



## NEWS ROUNDUP

27 JUNE 2023 [ 08:00 am]

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### ABS CBN

#### [Marcos calls on Filipinos and gov't to protect forests amid 'mismanaged resources'](#)

By: Job Manahan

President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. on Monday urged Filipinos, the government, and the private sector to protect the country's remaining forest cover as he criticized "mismanaged resources."

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Building a resilient and sustainable Philippines](#)**

By: Benedicta Du-Baladad

For its June 14 general membership meeting at the Shangri-La The Fort, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) invited Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to discuss the national priorities on environment, natural resources and climate change.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Powering a transition towards energy security](#)**

By: Bjorn Biel M. Beltran

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## **CNN**

### **[Humans approaching limits of 'survivability' as sweltering heatwaves engulf parts of Asia](#)**

By: Rhea Mogul

Heavy showers blanketed northern India over the weekend, offering some much needed respite from a blistering heatwave that ravaged the region. But with mercury levels expected to remain high in other areas, the soaring heat has highlighted how millions in the world's most populous nation are among the most vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **[First Balfour plans electric vehicle system in FPIP](#)**

By: Ruelle Castro

First Balfour is looking at putting up an electric vehicle (EV) system in sister company's First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP) in Batangas that will include a charging infrastructure powered by renewable energy.

## PCO

### [PBBM: Gov't can replicate Ilocos Norte forest program to ensure sustainability](#)

The country can adopt a forest management concept developed in Ilocos Norte to ensure the sustainability of forest projects in the Philippines, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Monday.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Scientists warned of global warming, but 'we didn't listen,' says Marcos](#)

By: Jean Mangaluz

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. lamented the public’s disregard for scientists’ warnings on climate change dangers on Monday.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Partnerships with LGUs, stakeholders, vital in reforestation](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is encouraging local government units (LGUs), the academe, private sector, and other stakeholders to achieve its targeted prioritization of one million hectares of classified forest areas for afforestation and reforestation.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

## JOURNAL ONLINE

### [Aboitiz Group links with CCC to build climate-resilient communities in Toledo, Cebu](#)

Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV), Aboitiz Power Corp. (AboitizPower) subsidiary Therma Visayas, Inc. (TVI), AEV Sustainability Team, and Aboitiz Foundation have joined forces with the Climate Change Commission, the Toledo City, Cebu local government, Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-PAGASA, and the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), with the vision to help create resilient, disaster-ready, and climate-smart communities.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[PH elected co-chair of OECD forum on carbon mitigation approaches](#)**

The Philippines was elected as co-chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Inclusive Forum on Carbon Mitigation Approaches (IFCMA), an initiative to assess the impacts of national mitigation interventions on global greenhouse gas emissions.

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## **SUNSTAR**

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## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Toledo holds climate change workshop](#)**

By: Jenica Faye Garcia

THE Aboitiz Group has collaborated with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to craft a Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) that would build climate-resilient communities in Toledo, Cebu.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**[Marcos calls on Filipinos and gov't to protect forests amid 'mismanaged resources'](#)**

By: Job Manahan

President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. on Monday urged Filipinos, the government, and the private sector to protect the country's remaining forest cover as he criticized "mismanaged resources."

Marcos said environmental preservation and awareness on issues on this "are critical in nurturing a deeper consciousness among our people as well as in addressing the problems caused by climate change and the centuries of mismanaged resources."

"The protection and rehabilitation of biodiversity within and around our shores will be immensely influential in shaping our destiny as a nation," Marcos said during the 160th anniversary of the Philippine forestry service.

"We have had many warnings over decades by scientists saying unless we change our habits, unless we change our lack of sensitivity to our environment, there will be global warming, there will be climate change, unfortunately we did not listen," the President added.

"The world that we have today and that we face is a very different world from what we came into. And the importance of the environment, the importance of biodiversity has become clearer and clearer."

The President said the answer to issues surrounding the environment is Philippines' remaining forest land, citing how this data is used by firms and the international community.

Marcos had described the country's forest cover as a "valuable asset," and earlier said it could be monetized.

"We are able to determine that this can be in exchange of carbon emissions in another place," he said, referring to the country's available forest cover.

"This is a kind of new concepts being developed so that we can be very clear and make it easy to those who are taking care of our forest lands to feel not only a benefit for doing the right thing but also an economic benefit," he added.

Because of these, the Chief Executive said Filipinos should be conscious in taking full advantage of resources in order to protect forest land.

"I continue to call on the DENR, other agencies, the private sector, and even the public to work together in connecting, preserving, and managing our limited resources," he said.

Before the event proper, Marcos led the tree planting ceremony in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) compound, which symbolizes his belief that "there is no greater shared responsibility than the care for our environment."

The DENR said aside from molave being useful and having a high-level resistance to termites and other pests, it also has "exceptional strength and durability."

