



## NEWS ROUNDUP

14 June 2024 [ 08:00am]

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By: Mariejo Ramos

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### GREENPEACE

#### [Why climate justice is queer justice](#)

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'What if those who cling to rainbows can't find reprieve after the rain?' The rainbow has always been a symbol of hope — a sign of life at the end of a storm, especially in a country brutally hit by typhoons every year.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[Legarda urges collective action to combat climate change for future generations](#)**

By: Macon Ramos-Araneta

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## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[DENR urges Abrenians to plant more trees](#)**

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The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Abra (PENRO-Abra) distributed free tree seedlings to kick-off the Environment celebration and to urge Abrenians to plant more trees.

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### **[Ilocos rice farmers get hybrid seeds for wet season](#)**

By: Leilanie Adriano

The Department of Agriculture (DA) started on Thursday the official rollout of hybrid rice seeds expected to boost Ilocos Norte farmers' yield by 15 percent or six tons per hectare during the wet season.

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[Groups demand climate finance ahead of G7 summit](#)**

By: Ronald O. Reyes

Filipino climate campaigners joined a worldwide call for climate finance that will enable developing countries, such as the Philippines, to address climate change in anticipation of the 50th Group of 7 (G7) Summit on June 13, 2024.

## **THE JAPAN TIMES**

### **[Climate change funding talks stuck ahead of COP29 summit](#)**

By: Kate Abnett

With just five months to go before this year's U.N. climate summit, countries cannot agree on the size of a global funding bill to help the developing world fight climate change — let alone how to split it.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[\[Opinion\] Creative accounting in climate finance?](#)**

One important provision of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate action was a commitment by the world's developed nations to collectively provide at least \$100 billion annually in funding for the climate adaptation and mitigation needs of developing and climate-vulnerable nations.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Nitrous oxide emissions surge in climate threat — study](#)**

Global emissions of nitrous oxide -- a potent greenhouse gas -- are outpacing expectations and putting climate change goals in peril, a major study published on Wednesday found.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[PhilDel commemorates Independence Day at UN Climate Talks in Germany](#)**

The 126th Independence Day Celebration of the Philippines was solemnly observed by the Philippine Delegation (PhilDel) at the ongoing 60th sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in Bonn, Germany.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**[Climate protesters disrupt baseball game](#)**

Climate change protesters ran into the field at Nationals Park during the Annual Congressional Baseball Game.

Wearing white t-shirts with the phrase "end fossil fuels" at least eight protesters interrupted the charity game until police officer caught up with them and escorted them off the field.

Capitol police said eight people are being charged with federal charges for interfering with a member of the U.S. Capitol Police.

A group called Climate Defiance said in a post on social media platform X that some of its members had taken the field to protest the "Chevron-sponsored game."

Other protesters holding a Palestinian flag were escorted out of the bleachers.

The tradition of Republicans and Democrats playing for charity dates back to 1909, according to congressionalbaseball.org.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **Hell or high water: Filipino schools lashed by climate extremes**

By: Mariejo Ramos

Just weeks after thousands of Filipino students were sent home from sweltering classrooms during a brutal heatwave, the country's schools are bracing for a new climate change challenge ahead of the start of the typhoon season in Southeast Asia.

Schools were closed for several days as temperatures soared to over 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in April and May. Now they are due to reopen after the holidays in July, rather than August, as authorities rework the education calendar to adapt to extreme weather.

The immediate threat comes from storms as typhoon season starts in July. In the past, many schools would be forced to suspend lessons and send pupils home as classrooms were flooded. Schools were also often used as temporary evacuation centers.

The state weather bureau has said the country is likely to experience more tropical cyclones in 2024 than last year due to the potential return of the La Niña weather phenomenon between June-August.

After the extremes caused worldwide by El Niño this year, forecasters are predicting a swing to generally cooler La Niña conditions in the coming months, with a greater risk of floods and drought.

Filipino meteorologists have also predicted "stronger and more destructive typhoons" due to climate change.

This is bad news for the country's 47,000 state schools. As well as potential damage to physical structures, there is a fear that extreme weather will deepen educational inequalities because when children are sent home and forced to rely on online learning, the least well-off suffer the most.

