



NEWS ROUNDUP

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By: PR Mines and Geosciences Bureau

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Mimaropa conducted a lecture-workshop on Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP), and disaster and emergency planning for vulnerable sectors on June 15-16 at the Bayview Park Hotel in Manila.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[DBP bankrolls pioneering smart waste treatment facility in Cebu](#)

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has granted a PHP66.7-million funding support to a waste management firm for the construction of the only fully-integrated waste treatment and disposal facility at the Mactan Economic Zone I (MEZ) in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, a top official said.

[DENR, private firm commit to protect native trees](#)

By: Mary Judaline Partlow

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR 7) in Central Visayas region and geothermal power leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to propagate and protect trees, particularly the endangered species.

THE MANILA TIMES

['Climate change raises risk of mosquito-borne diseases'](#)

By: Associated Press

European Union officials warned on Thursday that there was a growing risk of mosquito-borne viral diseases, such as dengue and chikungunya, in the continent because of climate change.

LPA may develop inside PH – Pagasa

By: Arlie O. Calalo

A low pressure area (LPA) may develop inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) in the coming days due to the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), the state-run weather bureau said on Thursday.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[How climate change fuels extreme heat](#)

By: Sara Hussein, Agence France-Presse

Heatwaves across Asia and beyond have already broken records this year, while the arrival of the El Nino climate phenomenon will mean even more extreme temperatures.

Here AFP looks at how climate change produces extreme heat, how scientists evaluate heatwaves and the risks to human health:

What is extreme heat?

Extreme heat is defined from a baseline of the average temperature in any one location, which varies widely across the world.

So a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) could be record-breaking in parts of Canada in spring, but might be below average for the same period in the Middle East.

What role does climate change play?

"Greenhouse gases trapping heat are at the root of the problem," said Martin Jucker, a lecturer at the University of New South Wales' Climate Change Research Centre.

Gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide play a crucial role in stopping heat from being reflected or lost from our atmosphere.

When this process is balanced, it keeps the planet at a livable temperature.

But an unsustainable increase in the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere means more heat is being trapped, creating an overall global warming effect and other climate anomalies.

For example, warming air holds more moisture, which produces stronger and more frequent storms.

Overall, climate change is strengthening the duration, intensity and geographical reach of heatwaves, scientists say.

What about human interventions?

The problem is made worse in some places by the way cities are built -- the so-called heat island effect, where urban conglomerations are warmer than surrounding rural areas.

This happens because cities with too little greenery and too much concrete, asphalt and other building materials absorb heat and often offer insufficient shade.

The use of cooling technologies like air conditioners creates surging demand for energy, including the fossil fuels that are behind the climate crisis in the first place.

Are all heatwaves linked to climate change?

To determine climate change's role in any given event, experts use a technique called attribution science.

They simulate a world with and without climate change, using historical and more recent measurements, or computer models.

Comparing the two then "gives us a measure of how much more likely a given extreme is under climate change", Jucker told AFP.

Findings for over 500 events have been collected by the organization Carbon Brief, with most shown to have been made more severe or more likely because of climate change.

Just a handful, including some floods, droughts and extreme cold, have been found to have no clear link to human activity, while in other cases experts found the evidence inconclusive.

"Every heatwave in the world is now made stronger and more likely to happen because of human-caused climate change," according to Friederike Otto, a scientist at Imperial College London and pioneer of attribution methodology.

How does extreme heat affect people?

Exposure to higher-than-normal temperatures produces health problems ranging from heatstroke and dehydration to cardiovascular stress.

Those with pre-existing heart conditions are especially vulnerable, as the body's response to heat is to pump more blood to the skin to help with cooling.

Risk is also unevenly distributed, with the elderly and the unwell more vulnerable, and those who work outdoors or live in places without air conditioning more likely to suffer.

The deadliest heat combines soaring temperatures with high humidity -- the moist air undermines the body's ability to cool off by sweating.

In May, a study warned a fifth of the world's population would be exposed to extreme and potentially life-threatening heat by the end of the century on our current climate track.

"For every 0.1C of warming above present levels, about 140 million more people will be exposed to dangerous heat," the study published in Nature Sustainability warned.

