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16 JUNE 2023 [08:00 am]

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BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Reuters

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By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

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PILIPINO STAR

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By: Doris Franche-Borja

Inihayag ni Commissioner Albert dela Cruz ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) ang pagkakaroon ng climate change inspired movie na "THANKS FOR THE BROKEN HEART" na maaaring makatulong sa bansa at magiging inspirasyon upang labanan ang isyu sa climate change.

PTV

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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Average global temperatures at the start of June were the warmest the European Union's climate monitoring unit has ever recorded for the period, trouncing previous records by a "substantial margin", it said on Thursday.

The news comes as the El Nino climate phenomenon has officially arrived, raising fears of extreme weather and more temperature records.

"The world has just experienced its warmest early June on record, following a month of May that was less than 0.1 degrees Celsius cooler than the warmest May on record," said Samantha Burgess, deputy director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

"Global-mean surface air temperatures for the first days of June 2023 were the highest in the ERA5 data record for early June by a substantial margin", Copernicus said. Some of the unit's data goes back as far as 1950.

Copernicus recently announced that global oceans were warmer last month than in any other May on record.

The unit also said that at the beginning of June, global temperatures exceeded pre-industrial levels by more than 1.5C (34.7 degrees Fahrenheit), which is the most ambitious cap for global warming in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

According to the data, the daily global average temperature was at or above the 1.5C threshold between June 7-11, reaching a maximum of 1.69C above it on June 9.

While it is the first time the cap has been breached in June, this limit has been exceeded several times in winter and spring in recent years.

"Every single fraction of a degree matters to avoid even more severe consequences of the climate crisis", Burgess said.

El Nino, meaning "Little Boy" in Spanish, is marked by warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean near the equator.

The weather pattern last occurred in 2018-19 and takes place every 2-7 years on average.

Most of the warmest years on record have come during El Ninos, and scientists are concerned that this summer and next could see record temperatures on land and in the sea.

"As the current El Nino continues to develop there is good reason to expect periods in the coming twelve months during which the global-mean air temperature again exceeds pre-industrial levels by more than 1.5C", Copernicus said.

The monitoring unit is based in the German city of Bonn, where UN-led climate talks are taking place ahead of the COP28 climate summit set to be held in Dubai at the end of the year.

BUSINESS WORLD

[EU told to slash greenhouse gas emissions 90-95% by 2040](#)

By: Reuters

The European Union (EU) should commit to slash its net greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 95% by 2040, official advisers said on Thursday, as Brussels prepares a new goal to curb Europe's contribution to climate change.

The European Commission is drafting what would be the EU's first legally binding emissions-cutting target for 2040, aimed at guiding the world's third-biggest economy towards its aim to have zero net emissions by 2050.

The EU's advisory board on climate change said the goal should be a 90% to 95% cut in net emissions by 2040, compared with 1990 levels.

"The pathways and other analysis indicate numerous potential benefits to climate action — better air quality, better health outcomes, [becoming] less dependent on imported fossil fuels, less water stress," said Ottmar Edenhofer, who chairs the 15-member board of independent scientific experts.

The advisers assessed more than 1,000 emissions scenarios, to make a recommendation consistent with the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global warming to 1.5C — the level that would avert its worst climate impacts.

The advisors said reaching the 2040 goal would require a massive scale up of renewable energy, a shift to electrify polluting industries, and replacing fossil fuels with alternatives like hydrogen. Coal use in the power sector would be virtually eliminated by 2030, followed by gas power in 2040.

Methods to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere — through technologies or natural methods like trees — would need scaling up, but the advisors said the majority of the target should be met by reducing emissions outright.

The EU has among the most ambitious climate change policies of any major economy, having passed a raft of laws to deliver its 2030 target to cut net emissions by 55%, from 1990 levels.

But the advisors said even their recommended 2040 target would fall short of what should be the EU's "fair" contribution to meeting global climate goals, considering Europe's high per-capita historical emissions compared with poorer nations.

To address this fairness gap, EU countries should support other countries to cut their emissions, while slashing its own, the advisers said.

A European Commission spokesperson said the recommendation would feed into its own assessment of the 2040 target, which is due early next year.