"It's hard every time classes are suspended due to disasters, and we could not understand the lessons properly at home," said 15-year-old Prince Rivera, who goes to Bulihan National High School in Bulacan province, near the capital Manila.

His school has been flooded several times and he was also sent home during the recent heatwave.

Xerxes de Castro, basic education adviser at Save the Children Philippines, said awareness of climate risks is the first step to making schools resilient to future disasters.

"I think it's just right now that schools, learners, and all the stakeholders are learning about the impacts of climate change. It's a hard lesson," De Castro told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The Philippines, which topped the World Risk Index in 2022 and 2023 as the most disaster-prone country in the world, is hit by typhoons about 20 times a year.

According to the World Bank, around 78% of public schools and 96% of students in the Philippines are exposed to multiple hazards. Between 2021 and 2023, around 4,000 schools were damaged due to various disasters, resulting in the disruption of learning for two million children.

On the radar

Education authorities have harnessed tech to help deal with climate change-related extreme weather and natural disasters.

One tool being used is the Rapid Assessment of Damages Report (RADaR) mobile and web application, used by teachers to quickly deliver updates when schools are caught up in disasters.

The tool was rolled out by the Department of Education in partnership with Save the Children and the charity Prudence Foundation and it reports on six different kinds of natural catastrophe, including storms and typhoons.

"Since its national launch in September 2021, RADaR has been used in 28 hazard events by more than 30,000 schools," Marlon Matuguina, risk mitigation and climate resilience manager for Save the Children Philippines, said in an email.

Heatwaves are not yet included in the app because the effects of extreme hot weather are harder to quantify.

Data from the app showed that earthquakes were the most frequent hazard experienced by schools, while tropical storms received the highest number of reports because of damage caused.

According to Save the Children, RADaR has so far generated over 154,000 school-level reports that "offered new insights into the educational sector's vulnerability to hazards."

Teacher Shago Dela Cruz is the disaster coordinator of Rivera's school. Before the RADaR app was introduced he said reporting disasters was slow but now the app allows him to monitor and record disasters online through closed circuit television at his school.

"Teachers do not have to personally go to the school after a disaster and face the risks," said Dela Cruz.

Preparing for disasters is also key. The Department of Education has said it will invest in insulation, shading and ventilation systems. It hopes these measures will make it possible to keep students in school during hot weather.

It has also received 17 billion pesos (\$291 million) from the national budget this year to build new classrooms that will be able to withstand higher temperatures.

The World Bank has also approved a 30 billion peso loan to help the Philippines better handle disasters and climate threats, with a particular focus on schools and hospitals.

The Filipino government says the money will be used to rebuild schools damaged by natural disasters outside the capital. The project will run from 2025-2029 and is expected to benefit more than 13,000 classrooms and around 740,000 pupils, whose buildings were damaged in disasters between 2019 and 2023.

For Save the Children, the message is clear: vulnerable countries need more support to shore up critical services, like schools, in a hotter, wetter world. And the necessary changes do not just affect bricks and mortar.

"Resilience is a complex issue," said De Castro. "We're not just talking about the infrastructure work but also ... about making sure teachers and students can tackle any kind of disasters that could happen in the future." (\$1 = 58.4200 Philippine pesos)

## GREENPEACE

### [Why climate justice is queer justice](#)

By: Eunille Santos

‘What if those who cling to rainbows can’t find reprieve after the rain?’ The rainbow has always been a symbol of hope — a sign of life at the end of a storm, especially in a country brutally hit by typhoons every year.

But what if those who cling to rainbows can’t find reprieve after the rain?

As a country vulnerable to climate impacts, the Philippines has been at the receiving end of some of the most devastating climate catastrophes globally. Lives lost, houses torn down, communities wiped out. Every year, we hear stories of destruction on one end, and of resilience on the other. But lost in between those narratives are voices further drowned in floods of discrimination, prejudice, and social injustices — like rainbows losing their colors.

Such is the struggle of the LGBTQ+ community, intensified by the impacts of the worsening climate crisis.

We probably know how climate-induced disasters disproportionately affect communities, with more and more typhoons wreaking havoc in different parts of the country. Last year’s Super Typhoon Odette alone caused at least P118 million in damage to agriculture, P225 million in damage to infrastructure, and left around 400 casualties, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

It is important to recognize however, that the most discriminated against are the most affected. The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirm that those who are most marginalized will be hit the worst. These communities — the LGBTQ+ included — become more vulnerable to these impacts, exacerbated by social stigma and bigotry.