CNN PHILIPPINES

PAGASA may declare start of El Niño next week

Filipinos should prepare for El Niño as the state weather bureau said Thursday it may declare the start of the phenomenon next week.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) raised the El Niño Alert status last month as it expects the phenomenon to emerge in the following months starting June.

The El Niño Alert status is raised when present conditions show that the development of the phenomenon in the next two months has a probability of 70% or more.

“Possible po na sa ating climate forum maybe around next week, or the last Wednesday of the month, possible po na mag-declare na rin tayo ng El Niño,” PAGASA weather forecaster Patrick del Mundo told CNN Philippines.

[Translation: It's possible that during our climate forum, maybe around next week or the last Wednesday of the month, it is possible that we declare the start of El Niño.]

El Niño refers to the warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. It may cause below-normal rainfall conditions, which could negatively affect some parts of the Philippines, PAGASA said.

Dry spells and droughts may be experienced in the country, the bureau added.

Del Mundo said one of the parameters in declaring the onset of El Niño is the sea surface temperature of the Pacific Ocean.

As of May, he noted, the temperature was still negative.

Once El Niño hits, Del Mundo said the southern and eastern parts of the country will experience dry condition.

The phenomenon will also cause stronger rains, specifically over the west part of the country, he added.

MIDDLE EAST EYE

[Cop28: Activists gather outside UAE's London embassy to protest climate conference](#)

By: Martha Harrison

Human rights activists came together in London on Monday to protest against the decision to hold the Cop28 climate conference in the United Arab Emirates.

The event organised by ALQST, which monitors human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab countries, took place outside the UAE's embassy and was attended by activists from FairSquare, Amnesty International, PEN International and the MENA Solidarity Network.

"Having the world climate conference happen in a country that contributes majorly to the climate crisis is just a farce. It renders the event farcical," Julia Legner, executive director of ALQST, told Middle East Eye.

There are concerns that the petrostate's own economic interests will inhibit it from making any real progress in the fight against climate change.

In a speech given at the protest, James Lynch, founding co-director of FairSquare rights group, said: "The UAE autocracy is funded and fuelled by fossil fuels, so there is an inextricable link between fossil fuels and the autocracy of the UAE. The UAE will fight to keep fossil fuel on the agenda, to preserve its own power."

In a widely criticised move, Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, the CEO of the UAE's national oil company, Adnoc, has been appointed president of this year's summit.

He has been outspoken about the need to phase out emissions from oil and gas production, but has not committed to phasing out the UAE's production and use - something criticised by Amnesty International.

Experts at Climate Action Tracker, an independent scientific project, have concluded that the UAE's plan for an increase in fossil fuel production and consumption is inconsistent with limiting global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the overarching goal of the 2016 Paris Agreement.

Monday's protest not only focused on the UAE's climate policies, but also its poor human rights record.

The event started by marking the two-year anniversary of Alaa al-Siddiq's death in a road accident. She was ALQST's former executive director and a prominent Emirati human rights defender.

Her father, Mohammed al-Siddiq, remains detained in the UAE despite his prison term having expired in April 2022. He was convicted as part of a 2013 trial dubbed the "UAE 94", which saw 94 lawmakers, professors, activists and students who had petitioned for democratic reforms tried for plotting to overthrow the government.

The event then ended with the handing over of a petition to the embassy in support of prisoners of conscience still being held in the UAE.

Speakers at the protest expressed fears that the UAE's restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly will prevent the free participation of civil society in the conference, threatening its success.

Lynch said this Cop conference comes at "a really pressing moment in the fight against climate change", and needs to be directed by a presidency that "is trusted, and that is genuine in its intentions to ensure a real dialogue".

"But what we have instead is a Cop presidency that has proved itself, as a state, closed off to perspectives that it doesn't agree with," he added.

Lynch told MEE: "Anyone who has tried to dissent has either been put in prison, or forced to go into exile, or has seen what the red lines are and has completely stopped any even mild criticism of the state."

Reflecting on Cop27, held last year in Egypt amid a brutal government crackdown on dissent, he added: "The UAE is going to make Egypt look almost pluralistic in the way that the Cop runs."