As of 2020, Philippines has more than 7.2 million hectares of forest cover, the DENR said.

Forestry contributes to the country through exports. In 2021, the agency the country was able to produce 827,000 cubic meters of logs and 138,000 cubic meters of lumber.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **Building a resilient and sustainable Philippines**

By: Benedicta Du-Baladad

For its June 14 general membership meeting at the Shangri-La The Fort, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) invited Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to discuss the national priorities on environment, natural resources and climate change.

In the meeting, Secretary Loyzaga urged the private sector and businesses to support the government's efforts on building an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Philippines.

"There is no question that the preservation of the environment is the preservation of life," Secretary Loyzaga said, opening her statement with a quote from the President.

The future risks on the economy are being predicted to be environmentally instigated, therefore, the government should elevate its efforts in preserving and efficiently utilizing the country's natural resources.

According to Secretary Loyzaga, their agenda in fulfilling the DENR's mandate of risk-managing, and resilience-building in all natural domains, is to pursue a green and blue economy that will be a gateway in establishing livable and sustainable communities.

"In sum, our priorities are to protect, conserve, restore and regenerate the ecosystems that serve as the life support of human, social, and economic development," she added.

Among the biggest threats that the environment is facing are unsustainable consumption and practices that lead to the production of polluting waste. "This is where our partnerships would not only be strategic but critical for survival," the DENR Secretary pointed out.

The implementation of the Extended Producer's Responsibility (EPR) Law has guided large enterprises to recover and divert their plastic footprint produced in 2022 by the end of 2023.

Secretary Loyzaga leveraged the MAP's general membership meeting for the business stakeholders to "come forward and do your share in partnerships" in managing plastic waste where some have already committed to and work alongside the DENR.

The DENR Secretary also cited that investments are needed in the research for the substitution of single-use plastic, unless there is already such a product with the same functionality and affordability.

Aside from this, the DENR also seeks partnerships and innovations to combat water and air pollution and are setting targets for expanding their capabilities for observation, monitoring and analytics.

“Water security is essential to food, energy and human security,” Secretary Loyzaga said. The resilience in this sector requires the assurance of supply, the robustness, responsiveness, and redundancy of delivery infrastructure and the careful management of demand through conservation, treatment, and reuse.

“Climate action for resilience is therefore everyone’s business,” she emphasized. The mitigation, adaptation, transparency-reporting, and task force guidelines of financial disclosures are needed in achieving a sustainable environment.

With this, the DENR participates in the green transition of the Philippines through:

1. Implementation of national determined contribution policies and measures;
2. Bolstering private sector investment in green development;
3. Ensuring a just transition of workers affected by structural changes;
4. Expanding market opportunities for low-carbon technologies; and,
5. Putting in place enabling policies on environmental safeguards and for offshore wind and floating solar energy projects.

Several enabling policy plans are already in place in support of this work such as a sustainable finance framework and roadmap, a national climate risk framework, a national disaster risk reduction management plan, and other innovative risk financing measures.

To accelerate the low-carbon economy transition, the DENR prioritizes:

- a. Pursuing a risk-based approach for sustaining and accelerating economic, social and environmental gains;



- b. Supporting the accounting of the Philippines' natural resources through the natural capital accounting system led by the National Economic and Development Authority or NEDA;
- c. Continuing strengthening the National Natural Resources Geospatial Database;
- d. Building resilient communities to risk-sensitive unbalanced land management;
- e. Combating climate emergencies through practical climate change adaptation measures through science, technology, traditional, and local knowledge; and,
- f. Supporting the advancement of innovations and best practices for co-benefits for mitigation and adaptation investments.

The DENR has also engaged with some companies in the private sector in co-benefits projects that include afforestation and reforestation for carbon sequestration on land through the voluntary carbon market.

The call for partners who go beyond environmental, social, and governance (ESG) is as much needed as ever. The DENR also seeks “partners who go beyond compliance to achieve strategic shared values and are committed to climate and disaster resilience within their core business value cycles.”

Secretary Loyzaga said that the priorities and the complexity of the future requires collaborative effort to “achieve coherence in all we do, convergence in what we can do together, and synergy.”

The DENR seeks collaboration with the MAP to address environment protection and explore opportunities in achieving a sustainable country with resilient communities:

1. Conservation of forests. The DENR looks at the possible projects that will help reforestation and afforestation. According to Secretary Loyzaga, there are opportunities to provide ecosystem services through afforestation, reforestation and for new value creation through the carbon market. These are new streams of income that different corporations can possibly explore in which some companies have already started.
2. Solid waste management. Secretary Loyzaga encourages MAP members to register for the EPR as it is extremely important to bring down the amount of solid waste that is being released into our environment. She also added that the corporations and organizations could be the messengers and implementers for the EPR Law.