Arthur “Jean” Golong, a transgender community leader from Tacloban, experienced first-hand how the climate crisis reveals the gaps in the current system that bode worse for minorities like the LGBTQ+. Gender-based discrimination becomes prevalent even in the face of disasters. A survivor of Super Typhoon Yolanda, Arthur’s experience became even more devastating because of the cumulative impacts of prejudice and unjust treatment.

The link between the climate crisis and the plight of the LGBTQ+ can be traced to a broken, outdated system that favors cisgendered individuals, leaving the minorities behind. Essentially, disasters reveal inequalities hidden in plain sight. There are a number of situations which exhibited this form of systemic discrimination during Arthur’s ordeal, as she stated before the Commission on Human Rights, in the National Inquiry on Climate Change (NICC).

For one, Arthur identifies as a trans woman and used to introduce herself as “Jean” for the longest time. Indirectly, the Yolanda aftermath became pivotal to her identity as she needed to use her name in the Civil Registry to claim public service. To be



considered as a house owner and head of the family — in order to have access to relief efforts and social services — she had to go by the name “Arthur” again. This raises the need for proper legal support for gender-based equality such as gender-based identification at birth.

Injustices are even more felt in post-typhoon contexts. This includes being deprived of livelihood and economic opportunities as means to recover. In one of Arthur’s accounts, her friend was declined a fish cage – supposedly for livelihood – just because her friend was gay. In multiple occasions, the livelihood programs offered back then were limited — automatically assigned, even — to cisgender individuals.

In her statement in the NICC, Arthur shares how different agencies doing recovery efforts only took into account cisgender individuals: “Arthur, ilan ang buntis dito sa inyo? Arthur, ilan ang babae rito sa inyo? Arthur, ilan ang mga lalaki sa inyo at may mga livelihood kami para sa kanila?”

There were no mention of any opportunities — or even recognition — of LGBTQ+ members: “Sa 11 months namin doon sa temporary shelter, wala man lang nagtanong ng ‘Arthur, ilan ang bakla rito? Ang tomboy dito? At mayroon kaming livelihood para sa kanila’.... Hindi ganoon kadali iyong dinanas namin kay Yolanda.”

Arthur is just one of those who have experienced climate impacts first-hand. Globally, there are many members of the LGBTQ+ community who don’t get to enjoy even the most basic human rights, profoundly affected by the climate crisis. Lack of access to safe living spaces, informal employment, and the social stigma further magnify their vulnerability to extreme climate conditions.

In some cases, property owners deny LGBTQ+ individuals of housing solely because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. In even worse cases, they are turned away from emergency shelters during typhoons and experience difficulty in receiving relief efforts, making it harder for them to rebuild their lives.

LGBTQ+ activists from Asia and the Pacific have been calling for a more inclusive approach to humanitarian efforts, beyond the old-fashioned heterosexual lens. While seemingly “normal” in plain sight, disaster response tends to be binary. Case in point, bathrooms and sleeping spaces are a problem in evacuation centers and often do not appropriately affirm gender identity. Access to essentials like HIV medications and hormones may also be difficult, if not non-existent, in this context.

To begin with, LGBTQ+ individuals are already living with a disadvantage unjustly imposed by society. For example, those engaged with informal employment, such as sex workers who fall prey to gender-based violence worldwide, experience greater risks to their health and economic capacity, which can even be further aggravated by climate impacts.

Going even further into the future, a time when the refugee crisis worldwide will be defined by climate-induced migration, it will be the marginalized communities like the LGBTQ+ who will be most at risk. Imagine being displaced, shunned off, having nowhere to go amidst the most devastating climate catastrophes.

The fight for genuine climate justice intersects with queer justice. Climate action and policy must be inclusive. We must recognize the connection of the climate struggle with the liberation of various minority groups from outdated systems.