MONGABAY

Climate change and moisture recycling in the Amazon

By: Timothy J. Killeen

Starting in the 1990s, ecosystem ecologists and atmospheric scientists in the Brazilian space agency embarked on a sophisticated collaboration with NASA and other international research institutions; their goal was to understand and model the interactions between the atmosphere, the ocean and the forest ecosystem.

They collected data using instruments mounted on satellites, airborne platforms and canopy towers, a collaboration that discovered how cyclical anomalies in ocean temperatures, such as El Niño/La Niña, drive the decadal-scale droughts and floods that impact the Amazon. Their most important finding was to elucidate how tropical forests recycle water between the surface and the upper troposphere via a process known as 'deep convection'; sometimes referred to as a 'biotic pump'; this natural system maintains the high precipitation that defines the Amazon rainforest.

The impacts of deforestation, forest fragmentation and forest degradation are all weakening water recycling, and this is enhancing the intensity and frequency of seasonal and interannual drought. The risk is particularly acute in the Southern Amazon, a climatic transition zone where subtle shifts in ecological succession can determine whether a landscape is dominated by forest or savanna species. When and if a forest community is established, feedback mechanisms will reinforce the biotic pump, which favors an equilibrium state that supports the maintenance of rainforest. A rapid transition to a non-forest equilibrium can occur if a key environmental factor, such as drought, wildfire or logging, passes a threshold that alters the microclimate that favors forest species. When that occurs, rainforest trees suffer high rates of mortality and are replaced by species adapted to open savanna-like conditions.

Climate models show that drought in the Amazon will become both more frequent and intense, while higher temperatures increase stress on tropical trees. There is increasing concern that the Southern Amazon could suffer from two or more consecutive years of drought, which could trigger a large-scale forest dieback of cataclysmic proportions. Known as the 'tipping point hypothesis', it is a clarion call of the dangers from uncontrolled deforestation, illegal logging and the indiscriminate use of fire by small farmers and ranchers. The impact of a collapsing forest ecosystem would extend well beyond the loss of biodiversity in the remnant forest of the Southern Amazon because it would signal a dramatic reduction in rainfall across the region – and beyond.

The most economically significant discovery of recent years grew out of a collaboration between meteorological agencies to integrate the subregional manifestations of the annual wet and dry seasons into a common continental-scale climate system. Christened the South American Monsoon (SAM), it mediates the flow of water from the Atlantic Ocean westward across the Amazon, south along the base of the Andes and, eventually, southeast into the subtropical landscapes of Bolivia, Paraguay, Central Brazil and Northern Argentina. The combination of the water recycling driven by deep convection within the Amazon and the distribution of water across the continent by the SAM directly links the productivity of one of the planet's most important bread baskets – and the economic health of four nations – with the conservation of the Amazon rain forest.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Consumer group urges gov't to 'harmonize' rules on e-bikes

By: Gabriel Pabico Lalu

The consumer group CitizenWatch Philippines wants government agencies to “harmonize” existing policies on electric bikes (e-bikes) to remove conflicting rules.

The conflicting rules have frustrated efforts for the country to shift to more environment-friendly transportation, the group said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

“Clearly there is demand. Our inadequate mass transportation system, the high cost of fuel, and the desire of an increasing number of Filipinos to do more for the environment are making them look at other options to get themselves from Point A to Point B,” former Quezon City Rep. Christopher Belmonte, who is a CitizenWatch co-convenor, said.

“There needs to be a review of existing regulations that need to be updated and harmonized with the government’s sustainability agenda wherein shifting towards zero emissions is not just a national but a global strategy to prevent the catastrophic effects of climate change. The government, the stakeholders of the EV (electric vehicle) industry, and local governments need to iron out these policy kinks to accelerate the shift to green transportation modes,” he added.

‘Conflicts must be resolved’

Belmonte was referring to the inconsistencies in the national scope and the local government unit’s purview of existing policies on EVs like electric bikes.

As an example, Belmonte noted how e-bike users were confused about Mandaluyong City’s policy about banning e-motorcycles and e-bikes on Boni Avenue.