3. Adopt local governments through Project Transform. The DENR's Project Transform involves the adoption of local governments by multiple stakeholders that have invested in their own business and other sustainability practices. These include the provision of sustainable livelihoods that are biodiversity-friendly. Secretary Loyzaga said that these types of projects bring together multiple stakeholders, experts, and corporate citizens to develop resilience in our communities.

This project, which is a carry-over from the work of the National Resilience Council, has already been implemented in Bataan, Ormoc City, and Baguio City, and the DENR calls for the support and consideration of the MAP members to participate.

#### APPEAL FOR MAP MEMBERS

As the President of MAP, I encourage all our members and the readers of this column to support the environmental protection initiatives identified by Secretary Loyzaga, most specially in solid waste management.

One very low-hanging fruit is to religiously practice waste recycling and segregation in our respective household and backyards. Another one is to stop patronizing single-use plastic.

To build a resilient and sustainable Philippines, a whole-of-society approach is highly critical. Everybody's help is extremely necessary as the future of our country faces various threats. We must all help protect our environment, communities, and ecosystems by contributing the best way we can.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **Powering a transition towards energy security**

By: Bjorn Biel M. Beltran

The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global recovery effort that came after, and then the sudden Russian invasion of Ukraine in February all led to a full-blown worldwide energy crisis that saw the prices of natural gas rise to record heights and that of oil to a level not seen since the 2008 financial crisis.

Not only did this push the most vulnerable groups and communities towards poverty; the economic growth has slowed to the point where some countries are on the verge of a catastrophic recession due to the rising cost of energy.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), many emerging economies — like the Philippines — are experiencing dramatically higher energy import expenditures and fuel shortages, while Europe's gas supply is particularly vulnerable due to its historic reliance on Russia.

“While today's energy crisis shares some parallels with the oil shocks of the 1970s, there are important differences. Today's crisis involves all fossil fuels, while the 1970s price shocks were largely limited to oil at a time when the global economy was much more dependent on oil, and less dependent on gas,” the IEA wrote on its website.

“The entire world economy is much more interlinked than it was 50 years ago, magnifying the impact. That's why we can refer to this as the first truly global energy crisis.”

The Philippines is experiencing its own energy crunch due to the declining Malampaya natural gas reserves that supply 30% of Luzon's energy needs.

To become energy independent, the Philippines must make the most of its current fossil fuels and renewable energy sources, but at the current rate of growth, the country will require an additional 43 gigawatts (GW) of capacity just to keep up with demand.

Fortunately, there is a way forward. As more people become averse to fossil fuels due to their role in hastening climate change, many nations including the Philippines are looking to renewable energy as a solution.

The IEA predicts that within the next five years, the global capacity for renewable energy (RE) will virtually quadruple, allowing it to surpass coal as the primary source of electricity generation.

Over the following five years, the IEA analysis sees renewables accounting for more than 90% of global electricity expansion, overtaking coal as the dominant source of electricity before the early years of 2025.

The government of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has already committed to the acceleration of the renewable transition to expand development of the country's domestic energy supply.

To be more specific, by 2030, the administration aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the power mix from its present 22% to 35%, and by 2040, to 50%. Currently, 22% of all electricity generation comes from RE sources.

The Department of Energy (DoE) is working towards a more sustainable energy future by instituting energy efficiency and conservation programs, encouraging the use of clean energy, and encouraging increased investment in renewable sources under the Philippine Energy Plan (EEP) 2020-2040.

One of the most recent big steps the agency has taken toward this goal is allowing for full foreign ownership in the RE industry. Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla revised the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 to permit the use of 100% foreign finance in RE projects. Section 19 of the IRR previously capped foreign investment at 40% of a given RE project.

This June, Mr. Lotilla welcomed local and international investors willing to partner with the country towards its goal.

BlueFloat Energy, a company based out of Spain with a portfolio of offshore wind projects totaling 32.4 GW of projected capacity in countries like Spain, France, Italy, Scotland, Australia, Portugal, and Taiwan, has recently declared its intention to enter the Philippine market by acquiring Wind Energy Service Contracts in four sites in the provinces of Bataan, Batangas, Cagayan and Ilocos, and Southern Mindoro.

BlueFloat's projected projects in the Philippines add up to 7.6 GW, making them the company's largest country-specific proposal.

To add 11,600 megawatts (MW) of RE capacity to the country's energy mix between 2024 and 2026, the DoE has received an overwhelmingly positive response for the Second Round of the Green Energy Auction (GEA-2) Program, with 118 pre-qualified enterprises.

“We are pleased with the positive response from local and foreign investors eyeing our RE potential. We are working on policies that would minimize roadblocks, especially for offshore wind (OSW) installations,” Mr. Lotilla said.

“In the coming weeks, the DoE will issue the policy and administrative framework for the optimal development of OSW resources, including speeding up the approvals of necessary permits. We are working with the concerned government agencies, local government units, and the transmission concessionaire to implement the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. under Executive Order (EO) No. 21,” the Secretary added.