Climate justice is queer justice. Our fight must go beyond the usual “green;” rather, it should be multi-perspective and multi-colored. At the end of the day, we all deserve to live on an Earth we can be proud of, where we don’t have to wait for the rain just to see the rainbow.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [Legarda urges collective action to combat climate change for future generations](#)

By: Macon Ramos-Araneta

In a recent passionate plea, Senator Loren Legarda, a leading environmental advocate in the Philippines, emphasized the critical link between the health of our planet and the survival of future generations.

Highlighting the dire consequences of neglecting the environment, Legarda called for immediate and tangible actions to mitigate climate change impacts.

"We must stop just thinking about today because the quality of life of the next generations is at stake," Legarda asserted. "It's time to do our small part as we are all accountable for the environment."

The senator mentioned the reduction of plastic use, water conservation measures, planting trees, and advocating for renewable energy as crucial steps toward building a more sustainable environment for everyone.

Legarda's call to action comes in the wake of the recent devastating El Niño phenomenon that wreaked havoc across the country, causing billions of pesos in damage to agriculture, livelihoods, and severely affecting both human and animal life.

The extreme heat's impact has also led to significant challenges in water and food security, contributing to the displacement of residents globally.

According to the most recent Global Report 2024 of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, disasters displaced an additional 26.4 million people in 2023 alone. This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for concrete environmental actions.

"Do we really want to see a barren, wasted land where everything from food, water, and air is scarce, and people do not know how to survive the next day?" Legarda asked, stressing on the urgency of taking concrete actions versus the consequences of climate change.

Legarda also pushed for the full implementation of existing environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and the recently signed Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) law.

The four-term senator lauded the recent signing of the PENCAS law, which she championed in the Senate. The law promotes a data-driven approach to policy-making that aligns with global sustainability goals and aims to preserve the nation's invaluable natural resources.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [DENR urges Abrenians to plant more trees](#)

By: Jamie Joie Malingan

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Abra (PENRO-Abra) distributed free tree seedlings to kick-off the Environment celebration and to urge Abrenians to plant more trees.

PENR Officer Marcelo Bumidang shared that the program, which is also part of the 37th anniversary of the DENR, aims to mitigate the effects of climate change.

"This June 3 kick-off, we distribute seedlings for free to the community or anyone who wants to plant, anytime within the month. Daytoy introductory activity mi ket panagmula ta daytoy ti mang-address ti climate change nga mapasasaran tayo," he explained.

[This introductory activity of tree planting will help address climate change that we are currently experiencing,]

He also highlighted the importance of planting trees and reforestation in preserving and conserving the Abra River Basin which is a major food source and an economic asset for Abra.

"Kaano lang diay nangyari ditoy Bangued nga flooding, karkaro diay baba so diay ti nakita tayo nga epekto nu haan tayo nga itultuloy ti panagmula tapno kasta ket ma-rehabilitate tayo daytoy makunkuna nga head water tayo ditoy Abra," he emphasized.

[It was just recently that intense flooding happened in Abra, especially in the lower areas. That is the effect if we do not continue planting trees and rehabilitate the so-called headwater in Abra.]

During the Community PanTREE program in Bangued and Lagangilang, locals and other stakeholders received Narra, Gmelina, and Mahogany tree seedlings from the PENRO.

Bumidang is urging Abrenians who are interested in planting trees to visit their office for free seedlings. He said that there are around 15,000 seedlings for free distribution.

"Narra, mahogany, gmelina are the available species and natibker nga pang watershed and timber ngem adda pay daduma nga species idia nursery," he said.

He added that the distributed seedlings will be monitored by the PENRO to ensure its survival and sustainability.

"Ilistista mi diay maited mi ken anya nga disu pangimulaan da to ensure that they are planted on open spaces," Bumidang shared.

[We list down the beneficiaries and where they would plant the seedlings to ensure that they are planted in open spaces.]

The PENR Officer also said that the province was able to attain a 70-75 percent survival rate of planted seedlings amidst challenges such as forest fires.

He explained that although survival rates are high during the rainy season, forest fires that occur mostly during summer affect the sustainability of planted seedlings.

"Daytoy ti dakkel nga challenge nga masapul nga haan lang nga DENR ti makin akem datoy, masapaul amin nga stakeholders pagtitinnulungan tayo daytoy karkaro ti LGU ken BFP ta isu ti lead agency nga mangpasardeng wenno agmonmonitor," he said.