[Marcos says attending UN climate change forum in Dec. also a chance to boost ties with UAE](#)

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. looks forward to attending a United Nations (UN)-led forum on climate change in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in December.

On Thursday, Mr. Marcos Jr. said the Philippines' vulnerability to climate change is a major consideration for his attendance at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP).

"I hope to be able to attend because climate change is a primordial issue when it comes to the Philippines. So, I hope that we will be able to attend," he told reporters on the sidelines of a Trade department event.

On Wednesday, UAE Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mohamed Obaid Salem Alqataam, who is pushing for an improved Philippines-UAE relations in terms of environmental and economic areas, invited Mr. Marcos to attend the event.

"Beyond the Conference of Parties is that we also want to fortify our ties with the UAE," Mr. Marcos said.

Last year, Greenpeace Philippines said as much as 80% of Manila could be submerged by 2030, potentially impacting 87% of its economic output.

Mr. Marcos, who vowed to work towards a shift to green energy, has yet to declare a climate emergency, which would authorize the government to mobilize funds to step up climate mitigation efforts.

The House of Representative made a declaration in 2019, but Greenpeace said last year that a "follow-through" from the National Government has yet to be seen.

The world's two biggest economies, the United States and China, have not declared a climate emergency. Similarly, only Singapore among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations has made a climate emergency declaration.

UAE TIES

Mr. Marcos, meanwhile, said improving ties with the UAE is highly needed mainly because of the significant number of Filipinos working in the Middle East's third largest economy.

“And they have been very welcoming. They have treated our people very well,” he said. They have protected them, and they have allowed them to make a living in the UAE.

Mr. Marcos, whose administration has been actively seeking partnerships with foreign entities, was accompanied by the UAE ambassador when he visited the victims of Mayon Volcano, one of the Philippines’ most active volcanoes.

The UAE has sent 51 tons of aid to families affected by Mayon’s latest unrest.

Albay province declared a state of emergency last week due to Mayon’s eruption, which has already displaced 18,000 people.

Mr. Marcos, speaking to reporters during the Thursday event, said that aside from cash assistance, affected residents might also be needing mental health support.

“We have to identify the problem and address it. And if it takes cash, then that’s well and good. But sometimes it’s not cash,” he said, noting that the impacts of Mayon’s eruption on education should also be discussed.

“These are other issues that are basically not quantifiable, but they are important. The issues of mental health of those children, even the parents, we need to think about because they are facing difficulties,” he said. “We have to give all the support that we can.”

MANILA BULLETIN

[WB approves PH's \\$750-M climate resilience loan](#)

By: Chino S. Leyco

The World Bank has approved Philippines' \$750-million fresh loan to support the government's reform program aimed at boosting environmental protection and climate resilience.

The Philippines First Sustainable Development Policy loan would be used to accelerate the country's economic recovery and boost long-term growth.

According to the World Bank, the new financing supports ongoing government reforms to attract private investment in renewable energy, enhance plastic waste management through reduction, recovery, and recycling, as well as promote green transport.

The World Bank loan also seeks to reduce climate-related fiscal risks from the agriculture sector.

Ndiamé Diop, World Bank Philippines country director, said the country has tremendous potential for renewable energy generation, especially in solar and wind.

"Government actions to encourage investments in this sector, such as promoting foreign direct investments and streamlining the permitting process, could unlock this potential," Diop said

He noted that renewable energy can help the Philippines mitigate climate change and bring numerous benefits, including enhanced energy security, the creation of green jobs, and improved access to electricity.

"It is a crucial step towards a more sustainable and resilient future for the country," he added.

The Philippine government has set an ambitious target of 50 percent of renewable energy (RE) in total power generation by 2040 and has started to pursue reforms to implement it, supported by this financing operation.

This increased focus on RE is pursued in parallel with slowing the expansion of coal-fired power generation capacity from 2026 onwards.

Achieving these targets will require a significant increase in investments in solar and wind technologies and a strong policy environment conducive to investment in RE.

“This financing program also supports the introduction of new insurance products suitable for vulnerable smallholder farmers and strengthens the coverage and operations of the Philippine Crop Insurance Commission,” World Bank said.

“The aim is to help mitigate climate-related disaster risks to the country's budget and the farming sector. If properly designed and targeted, crop insurance can help stabilize farm income, reduce poverty, and provide a climate safety net for food producers,” it added.