Many observers feel that this goes against the government’s push for EVs. But at the same time, the implementing rules and regulations of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA) signed in 2022 allows local government units to impose their own policies on EVs.

“This conflict must be resolved at the soonest possible time,” Belmonte said. “Prohibiting e-bikes on main roads unfairly penalizes e-bike users from using these public roads.”

Environmental activists seek reparations from ‘Global North’

By: Sofia Abrogar

Some activists flocked to the Embassy of France in Makati City on Thursday. They were demanding financial reparations from highly industrialized nations they referred to as “Global North.”

The demonstrators said these countries are responsible for the climate crisis that hounds developing countries like the Philippines.

The protest was meant to coincide with the first day of the Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in France.

The campaign was one of seven protests held across Asian countries by several organizations.

These groups were Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), women’s group Oriang, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), Sanlakas party-list, and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

Advocates said the new agreement that is being discussed by world leaders will only translate to more debts for small economies.

“In the midst of the multiple crises that are pushing billions of people into extreme poverty and the planet over disastrous tipping points, we are witnessing the rise of flawed and deceptive initiatives that claim to address the need for financial solutions to support developing countries,” said Lidy Nacpil, APMDD coordinator.

“Patuloy [ang] pamamayagpag ng dirty financing na sila mismo ang nakikinabang, habang tayong mga nasa Global South ay patuloy na taga-salo lang ng mga krisis na ito,” she went on.

(The prevalence of dirty financing that benefits only them persists, while we in the Global South continue to catch these crises.)

“Kada bumabagyo, kada may bagyong Yolanda, bagyong Paeng, bagyong Ondoy, sino ang nahihirapan? Tayo di ba?” asked PMCJ’s Jericho Robles.

(When it storms, when there is a typhoon Yolanda, typhoon Paeng, or typhoon Ondoy, who suffers? It’s us, right?)

“The conversation (in Paris) is not about pity from wealthy nations. It is about justice,” he said.

Rich countries can be fined 170 trillion US dollars in climate reparations by 2050, according to a June 5 study published in the scientific journal Nature Sustainability.

The research also showed only 23 wealthy nations are responsible for half of all gas emissions worldwide.

In addition, a November 2022 study by anti-poverty body Oxfam International revealed only 125 billionaires are responsible for one million times more greenhouse gas emissions that an average person can inflict on the environment.

The activists called on governments of wealthy nations such as France, Canada, United States, and Japan to own up to their part in the global crisis.

This they may do through financial reparations, demanded the protesters.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[MGB Mimaropa holds workshop on Public Service Continuity Plan for vulnerable sectors](#)

By: PR Mines and Geosciences Bureau

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Mimaropa conducted a lecture-workshop on Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP), and disaster and emergency planning for vulnerable sectors on June 15-16 at the Bayview Park Hotel in Manila.

In his message, MGB Mimaropa Regional Director Glenn Marcelo C. Noble emphasized the importance of activities such as this, acknowledging that no one is going to be spared when the disaster comes.

Marc Rembrandt P. Victore, Civil Defense Officer III and OIC of the DRRM Division of the Office of Civil Defense Mimaropa, oriented the participants with the basic principles on how to develop a public service continuity management system to ensure that the organization can continue to perform its essential functions, and resume its delivery of vital public services even during disruptive events.

During the breakout sessions, MGB personnel worked on the drafting of the essential parts of the PSCP in line with the Bureau's core values, mandate, vision, and mission in support of the programs to promote sustainable mineral resources development.

MGB employees also crafted the plans for the office's disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures; energy efficiency and conservation program; and activities for the youth, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The programs and activities are also centered on ensuring the safety and well-being of the employees and stakeholders, especially those belonging to most at-risk population (including senior citizens, pregnant women, or those with underlying conditions or comorbidity).