[This is a big challenge, this is not just the responsibility of the DENR but all stakeholders should work together especially the LGU and the BFP which are the lead in fire prevention or monitoring.]

Meanwhile, Community Environment and Natural Resources-Bangued Shirley Leaño said various activities are lined-up in celebration of the Environment Month this June.

"Add ti clean up drives, info dissemination, ken adda pay handog ti titulo idiy Bucay nga i-distribute mi ti special patents like schools, government infra, agri and residential free patents," she shared.

[There are clean up drives, info dissemination, and Handog Titulo in Bucay where we distribute special patents for public schools, government infra, agri and residential free patents.]

The Environment Month this year carries the theme "Our Environment, Our Future."

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### Ilocos rice farmers get hybrid seeds for wet season

By: Leilanie Adriano

The Department of Agriculture (DA) started on Thursday the official rollout of hybrid rice seeds expected to boost Ilocos Norte farmers' yield by 15 percent or six tons per hectare during the wet season.

In an interview with the Philippine News Agency, Currimao municipal agriculturist engineer Erickson Biag said about 159 farmers from the municipality received their shares during the seeds distribution at the covered courts of Cabuusan, Maglaoi Centro, Maglaoi Sur and Maglaoi Norte.

He said a total of 850 rice farmers from the municipality are set to receive from the DA Regional Field Office 1 hybrid rice seeds until June 19.

Latest data from the Philippine Rice Research Institute (IRRI) show that Ilocos Norte attained rice production output of 338,681 metric tons in 2023, with 65,069 hectares of area harvested and a yield of 5.18 metric tons per hectare.

Also, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data show that the province contributes 16.83 percent of the total rice production in Region 1.

"We are so thankful for the overwhelming support of the government to us, (the) farmers. This is a big help considering the rising prices of farm inputs and worsening effect of climate change," Rainy Valente, a rice farmer from Comcomloong village, said in an interview.

Through DA's national rice program, farmers are given high-quality seeds that are appropriate in their areas in time for the wet season.

Based on the DA Regional Field Office 1 report, there are a total of 355,742 rice farmers in the region under the Registry System for Basic Sector in Agriculture.

These farmers are qualified to receive aid from DA this year, with a total of PHP2.9 billion budget for the rice program in Region 1.

"Of the total amount, 88 percent or about PHP2.6 billion, has been allowed for production support services," Leah Coloma, senior agriculturist and focal person for rice program, said.

Aside from the ongoing distribution of hybrid seeds, eligible farmers can also receive inorganic fertilizers, soil ameliorants and bio fertilizers.

## SUNSTAR

### [Groups demand climate finance ahead of G7 summit](#)

By: Ronald O. Reyes

Filipino climate campaigners joined a worldwide call for climate finance that will enable developing countries, such as the Philippines, to address climate change in anticipation of the 50th Group of 7 (G7) Summit on June 13, 2024.

"The unprecedented heat in most of Southeast and South Asia, and the floods in southern Brazil, remind us that developing countries are hit the hardest despite contributing the least to the climate crisis," said Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD).

On June 11, APMDD and allied climate activist groups marched to the US Embassy in Manila to tell G7 leaders that "rich, industrialized countries of the Global North are most responsible for causing this crisis with their historical and current greenhouse gas emissions."

"Therefore, they are obligated to pay the costs of mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and ensuring a just transition in the Global South. If they do not deliver the amount we need, we cannot limit average global temperatures to below 1.5C," Nacpil said in a statement to the media.

"The climate crisis is escalating, and people in the Global South are suffering from its increasingly devastating impacts," Nacpil added.

Citing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), APMDD and fellow climate campaigners said that developed countries agreed to provide climate finance to cover the costs of developing countries' climate programs and projects.

The target amount of climate finance that must be raised for the Global South, will be a big agenda item at the climate negotiations at COP29 in December, according to the climate activists.

They added that COP29 "is expected to set the new collective quantified goal for climate finance, which will replace the previous goal of \$100 billion a year pledged by Global North governments."

"This \$100 billion pledge, made in 2009 and reiterated in 2015, has already been exposed and criticized as severely inadequate, yet the world's richest nations have continuously failed to meet it. The G7 has collectively delivered only \$30.9 billion through the UNFCCC's climate funds," APMDD said.

