023 to 2028, with an entire chapter to climate change and disaster resiliency for the first time.

The pioneering chapter identifies key objectives for climate action, including increasing climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions, enhancing ecosystem resilience and enabling the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Borje reiterated the need to expand and enhance the Philippines' international cooperation in terms of adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage as well as climate finance—which also works for other means of implementation such as technology transfer and capacity development toward transformative climate action.

DAILY TRIBUNE

Phl urges tangible measures against climate change

The Philippines delivered a resolute call for immediate and concrete actions to tackle the worsening climate crisis, emphasizing the need to transform the decisions of COP27 into tangible outcomes responsive to the needs of vulnerable developing nations.

Delivering the Philippine Statement at the recent opening of the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB58) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje reminded the meeting about 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, and responsive to the vulnerable, developing nations’ needs and priorities, and based on best available science and evidence,” said Borje, the head of the Philippine delegation.

Presenting alarming statistics on the loss and damage incurred by the Philippines and nearby Asean countries over the past decade, he lamented that the Philippines suffered losses and damage amounting to US\$12 billion, equivalent to two times its national budget for crucial health services.

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

Moreover, the Asean region endured economic and human losses of US\$97.3 billion, nearly matching the global commitment of US\$100 billion by Annex I or industrialized countries for the same period, 2009 to 2020, to support vulnerable developing nations.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Group of Finance Ministers reported a staggering loss and damage figure of US\$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. I would like to address my people: Sa nagbabagong klima, buhay, kabuhayan at kinabukasan nating lahat ang nakataya,” Borje said.

The Philippines suffered loss and damage amounting to US\$12 billion, equivalent to two times its national budget for crucial health services.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s administration, he said, has prioritized climate change as a critical national concern, and vowed to embed climate resilience and accelerated climate action into its development agenda, with the expectation of increased resource flow, including Means of Implementation.

The Philippines has allocated US\$8.2 billion, or 9 percent of its total national budget, for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs this year.

Recognizing the magnitude of the climate crisis, Borje called for focused attention on key issues for the SB58 conference.

These critical points include utilizing the latest findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, considering emissions avoidance as a mitigation option, accelerating work programs for concrete action, expediting the operationalization of relevant funds and networks, ensuring streamlined access to climate finance, and delivering effective means of implementation.

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

With only seven critical years remaining until 2030 to mitigate global warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, Borje highlighted the urgent need to translate dialogue into action with concrete, relevant, and appropriate outputs and outcomes.

“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 will do — with the highest speed and on the largest scale possible,” Borje said.

He added: “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 a higher level of adaptive capacities and climate resilience.”

Borje rallied the global community to work harder and “save lives, protect livelihoods, and secure a safe, resilient, and sustainable future for all.”

SB58, held in Bonn, Germany from 5 to 15 June, gathered representatives of various countries, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to discuss critical issues related to climate change. It provided a crucial platform for dialogue and negotiation leading up to COP28 in Dubai, UAE in November.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PH committed to 'whole-of-world' climate action under PBBM

The Philippines is committed to advancing the whole-of-nation and whole-of-world climate action under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje highlighted this in the ongoing 58th Sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB58) of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany.

Speaking at the opening plenary on June 8, Borje underscored that “addressing climate change and its impacts are among the top priorities of the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.”

While rallying nations to deliver on climate commitments, the Philippines pointed out that under Marcos, the Philippines was involved in transformative climate action and putting “its money where its mouth is” through relevant programs and policies.

Borje cited the investments of the Marcos administration in the public sector.

“For this year alone, the government allocated USD8.2 billion, or almost 9 percent of our total national budget, for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs towards meeting our unconditional Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets,” he said.

The figure, based on data from the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET), is 60 percent higher than the previous year’s climate budget.

According to a news release on Tuesday, the CCC said the budget is the biggest allocation for climate change, signifying the country’s commitment to increasing domestic resources dedicated to climate action.

“Under the Marcos Administration, accelerating climate action and enhancing climate resilience have been more firmly embedded in our development agenda, which we project will lead to more flow of resources, including Means of Implementation,” Borje said.

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for the 2023-2028 period devoted an entire chapter to climate change and disaster resiliency for the first time.

This pioneering chapter identifies key objectives for climate action, including increasing climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and enabling the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The Philippines reiterated the need to expand and enhance international cooperation in adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, climate finance and other means of implementation such as technology transfer and capacity development toward transformative climate action.

The CCET is the tool of the government to monitor, track and report the national and local budgets and investments on climate change adaptation and mitigation programs.

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