EO 21 directs the DoE to publish the policy and administrative framework for the efficient and optimal development of OSW resources in the country within 60 days from its issuance. It aims to harmonize and streamline permitting processes and leasing fees under a whole-of-government approach and fully implement the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop System to cover all relevant government agencies and bureaus.

Mr. Lotilla added that investments in OSW from foreign companies would bring cutting-edge technology to further develop projects within the Philippines. More importantly, such companies will work with the various coastal host communities in enhancing the local livelihood opportunities and environmental protection.

The government also said that RE projects had taken center stage, with over 80% of investment being approved this year through the Board of Investments.

Through its Energy Utilization Management Bureau, the DoE recorded P6.8 billion worth of energy efficiency investments for the period of 2021-2022.

The data is based on Annual Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Annual Energy Consumption Reports submitted by the designated establishments, or private entities in the commercial, industrial, transport, power, agriculture, public works, and other sectors identified by the DoE as energy-intensive industries.

Energy-efficiency investments include projects that use energy-efficient technologies and practices, which include new installation, upgrading, or retrofitting specific equipment or devices such as lighting retrofit; automated lighting control system or smart control system; heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) upgrades; boiler replacement; and other similar devices or equipment.

The DoE also recorded increased investment in solar PV, variable frequency drives, cogeneration system, district cooling system, pumping system, HVAC system,

compressed air system, smart manufacturing system, and building energy management system.

**CNN**

[Humans approaching limits of 'survivability' as sweltering heatwaves engulf parts of Asia](#)

By: Rhea Mogul

Heavy showers blanketed northern India over the weekend, offering some much needed respite from a blistering heatwave that ravaged the region. But with mercury levels expected to remain high in other areas, the soaring heat has highlighted how millions in the world's most populous nation are among the most vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis.

The weekend downpour in Uttar Pradesh was a welcome change for the northern state of 220 million after temperatures in some areas soared to 47 degrees Celsius (116 Fahrenheit) last week, sickening hundreds with heat-related illnesses.

On Sunday, temperatures dropped acutely in Lucknow to around 32 degrees Celsius (87 Fahrenheit), as the capital, along with other cities, experienced the first rain during this year's monsoon season. Video broadcast on local television showed people getting soaked in the rain and commuters navigating waterlogged roads.

The rain in Uttar Pradesh is likely to continue this week, bringing cooler temperatures to the region. But in the neighboring state of Bihar, unrelenting heat has extended into its second week, forcing schools to shutter until Wednesday.

At least 44 people have died from heat-related illness across the state in recent weeks, a senior health official told CNN, but the number could be much higher as authorities struggle to accurately assess how many people have died from heatstroke.

Temperatures are expected to slightly cool over the coming days, according to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), however experts say the climate crisis is only going to cause more frequent and longer heatwaves in the future, testing India's ability to adapt.

"India has a history of dealing with heat... There are going to be millions affected," said Dr. Chandni Singh, Senior Researcher at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, adding the number of deaths that will be result from staggering heat depends on how prepared health systems are to deal with it.

"If health systems aren't functioning, when you don't have adequate emergency services, it will lead to (more deaths)," she said. "But what we know for certain is we are going to be approaching limits to survivability by mid-century."

India is not the only country in the region to experience such sweltering heat in recent weeks.

Temperatures in northeast China are expected to remain high in the coming days, with mercury levels rising above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in certain cities, according to its meteorological observatory.

In Pakistan's capital Islamabad, temperatures soared to 39 degrees Celsius (102 Fahrenheit) last week before weekend rain brought some relief to the region.

And studies warn the impact of extreme heat could be devastating.

Prolonged heat

India often experiences heatwaves during the summer months of May and June, but in recent years, they have arrived earlier and become more prolonged.

Last April, India experienced a heatwave which saw temperatures in capital New Delhi go beyond 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) for seven consecutive days. In some states, the heat closed schools, damaged crops and put pressure on energy supplies, as officials warned residents to remain indoors and keep hydrated.

India is among the countries expected to be worst affected by the climate crisis, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), potentially affecting 1.4 billion people nationwide.

And experts say the the cascading effects of this will be devastating.

A study published in April by the University of Cambridge said heatwaves in India are putting "unprecedented burdens" on India's agriculture, economy and public health systems, stalling efforts to reach its development goals.

"Long-term projections indicate that Indian heatwaves could cross the survivability limit for a healthy human resting in the shade by 2050," the study said. "They will impact the labor productivity, economic growth, and quality of life of around 310 - 480 million people. Estimates show a 15% decrease in outdoor working capacity during daylight hours due to extreme heat by 2050."

Singh said India has already taken steps to mitigate the impacts of high temperatures, including altering working hours for some outdoor workers and increasing heat education.



But the effects of extreme heat will impact our environment, energy consumption and eco-systems, she warned.