"The Global South needs trillions, not billions. We reject the excuse that the world's wealthiest nations do not have adequate funds to fulfill their obligations when the annual military expenditure of the G7 exceeds \$1 trillion. It is well within their ability and power to redirect these funds to climate finance," it added.

To raise funds for climate finance, the groups suggested that G7 leaders can tax elites and corporations, who, according to them, "are the world's top polluters and profiteers.

"

In its 2021 first Needs Determination Report, UNFCCC estimated that the cost of mitigation and adaptation would be \$5.9 to \$11.4 trillion until 2030.

"However, this amount represents the cost of only 26 percent of the needs of 24 countries, out of the 164 developing country parties to the UNFCCC, meaning the real cost of mitigation and adaptation is much higher. This figure also excludes economic loss and damage, which is estimated to cost at least \$400 billion per year by 2030," APMDD said.



## THE JAPAN TIMES

### [Climate change funding talks stuck ahead of COP29 summit](#)

By: Kate Abnett

With just five months to go before this year's U.N. climate summit, countries cannot agree on the size of a global funding bill to help the developing world fight climate change — let alone how to split it.

The decision is set to dominate the COP29 climate talks in Azerbaijan in November, where nearly 200 countries need to agree on a new annual financing target for helping poorer countries cut their emissions and protect their societies in a harsher, hotter world.

The new target will replace the yearly \$100 billion that rich countries had pledged in climate finance from 2020. That goal was met two years late.

But preliminary talks this week in Bonn, Germany, have yielded no major breakthroughs. Instead, the talks ending on Thursday have again exposed the unyielding rifts among the world's biggest economies over who should be paying most to fight climate change — and how much.

Representatives from climate-vulnerable nations said it was hard watching wealthy nations fall late with past payments of climate finance while quickly approving new funds for military responses to war or spending billions subsidizing CO2-emitting energy sources.

"It seems like money is always there when it's a more 'real' national priority for the country," Michai Robertson, negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States, told reporters.

"It's really tough to see that," he said.

Getting the number right

The new financing target is the core tool that global climate talks can deliver to fund projects that reduce planet-warming emissions — such as renewable energy or low-carbon transport.

With all countries due to update their national climate targets next year, negotiators fear failure could lead to weaker efforts.

"How are you going to move forward if there's no financing?" said South African climate negotiator Pemy Gasela. Her country is among many developing nations warning they cannot afford to cut emissions faster without more financial support — in South Africa's case, to swap a heavy reliance on CO2-emitting coal for clean energy.

Yet wealthy countries are wary of setting a target too high and risking it going unmet. The missed \$100 billion target became politically symbolic in recent U.N. climate talks, stoking mistrust between nations as developing countries argued the world's economic powers were abandoning them.

Diplomats in Bonn have circled the issue of how much money to put on the table.

While countries agree \$100 billion is too low, there is little chance they would agree to summon the \$2.4 trillion per year that the U.N. climate chief in February said was needed to keep the world's climate goals within reach.

Neither the European Union or the U.S. have suggested a number for the goal, although both acknowledged this week that it must exceed \$100 billion. The 27-country EU is currently the biggest provider of climate finance.

The elephant in the negotiation rooms, some diplomats said, was the upcoming U.S. presidential election, in which Donald Trump is seeking to return to office.

The previous Trump administration pulled the world's biggest economy out of the Paris climate agreement. Negotiators said they worry a future Trump administration could halt U.S. climate finance payments, leaving it to other wealthy nations to meet the annual pledge.

But some countries in Bonn have made suggestions.

India, and a group of Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt, have said the overall financing target should exceed \$1 trillion per year, to reflect the spiraling needs of poorer countries as climate change worsens.

The Arab countries propose that rich nations provide \$441 billion in public funding per year in grants, to leverage a total \$1.1 trillion per year from broader sources.

Small island countries vulnerable to climate change have also pushed for stricter rules on what counts toward the target, suggesting preventing loans with interest rates above 1%, to avoid adding to poor nations' already-high debts.

Most public climate funds provided by developed nations are loans, according to the OECD.

Deciding who should pay

Countries are also at odds over who should contribute.

There are about two dozen, long-industrialized countries currently obliged to contribute to U.N. climate finance. That list was decided during U.N. climate talks in 1992, when China's economy was still smaller than Italy's.