The Philippines, along with China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, accounts for 55 to 60 percent of the plastic waste that enters the ocean.

Approximately 1.7 million tons of post-consumer plastic waste is generated in the Philippines annually, with an estimated recycling rate of only 28 percent for recyclable plastic waste.

The remaining balance either leaks into the environment or is disposed of as part of the mixed waste stream.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PBBM keen on attending COP28 in Dubai](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday expressed his intent to attend the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government already invited Marcos to attend the COP28 that will take place at Expo City in Dubai on Nov. 30 to Dec. 12.

The invitation was extended to Marcos when UAE Ambassador to the Philippines Mohamed Obaid Salem Alqataam Al-Zaabi paid him a courtesy visit at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Tuesday.

“The ambassador came to see me beforehand, the day before and we were talking about precisely COP 28, I hope to be able to attend because climate change is a primordial issue when it comes to the Philippines. I hope that we’ll be able to attend,” Marcos told reporters on the sidelines of the International Trade Forum at the Shangri-La The Fort in Taguig City.

This year’s COP is expected to host over 70,000 delegates, including heads of state and world leaders to build consensus and facilitate progress on climate action among 198 countries, the European Union and thousands of non-government organizations, companies, youth groups and other stakeholders.

As host, the UAE is focused on providing practical and positive solutions that drive progress for climate and the economy, as well as relief and support to vulnerable communities.

Strengthening PH-UAE ties

Marcos said a visit UAE will further strengthen the Philippines’ ties with the Gulf state.

“Beyond the Conference of Parties is that we also want to fortify our ties with the UAE,” he said, as he acknowledged that many Filipinos are residing and working in the host country.

“And they have been very welcoming. They have treated our people very well. They have protected them and they have allowed them to make a living in the United Arab Emirates. So, that’s something that we hope to continue and even progress further,” Marcos added

UAE is home to over 700,000 Filipinos, with 450,000 of them based in Dubai.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DENR budget too small – Loyzaga](#)

By: Janine Alexis Miguel

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) does not have enough funds to carry its mandate, Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said Wednesday.

She lamented that her department's budget is too small to cover the areas that were assigned to them.

"Our place of work covers 30,000,000 hectares of land, over 36,000 kilometers of coastline. The fifth longest in the world and twice as long as the United States, and waters that extend to the edge of our continental shelves," Yulo-Loyzaga said during the Management Association of the Philippines General Meeting.

The DENR's budget this year is P23.29 billion, lower than last year's P25.4 billion.

Yulo-Loyzaga said the biggest threat to the environment is the unsustainable consumption and production practices that lead to the generation of too much waste.

"Confronting the complex roots of the pollution on land, seas and air requires a whole of society effort that will come at a cost but will have far-reaching benefits," she said.

Yulo-Loyzaga enumerated some of the interventions being done by the DENR to contribute to socioeconomic development, such as building resilient communities and supporting the advancement of innovations and best practices for mitigation and adaptation through nature-based and green-gray infrastructure solutions.

She said that while there has been some progress in the areas of climate action and disaster risk reduction, achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development is "very much a work in progress."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Greenpeace calls on DENR to scrap 'reprehensible' collab with fossil fuel firm](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should scrap its partnership with Shell Pilipinas Corp. and demand the fossil fuel company to pay reparations for contributing to the climate crisis, an environmental group said Thursday.

Greenpeace Philippines criticized the collaboration between the DENR and Shell to identify and develop nature-based solutions, calling it a “reprehensible partnership” and a “slap on the face” of Filipinos impacted by the climate crisis.

“[The DENR needs] to be reminded that their job is to be on the side of Filipino communities, not the companies who are responsible for climate change in the first place,” Greenpeace campaigner Khevin Yu said.

“Secretary [Antonia] Loyzaga should tell Shell that if they are sincere in helping the environment and people, they must stop fossil fuel expansion and pay Filipino reparations for losses and damages from climate impacts,” he added.

In a landmark report released in 2022, the Commission on Human Rights said the willful obfuscation of fossil fuel and cement companies of the risks posed by climate change and the obstruction for efforts toward a global transition to renewable energy are immoral.