“Typically in a heatwave, you also see related water scarcity and droughts. You see the failure of the electricity grid. These risks start stressing the entire system,” she said. “Crop productivity will get affected. There will be huge impacts on other animals. When we come up with heat reduction plans, these are all things that are important to remember.”

#### Extremes of weather

India’s heatwave in the north came as heavy rain battered the country’s northeast, with pre-monsoon rain in Assam state triggering landslides and heavy flooding.

Nearly half a million people have been affected after heavy showers battered the region, turning roads into rivers and submerging entire villages. The rain in Assam came one week after after tropical cyclone Biparjoy hit India’s west coast, ripping trees and toppling electricity poles.

Elsewhere in the region, Pakistan also saw heavy rain in capital Islamabad over the weekend, bringing some relief from the high temperatures the week prior.

The rain may cause urban flooding in key cities, the country’s weather forecasting center said, advising farmers to manage their crops and encouraging travelers to remain cautious.

China is expected to see soaring temperatures across several cities, including capital Beijing.

Last week, Beijing’s temperature soared above 41 degrees Celsius (105.8 degrees Fahrenheit), setting a new record for the capital’s hottest day in June.

According to the country’s meteorological observatory, Beijing, Tianjin, Heibei, Shandong will “continue to be baked by high temperatures.”

## MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

### First Balfour plans electric vehicle system in FPIP

By: Ruelle Castro

First Balfour is looking at putting up an electric vehicle (EV) system in sister company's First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP) in Batangas that will include a charging infrastructure powered by renewable energy.

A joint venture between the Filipino conglomerate First Philippine Holdings (FPH) and Japanese conglomerate Sumitomo Corp., FPIP is one of the largest industrial parks in the Philippines, hosting more than 140 locators.

FPH is First Balfour's mother company as well.

"Aligning with our mission towards decarbonization, we are actively exploring opportunities in the electric vehicle space to be able to provide an integrated infrastructure and services to our customers, such as FPIP. In this context, IFC's expertise will help us develop highly relevant market solutions that will ultimately help us to contribute to our country's resilient future," said Anthony Fernandez, First Balfour president.

First Balfour is assisted by the International Finance Corp. (IFC) in conducting the assessments and viability studies for the infrastructure that is aimed at ramping up efforts to decarbonize the transport sector

"FPIP has been looking at ways to create a stronger, more efficient transportation system within and outside the industrial park, in a manner that is inclusive and beneficial to locators, current transport service providers, and the nearby communities. By participating in the assessments and viability studies, it can also obtain deeper insights on movements inside the park to develop appropriate transport strategies and other approaches to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the future," the IFC said.

IFC noted that while a growing number of businesses are looking to explore EV adoption to help green their operations in the Philippines, technical expertise is "thin" and successful business cases are few, especially those of significant scale.

"A huge investment opportunity over the next decade, electric vehicles are critical in the fight against climate change and can help reduce emissions, lower transport costs, and create thousands of green jobs. So, developing an efficient and thriving e-mobility ecosystem is crucial for the Philippines to meet its climate commitments," said Jean-Marc Arbogast, IFC Philippines country manager.

“The project will also help diversify FPIP and First Balfour’s infrastructure services and hopefully bring in new market players and spur the evolution of the local electric vehicle segment in the country,” he added.

## PCO

### [PBBM: Gov't can replicate Ilocos Norte forest program to ensure sustainability](#)

The country can adopt a forest management concept developed in Ilocos Norte to ensure the sustainability of forest projects in the Philippines, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Monday.

The Ilocos project, financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), involved tree planting, watershed development and cooperative organization.

Speaking during the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month, Philippine Arbor Day, and the 160th Anniversary of the Philippine Forestry Service held in Quezon City, President Marcos said that as long as people have a sense of ownership and belonging in forest preservation, Filipinos will do everything they can to preserve the ecology, forestland, and biodiversity.

“And the only way that we were able to guarantee that this will be a self-sustaining program, that once we leave, that those locals who live in those areas will actually take care of those trees was to give them a sense of ownership. And we did this simply by saying: ‘These trees are yours. It is up to you to take care of them. It is up to you to use them,’” the President explained.

“And I am happy to be able to report that those trees up to now are growing, are strong, and are continuing to cover a great deal of our forestland and now also the watershed developments that we had started. It is a model that we have to start – that might be a template.”

But it is only a starting point because there are so many different factors in play to make sure that the stakeholders are able to take full advantage of the resources that are available to them to preserve the country’s forestland and to give people a strong sense of ownership.

The President also made renewed call to the environment department, other agencies, the private sector, and the public to work together in protecting the country’s resources.

“I continue to call on the DENR, other agencies, the private sector, and even the public to work together in protecting, preserving, and managing our limited resources,” he said.

“I challenge everyone to carry a deep sense of pride and ownership of the lands that will continue to nurture and feed our nation for generations to come.”