The EU wants China — now the world's biggest CO2 emitter and second biggest economy — and high wealth-per-capita Middle Eastern countries to contribute for the new goal. The U.S. has also argued for adding more countries in the donor base.

However, the Arab countries and China firmly opposed this idea, with Beijing reiterating China's status as a "developing country" under the U.N. climate convention.

"We, the developing countries, have no intention to make your number look good or be part of your responsibility, as we are doing all we can do to save the world," China's negotiator told other diplomats during negotiations on the finance target in Bonn on Tuesday.

Neither camp of countries has compromised on who should pay, said Joe Thwaites, who tracks climate finance negotiations for the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Negotiations were difficult and things are moving slowly," he said.

As talks continue beyond Bonn, some negotiators said government ministers could raise the issue at higher level meetings such as G20 ministers' gatherings in Brazil ahead of COP29.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [\[Opinion\] Creative accounting in climate finance?](#)

One important provision of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate action was a commitment by the world's developed nations to collectively provide at least \$100 billion annually in funding for the climate adaptation and mitigation needs of developing and climate-vulnerable nations.

As with many global-scale initiatives related to climate action, the results of this one did not reflect the rhetoric, with the target being missed as a matter of routine year after year.

However, the developed nations apparently did catch up by 2022, according to an analysis by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In a press release on May 29, the OECD announced, "Developed countries provided and mobilized \$115.9 billion in climate finance for developing countries in 2022, exceeding the annual \$100 billion goal for the first time and reaching a level that had not been expected before 2025."

The statement continued: "According to new figures from the OECD, in 2022 climate finance was up by 30 percent from 2021, or by \$26.3 billion. This is the biggest year-on-year increase to date and means that the \$100 billion mark was reached a year earlier than the OECD had previously projected, albeit two years later than the initial target date of 2020."

This should be good news, but a deeper analysis has revealed that, again, the results are not actually reflective of the rhetoric. According to the Center for Global Development (CGDev), the figures calculated by the OECD are essentially correct, but only if funding that was originally intended for something else and was relabeled or redirected as "climate funding" is counted.

The lead author of the CGDev study, Ian Mitchell, explained in a statement: "While the OECD suggests the UN-agreed climate finance goal set in 2009 has finally been met, our analysis reveals that a significant part of the increase is due to providers stretching, redirecting and relabeling existing development finance. In reality, despite the Paris Agreement, developed countries have not made any additional fiscal effort for climate and development relative to the size of their economies. In 2009, these countries provided financ[ing] equivalent to 0.45 percent of their gross national income; in 2022, it was 0.44 [percent]."

The 2009 date referred to by Mitchell is when the \$100-billion per year target was first conceived, even though it is usually associated with the 2015 Paris Agreement. That original 2009 agreement is the problem; according to its terms, the \$100 billion is supposed to be "new and additional" to existing development funding.

We consider it axiomatic, as does the rest of the world, that the developed industrial nations that are responsible for the greater part of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change should also be responsible for its corresponding costs.

However, from our perspective, the recent findings from the OECD and CGDev reveal two problems with the "\$100 billion per year" prescription.

First, the \$100 billion target is an arbitrary figure that has no relation to the current realities in climate-vulnerable countries. Rather, it represents what the liable developed nations are willing to pay — and even then, they have been slow to fulfill their pledges — instead of what the global effort for climate adaptation and mitigation actually needs, as multiple analyses over the past several years have concluded. The figure might be as much as one-tenth of what is needed, according to some of those studies.

Second, and more broadly, the current quibbling over the scale and nature of "climate financing" simply illustrates the flawed thinking that climate action can and should be considered separately from other development needs, such as those defined by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As we have stated in the past, climate change affects everything; in that sense, redirecting or even "relabeling" funding with some other purpose may not necessarily be the sin the critics make it out to be, provided it is being put to a purpose that meets critical needs. After all, developing countries and their populations do not really need help with climate change; they need help with the consequences of it.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Nitrous oxide emissions surge in climate threat — study](#)

Global emissions of nitrous oxide -- a potent greenhouse gas -- are outpacing expectations and putting climate change goals in peril, a major study published on Wednesday found.