Pursuant to National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Memorandum No. 33 s. 2018 and Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 2, s. 2021, all government agencies are enjoined to develop their own PSCP to ensure the continuous delivery of essential services during an emergency, disaster, or any other disruptions.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[DBP bankrolls pioneering smart waste treatment facility in Cebu](#)

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has granted a PHP66.7-million funding support to a waste management firm for the construction of the only fully-integrated waste treatment and disposal facility at the Mactan Economic Zone I (MEZ) in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, a top official said.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Michael O. de Jesus said the bank's support to Pacific Mactan Renewable Environmental Systems, Inc. (PMRESI), was made under the flagship Sustainable Waste Management for Enhanced Environmental Protection Financing Program (SWEEP) program that would establish a pacesetter smart waste management and energy recovery system for more than 200 firms within the MEZ area.

"DBP recognizes the importance of building sustainable infrastructure to further accelerate environmental protection and economic growth in the country," De Jesus said in a news release on Thursday.

"Through this undertaking, we bolster commitment to support innovative technologies and approaches that would advance efficient solid waste management systems and practices," he added.

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

PMRESI is the local subsidiary of Canada-based EnEco WTE Pacific Inc., that pioneered the entry of a waste gasifier technology in the Philippines called Thermal Oxidation Process System (TOPS).

De Jesus said the MEZ waste treatment facility is the first to employ the TOPS gasifier technology that uses a thermal gasification/oxidation process to decompose carbon-based components of waste and reduce its volume by 97 percent.

He said the project, which will employ an integrated pollution prevention and control system, has been granted the first-ever Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Statement and Report by the Department of Science and Technology, which attests the legitimacy, scalability and application of the technology.

“Through this project, DBP is scaling up its programs in support of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority’s greening of ecozones program and the National Government’s Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act of 1990,” De Jesus said.

DBP Senior Vice President and Head of Development and Resiliency Sector Carolyn Ofindo said the loan will partially finance the construction of a 2000-square-meter hazardous waste treatment facility and the acquisition of waste-water treatment equipment.

She said the facility is seen to produce carbon-free ash which can be used as a concrete additive and donated to nearby municipalities for their construction needs and generate additional power from waste product treatment.

Ofindo added that the project is expected to expand its operations through the supply of renewable energy in the near future.

“As of April 2023, DBP has approved a total loan amount of PHP435.6-million under the SWEEP program,” Ofindo said. “DBP will be ready to provide the necessary funding support to projects that will help protect the environment and address climate change.”

DENR, private firm commit to protect native trees

By: Mary Judaline Partlow

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR 7) in Central Visayas region and geothermal power leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to propagate and protect trees, particularly the endangered species.

The commitments were made during the relaunch of the state-of-the-art Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMR) Facility and the early celebration of Arbor Day at the EDC Ticala Admin Complex in Barangay Caidiocan, Valencia town.

DENR 7 regional executive director Paquito Melicor stressed the need for partners from other sectors to succeed in its environmental protection and preservation programs, such as reforestation and tree planting and growing, as government cannot do it alone.

“If we rely on government alone, di gyud kaya (it is quite difficult), and it is only possible when there are partners like this, such as EDC, the Negros Oriental Chamber of Commerce and Industry, local government units, and partner organizations, when it comes to planting trees not only in our forests but also in our respective areas,” he said.

Tree-planting is a regular advocacy, and many people may already get tired of it, but this is something to be done every year to protect the environment.

Melicor pointed out that the VMR automated nursery is timely because of the government’s policy prohibiting the planting of exotic and invasive species in protected areas.

Only native and indigenous tree species are allowed for planting in these protected areas, he said, noting that in the past, many efforts were focused on the fast-growing species like mahogany and gmelina but the government is now moving away from that.

One of the hitches, however, is that native trees like lauan have a longer cycle before they bear fruit and seeds but with the VMR facility that paves way for faster reproduction of seedlings, the normal cycle of about five to 10 years may be lessened, he added.

For his part, lawyer Allan Barcena, EDC’s Assistant Vice President and head of Corporate Relations and Communications, said the relaunching of the VMR strengthened their commitment to continue greening Negros Island through their BINHI program.

"The VMR reinforces our commitment to propagating Philippine endemic tree species like EDC Negros' flagship species, the Red Lauan," Barcena said.

BINHI is EDC's banner environmental program and one of its main goals is to "mainstream and bring back Philippine endangered native tree species to abundance," he said.