The Philippine Forestry Service — now the Forest Management Bureau — has been on top of protecting and conserving the country's forests since 1863 and it is only right that Filipinos commemorate its anniversary to further inspire progress in preserving the trees and forests in the coming years.

During the occasion, the President planted a Molave tree at the DENR's Environmental Heroes Park.

The DENR is encouraging the public to plant native trees species throughout the country, particularly Molave, Narra and Mountain Agoho to recover and expand forest habitats for threatened native species of plants and animals, protect watershed and freshwater resources, and secure people's livelihood.

With the theme, 'Forest for Life', the 160th anniversary of the Philippine Forestry Service saw the 6th staging of Bike. Hike. Plant. (BHP) spearheaded by the DENR-Forest Management Bureau across the country.

The Spanish government established the Philippine Forestry Service in 1863 by, and was reorganized in 1899 under the government of president Emilio Aguinaldo.

In 1974, the late president Ferdinand E. Marcos issued the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, which created the Bureau of Forest Development. In 1987, the Forest Management Bureau was created through Executive Order No. 192.

Today, more than half of the Philippines' 15 million hectares of forestland is covered by forests and the country increased its forest cover by about 5 percent between 2010 and 2020.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Scientists warned of global warming, but 'we didn't listen,' says Marcos

By: Jean Mangaluz

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. lamented the public’s disregard for scientists’ warnings on climate change dangers on Monday.

During the 160th Anniversary of the Philippine Forestry Service (PFS) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Chief Executive talked about people’s neglect of the environment.

“We have had many warnings over the decades by scientists saying that unless we change our habits, unless we change our lack of sensitivity to our environment, there will be global warming. There will be climate change. Unfortunately, we didn’t listen,” he said.

“And now we are resigned to the one-a-half degrees Celsius increase in our global temperature and, perhaps, that might even reach two degrees celsius if we don’t do something about it,” he added.

According to Marcos, the Philippines must be very conscious of the environment since the country is very vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

“The world that we have today and that we face is a very different world than what we came to and the importance of the environment, of biodiversity, has become clearer and clearer,” said Marcos.

The President also led a tree-planting ceremony at the DENR.

He planted a Molave at the department grounds.

Molave is a widely-chosen tree for these occasions since it is strong and widely available.

Also in attendance at the event were House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, and Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga.

PFS was formed during the Spanish colonization era.

It was later restructured and absorbed by DENR.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### Partnerships with LGUs, stakeholders, vital in reforestation

By: Marita Moaje

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is encouraging local government units (LGUs), the academe, private sector, and other stakeholders to achieve its targeted prioritization of one million hectares of classified forest areas for afforestation and reforestation.

During the celebration of the 160th anniversary of the Philippine Forestry Service, Philippine Environment Month, and Arbor Day (National Tree Planting Day) held at the DENR central office in Quezon City on Monday, DENR Secretary Antonia Loyzaga said that such partnership would help support lives and livelihood and accelerate delivery of the country's global commitments towards building a low carbon, green and blue future.

“We need to work across departments, with agencies and LGUs, the academe, private sector, and non-government and people’s organizations to protect, enhance, and sustainably manage our forest resources,” Loyzaga said.

“This convergence will ensure that the goals of the community-based forest management -- which started with the integrated social forestry program of the government, established by President Ferdinand E. Marcos in 1982, along with those of our Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 are fully realized,” she added.

During the event, Loyzaga also echoed the call to plant more native trees species throughout the country, particularly Molave, Narra, and Mountain Agoho, as this help “recover and expand forest habitats for threatened native species of plants and animals, protect the watershed and freshwater resources, and secure the livelihood of local people.”

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., who graced the celebration, planted a Molave tree seedling at the DENR Environmental Heroes Park.

By beginning the event with tree planting, Loyzaga said it serves as a reminder of the essential importance of forests in maintaining ecological balance and integrity, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and enhancing biodiversity.

“They are our life support, without which water, energy, and food security would be impossible,” she said.

DENR data show that as of 2020, there are about 7,226,394 hectares of estimated forest cover in the country, with a 3 percent increase for the past five years.

Among the top regions with the most forest cover are Region 2, Mimaropa, and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Meanwhile, Palawan emerged as the top province with 0.70 million hectares of forest cover, followed by Isabela with 0.41 million hectares, and Cagayan with 0.38 million hectares.



## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### JOURNAL ONLINE

#### [Aboitiz Group links with CCC to build climate-resilient communities in Toledo, Cebu](#)

Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV), Aboitiz Power Corp. (AboitizPower) subsidiary Therma Visayas, Inc. (TVI), AEV Sustainability Team, and Aboitiz Foundation have joined forces with the Climate Change Commission, the Toledo City, Cebu local government, Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-PAGASA, and the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), with the vision to help create resilient, disaster-ready, and climate-smart communities.