Drawing on millions of atmospheric measurements from around the world, the report revealed a sharp rise in human-related nitrous oxide levels.

The findings raised researchers' concerns that too little is being done to rein in the gas, the vast majority of which is produced by agriculture.

Nitrous oxide heats the Earth's atmosphere 300 times more effectively than carbon dioxide, scientists say, and can linger for more than a century.

Emissions soared 40 percent in the four decades to 2020, said the Global Nitrous Oxide Budget, which relied on the expertise of 58 international researchers.

As a result, levels of the gas in the atmosphere climbed to 336 parts per billion in 2022 -- a 25 percent increase over pre-industrialised levels.

The surge was far greater than previous predictions by the UN panel of climate scientists, the IPCC, said the report's lead author, Hanqin Tian from Boston College.

Nitrous oxide emissions must drop if global warming is to be limited to the Paris Agreement target of 2 degrees Celsius, Tian said.

"Reducing nitrous oxide emissions is the only solution since at this point no technologies exist that can remove nitrous oxide from the atmosphere."

Nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, is one of the three key greenhouse gases, along with carbon dioxide and methane, that contribute to human-driven climate change.

It also pollutes the soil, water, and air, and depletes the ozone layer.

Agriculture main culprit

"This emission increase is taking place when the global greenhouse gases should be rapidly declining towards net zero emissions if we have any chances to avoid the worst effects of climate change," said Tian.

Agriculture is the biggest offender, accounting for nearly three-quarters of human-related, or anthropogenic, nitrous oxide in the 10 years to 2020, the report said.

Other culprits were fossil fuels, waste and wastewater, and biomass burning.

In the four decades to 2020, agricultural emissions of the gas surged 67 percent, it found, with most of the blame placed on nitrogen-based fertilisers and animal waste.

While global policies are in place to curb other greenhouse gases, nitrous oxide emissions are climbing virtually unchecked, said Pep Canadell, co-leader of the study.

"We need to be more aggressive with nitrous oxide -- we have no policies anywhere and there are very limited efforts," Canadell, a chief researcher at Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, said in an interview with AFP.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated that nitrous oxide accounts for 6.4 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions.

That figure is expected to grow in the coming years.

But if global warming is to remain below 2C, anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions need to decline by about 20 percent by 2050, the new study found.

Farmers taking action

China, India, the United States, Brazil, Russia, Pakistan, Australia and Canada were the top nitrous oxide emitters, driven in part by their rapidly growing populations and increased demands on the food sector, the report said.

Europe -- once the world's top nitrous oxide emitter -- managed the biggest decrease by reducing the use of fossil fuels. Its emissions related to agriculture are slowly decreasing as well.

Emissions in Japan and South Korea also dropped.

New policies to limit nitrous oxide emissions could take up to 10 years to have an effect, Canadell said.

But many farmers were already seeking to reduce their emissions, including by more precise use of nitrogen fertilisers, genetic modification of crops, better animal waste management and more sustainable farming practices.

"If these emissions were to be reduced by whatever level, it will have a huge impact," Canadell said.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

#### [PhilDel commemorates Independence Day at UN Climate Talks in Germany](#)

The 126th Independence Day Celebration of the Philippines was solemnly observed by the Philippine Delegation (PhilDel) at the ongoing 60th sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in Bonn, Germany.

Under the visionary leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the Philippines has strategically aligned its economic and prosperity agenda with the imperatives of climate change.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Vice Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Co-Head of PhilDel, spearheaded the delegation in making a compelling call for immediate and transformative climate action.

PhilDel's collaborative efforts emphasizes the country's unified approach to tackling climate change on the global stage.

PhilDel is composed of 11 agencies, namely:

1. CCC
2. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
3. Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines (DFA)
4. Department of Energy Philippines (DOE)
5. Department of Finance (DOF)
6. Department of Agriculture – Philippines (DA)
7. Department of Labor and Employment – DOLE
8. Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG Philippines)
9. National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
10. Presidential Communications Office (PCO)
11. Philippine Information Agency (PIA)

The Philippines has recently achieved a pivotal climate milestone as it submitted its National Adaptation Plan (NAP), outlining a comprehensive strategy from 2030 to 2050. The Philippines has become the third ASEAN country and the 56th globally to submit a NAP.



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