"We are working on achieving this goal with a complete value chain that addresses the extinction of these precious Philippine trees," he added.

Propagating tree seedlings is crucial to forest restoration but one challenge is that some of the forest species are sensitive to grow and propagate, Barcena said.

Last year, the DENR through its Biodiversity Management Bureau and EDC renewed its commitment through a memorandum of agreement for the VMR nursery and the reproduction of native tree species to protect them from threat or extinction.

To date EDC has already produced more than one million seedlings of native tree species through this nursery and has established propagation protocols for 67 threatened tree species like Tindalo, Molave, Yakal, Almaciga, Kamagong, among others. The documentation of its propagation research still continues to this day.

The company now has over 200 BINHI partners from 16 regions all over the country and has pledged to keep on planting and nurturing native trees in addition to the 6.8 million seedlings that the company has already planted since 2008.

More than 2.5 million of these were planted on over 3,000 hectares in Negros Island with the help of EDC's over 30 BINHI local partners.

Meanwhile, in celebration of Arbor Day this Sunday, EDC and DENR officials and partners from the LGU, youth groups, and host barangays, planted native trees at a mini-forest in SNGP complex in Ticala.

THE MANILA TIMES

'Climate change raises risk of mosquito-borne diseases'

By: Associated Press

European Union officials warned on Thursday that there was a growing risk of mosquito-borne viral diseases, such as dengue and chikungunya, in the continent because of climate change.

The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said that because Europe was experiencing a warming trend, with heat waves and flooding becoming more frequent and severe, and summers getting longer and warmer, the conditions were more favorable for invasive mosquito species, such as *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*.

The Stockholm, Sweden-based agency said in a report that *Aedes albopictus* was a known vector of chikungunya and dengue viruses, and had been establishing itself farther north and west in Europe. The other mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, known to transmit dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, zika and West Nile viruses, has been established in Cyprus since 2022 and may spread to other European countries.

A decade ago, the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito was established in eight European countries, with 114 regions affected. This year, the mosquito is established in 13 countries and 337 regions, the ECDC said.

"If this continues, we can expect to see more cases and possibly deaths from diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and West Nile fever," ECDC Director Andrea Ammon said. "Efforts need to focus on ways to control mosquito populations, enhancing surveillance and enforcing personal protective measures."

Before, the diseases were imported from abroad, but "now we have domestically acquired cases," she told an online news conference.

The agency said ways to control mosquito populations included eliminating standing water where mosquitoes breed, using eco-friendly larvicides and promoting community awareness about mosquito control.

To protect themselves, people can use mosquito bed nets, sleep or rest in screened or air-conditioned rooms, wear clothes that cover most of the body and use mosquito repellent, the ECDC said.

Raising awareness about diseases transmitted by mosquitoes is essential, it added.

There is no specific treatment for dengue. While about 80 percent of infections are mild, severe cases can lead to internal bleeding, organ damage and death.

Chikungunya fever, a debilitating disease that is suspected of afflicting tens of thousands, was first identified in Africa in 1953. It causes severe pain in the joints, but is rarely fatal. There is no vaccine and it is mainly treated with pain medication.

Ammon said 1,339 locally acquired cases of West Nile infections, including 104 deaths, were reported in Europe in 2022, the highest number since an epidemic in 2018.

West Nile fever symptoms can include headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. People with it typically recover on their own, although symptoms may last for weeks to months.

LPA may develop inside PH – Pagasa

By: Arlie O. Calalo

A low pressure area (LPA) may develop inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) in the coming days due to the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), the state-run weather bureau said on Thursday.

"We are not ruling out the chances of a formation of an LPA inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility in the coming days caused by ITCZ," weather specialist Patrick del Mundo of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

He said the weather system – an imaginary line where the air from the northern and southern hemisphere meets – has been bringing overcast skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Palawan, Southern Leyte, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao and Caraga Region.

Along with the localized thunderstorms, the ITCZ is also affecting Metro Manila and the rest of the country where partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated downpours or thunderstorms may prevail over the next 24 hours, the state weather bureau said.

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