A five-day training workshop to craft an enhanced and science-based Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) was recently held in Brgy. Bato, Toledo City, Cebu, the host community of AboitizPower-TV. Toledo City Mayor Marjorie “Joie” Perales expressed her gratitude for making the event possible.

“Salamat kaayo, thank you very much to the Aboitiz Group and the Climate Change Commission for conducting this LCCAP training workshop in Toledo City,” Perales said. “This will upgrade the skills of our local responders and improve our readiness for disasters. I know that our people will truly benefit from this.”

Members of the Toledo City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (CDRRMO), City Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO), City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), City Engineering Office, City Agriculture Office, and barangays Bato, Cabitoonan and Awihao, actively participated in the planning sessions and learned how to develop their capabilities in climate change resilience.

The participants were equipped with knowledge based on methods and strategies to produce targeted and responsive climate action plans. They were also upskilled in developing risk-mitigating LCCAPs anchored on science and evidence-based analysis, which includes biodiversity and ecosystem-based adaptation interventions.

“We recognize that our communities and local governments are at the forefront of the climate crisis,” said Climate Change Commission Deputy Executive Director Romell Antonio Cuenca.

“It is imperative for local government units to be prepared for the challenges of the changing climate. LGUs should invest more in crafting and planning appropriate measures to adapt to climate impacts. That is why CCC and Aboitiz came all the way

here to Toledo to increase the technical capacity of our LGUs, so that they can develop their local climate change action plans, which will serve as their pathway to resiliency,” he added.

AboitizPower Thermal Group (VisMin) President & COO Ronaldo Ramos believes this could spark that transformation in Toledo City, and that the project can be replicated in all the other communities where AboitizPower thermal assets operate.

“We believe that by bolstering Toledo City’s climate resilience and adaptation, we can ensure the continuity of our mission to energize Cebu and the Visayas, and, more importantly, secure a sustainable future for Toledo. We’re optimistic about the completion of their LCCAP this year,” Ramos said.

At a national level, the LCCAP training workshop is in line with some tenets of the Philippine Development Plan on establishing livable communities (chapter 2.3), strengthening social protection (chapter 3.2), and accelerating climate action and strengthening disaster resilience (chapter 15).

Through this project, Aboitiz also supports the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on reducing inequalities (SDG 10), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), and Climate Action (SDG 13), at a global level.

“Our partnership serves as a catalyst for the ongoing development and seamless integration of our communities’ Local Climate Change Action Plans into their local government practices. This remarkable initiative not only propels the Aboitiz Group’s ESG goals forward but also resonates with our core purpose of Advancing Business and Communities,” said Aboitiz Equity Ventures First Vice President and Chief Sustainability & Reputation Officer Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar.

“This strong public-private partnership between Aboitiz and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) is a culmination of over four years of collaboration. We wanted a program that was sustainable for all partners, and where the value of a science-based LCCAP benefitted our stakeholder communities beyond this year,” said Aboitiz Equity Ventures Assistant Vice President for Corporate External Relations and Climate Smart Program Lead Mirchelle Pinpin-de Guzman.

“As for CCC, the program enables them to expand their Information Education Campaign reach through our business units’ operations in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao,” de Guzman added.

As the Aboitiz Group undergoes its Great Transformation to become the Philippines' first Techglomerate, it is taking on challenges with a renewed entrepreneurial mindset, gaining recognition as a partner of choice for innovation and future-ready solutions.

#### About Therma Visayas, Inc.

Therma Visayas, Inc. (TVI) is one of the two coal-fired power plants in the country that houses a Coal Dome facility, second only to its sister plant Therma South, Inc. (TSI). The coal storage facility secures fuel deposits while mitigating the spread of coal dust into the air. TVI operates the 340 MW power plant in Brgy. Bato, Toledo City, Cebu. It uses state-of-the-art Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) and the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to minimize emissions that can harm the atmosphere. True to its word of achieving a better tomorrow through cleaner and more efficient power production, TVI is making strides in the Visayas as a leading electricity generator.

#### About AboitizPower Thermal Group

The AboitizPower Thermal Business Group manages and operates the thermal power generation assets of Aboitiz Power Corporation. Our coal and oil assets provide much needed baseload power to the Philippine grid. Our promise is the same across all our facilities — to Advance Business and Communities through our mission of providing reliable, reasonable, and responsibly produced power. Together with you as our partners, we can continue to Transform Energy for a Better World.

#### About Aboitiz Equity Ventures

Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) is the public holding company of the Aboitiz Group with major investments in power, banking and financial services, food, infrastructure, land, and data science and artificial intelligence. Today, AEV is recognized as one of the best-managed companies in the Philippines and the region, consistently cited for its commitment to good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. With five generations of Aboitiz Group business success behind it, AEV continues to drive change for a better world by advancing business and communities.