The CHR report stemmed from the petition filed by civil society organizations and typhoon survivors in 2015, which asked the commission to investigate the responsibilities of carbon majors such as Shell, Chevron, Exxon, BP and Total for the economic and human costs caused by climate change.

In February, members of communities affected by fossil fuel operations and extreme weather events demanded climate reparations from Shell and other carbon majors—or the world’s most polluting companies.

'Greenwashing'?

“To the DENR [...] what kind of DENR do you want yourself to be remembered as? An agency that fought for the human right to a clean, safe, and healthy environment, or one that succumbed to the interests of a few and enabled the accelerated destruction of our planet?” said Jairus Ismael Chiu, a youth climate leader from Bohol.

Under the memorandum of agreement signed in May, the environment department and the oil and gas company will explore integrated carbon and development opportunities. They will document processes and activities that can be used as future reference in developing related programs and policies.

The collaboration is seen to support the government's ambitious National Greening Program through the restoration and protection of unproductive and denuded forestlands.

Loyzaga was quoted as saying in a Shell release that collaboration is "significant."

"We all have a stewardship role in terms of protecting our national resources, and we deeply value this opportunity to work together to achieve our goals for a climate and disaster-resilient country and planet," Loyzaga said.

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Sa ika-walong sunod na taon, muling nakatanggap ng 'unmodified opinion' ang Climate Change Commission (CCC) mula sa Commission on Audit (COA) para sa financial statement noong 2022.

Ayon kay CCC Vice Chairperson at Executive Director Robert Borje, ang resulta ng taunang audit report na ito ay sumasalamin sa commitment ng ahensya para sa financial transparency at accountability sa pagtugon sa pabago-bagong klima.

Sinabi ni Borje na ang pagkamit ng CCC ng 'unmodified opinion' ay nangangahulugang maayos at tapat ang paggasta nila ng pondo ng bayan.

Ibinida rin ng opisyal na sa nakalipas na walong taon ay epektibo nilang naibubuhos ang kanilang pondo sa mga istrategiya at inisyatibo na naglalayong tugunan ang climate change.

Dahil dito, higit pa aniya silang magsisikap para patuloy na makapagbigay ng serbisyong nararapat para sa mga mamamayan at maabot ang hangaring maging 'low-carbon' at 'climate-resilient' ang Pilipinas.

PILIPINO STAR

Climate Change Commission may advocacy movie

By: Doris Franche-Borja

Inihayag ni Commisioner Albert dela Cruz ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) ang pagkakaroon ng climate change inspired movie na “THANKS FOR THE BROKEN HEART” na maaaring makatulong sa bansa at magiging inspirasyon upang labanan ang isyu sa climate change.

Nakikipag-ugnayan na rin sila kay MTRCB Chairperson Lala Sotto para sa mga information and education aspects tungkol sa worldwide climate emergency issue.

“Lumagda din tayo today ng Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with MTRCB at Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas, Inc. (KSMBPI) on activates involving climate education and information,” ani Dela Cruz.

Maging sa mga private sector ay nakikipag-ugna-yan na ang CCC para sa isyu ng global climate change. Ang climate change inspired movie na pinamagatang “THANKS FOR THE BROKEN HEART” na kasali sa 2023 Manila Film Festival na mapapanood simula ngayong June 16, 2023 hanggang June 24, 2023 ay pinagbibidahan nina Lance Raymundo at 2022 Miss Glamour-look Philippines Gerlaine Silva.

PTV

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Hinikayat ng Pilipinas ang mga delgado ng 58th Session of Subsidiary Body on Climate Change o SB58 na pag ibayuhin pa ang kampanya laban sa climate change.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa SB58 na idinaos sa Bonn, Germany sinabi ni Secretary Robert Borje ng Climate Change Commission na kabilang ang Pilipinas sa nakakaranas ng matinding epekto ng climate change.

Sa katunayan sa nakalipas na dekada umabot sa labindalawang bilyon dolyar ang naitalang pinsala nito sa Pilipinas. Lumalawak din ang epekto at pinsala nito sa SouthEast Asia at sa buong mundo.

Kaugnay nito tiniyak ng kalihim na ginagawa ng Pilipinas ang bahagi nito sa paglaban sa Climate Change. Isa aniya sa top priority ng adminstrasyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ang pagtugon sa climate change at mga epekto nito.

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