The Aboitiz Group is a member of the Global Compact Network Philippines Board of Trustees and helps champion the Philippines' sustainability initiatives on an international level through policies, advocacies, and initiatives that align with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). The company has also launched its #OneAboitizSustainability Framework which aims to transform its life-essential businesses into having improved sustainable practices and a positive impact on the environment and society.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [PH elected co-chair of OECD forum on carbon mitigation approaches](#)

The Philippines was elected as co-chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Inclusive Forum on Carbon Mitigation Approaches (IFCMA), an initiative to assess the impacts of national mitigation interventions on global greenhouse gas emissions.

The Philippines' Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Robert E.A. Borje will sit as co-chair, along with Switzerland's Martin Baur and Chile's Maria Jose Garcia. Serving as co-chair presents new opportunities to further strengthen international cooperation in climate action, between developing and developed nations.

The announcement was made during the first IFCMA Steering Group Meeting on 13 June 2023.

"The Philippines welcomes the OECD's invitation to be part of the IFCMA, and election as Co-Chair. Under IFCMA, the Philippines will work to ensure that this will serve as a more focused venue for interaction among, and cooperation between countries, towards practicable and pragmatic partnerships to fast-track higher impact and cost-effective climate change mitigation actions," said Secretary Borje.

The Philippines is the only middle-income nation among Asia-Pacific countries in the Steering Group (which includes Japan and Singapore), and to be elected co-chair.

"The Philippines is thankful for the vote of confidence and support. The election, we believe, demonstrates the continued and growing recognition of the Philippine Government under President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s commitment and capability as a meaningful and constructive partner for transformative climate change action," added Secretary Borje.

Earlier in February, the Philippines participated in the IFCMA inaugural meeting in Paris, France. IFCMA aims to assess national carbon mitigation approaches' impact on global emissions – a project that will run from 2023 to 2025.

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Borje was joined by Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and representatives from the Philippine Embassy in Paris, France.

During the meeting, the Philippines underscored that the development of a collective and inclusive strategy on global carbon emission reduction efforts is crucial, in response to the needed “deep, rapid and sustained emissions reduction” as emphasized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Also aimed at enhancing international cooperation, the IFCMA will develop a global, comprehensive, and systematic stocktake of countries’ policies, programs, and projects on climate change mitigation, to undergo impact assessment on national and global emissions.

“The Philippines envisions IFCMA to be beneficial to all parties, particularly to developing nations most at risk and vulnerable; to establish enabling policy environment towards improved access to technology development and transfer, capacity building, and finance and investments as regards carbon mitigation approaches,” Borje said.

“This should be aligned with the existing work of international bodies such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, and consider data availability and applicability, and methodological gaps and challenges, particularly of the developing world,” he added.

The Philippines is one of the IFCMA’s Project Associates and a pilot country candidate expected to provide data on climate change mitigation-related policies, programs, and projects, and in turn, benefit and learn from a range of carbon mitigation approaches from various countries in different regions.

## SUNSTAR

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“It is imperative for local government units to be prepared for the challenges of the changing climate. LGUs should invest more in crafting and planning appropriate measures to adapt to climate impacts. That is why CCC and Aboitiz came all the way here to Toledo to increase the technical capacity of our LGUs, so that they can develop

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## THE MANILA TIMES

### [Toledo holds climate change workshop](#)

By: Jenica Faye Garcia

THE Aboitiz Group has collaborated with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to craft a Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) that would build climate-resilient communities in Toledo, Cebu.

In a report released on Monday, Toledo City Mayor Marjorie Perales expressed her gratitude for the five-day training workshop to craft the LCCAP with the vision to help create resilient, disaster-ready and climate-smart communities.

"Thank you very much to the Aboitiz Group and the Climate Change Commission for conducting this LCCAP training workshop in Toledo City," she said. "This will upgrade the skills of our local responders and improve our readiness for disasters. I know that our people will truly benefit from this."

The participants were equipped with knowledge based on methods and strategies to produce targeted and responsive climate action plans.

They were also upskilled in developing risk-mitigating LCCAPs anchored on science and evidence-based analysis, which include biodiversity and ecosystem-based adaptation interventions.

For Romell Antonio Cuenca, CCC deputy executive director, this event will help Filipinos and the local government units (LGUs), who are at the forefront of the climate crisis, increase their technical capacity so that they can develop their local climate change action plans towards resiliency.

"It is imperative for local government units to be prepared for the challenges of the changing climate. LGUs should invest more in crafting and planning appropriate measures to adapt to climate impacts," he said.

"That is why CCC and Aboitiz came all the way here to Toledo to increase the technical capacity of our LGUs so that they can develop their local climate change action plans. This will serve as their pathway to resilience," he added.

This was echoed by Michelle Pinpin-de Guzman, Aboitiz Equity Ventures assistant vice president for corporate external relations and climate-smart program lead.

"This strong public-private partnership between Aboitiz and the Climate Change Commission is a culmination of over four years of collaboration," she said.

**=END=**