



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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By: Marium Ali

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### BUSINESS WORLD

#### [World Bank appoints new country director overseeing Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei](#)

By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

The World Bank said it has appointed Turkish economist Zafer Mustafaoglu as its new country director for the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam, with his term beginning July 1.

### DAILY TRIBUNE

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Mangroves, with their intricate root systems and dense foliage, are more than just trees growing along coastlines. In the Philippines, these natural wonders play a significant role in disaster risk management and in building resilience to the impacts of climate change. Let us know more about what mangroves can do.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[DENR rolls out drive to educate LGUs on environmental protection](#)**

By: Rio N. Araja

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has spearheaded a campaign to educate local government units (LGUs) on best practices in environmental protection and disaster preparedness.

### **[Singapore foundation bares program to focus on water and climate change](#)**

The Singapore International Foundation (SIF), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, launched last week a regional multi-stakeholder platform to address the critical challenges of climate change, with a focus on water-related issues.

## **NEWS5**

### **[DSWD touts new project to help address climate change](#)**

By: Rodolfo Dacleson II

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Monday announced that it will launch a community-led project by next year to address the impact of climate change on the vulnerable population of the Philippines.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Scientists warn WPS marine ecosystem at risk](#)**

By: Jane Bautista

Scientists are expressing concern over the continuous environmental degradation in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) amid the worsening dispute over territorial boundaries with China, according to oceanographer Deo Florence Onda.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[Legarda highlights stakeholders' key role in environmental protection](#)**

By: Jerome Carlo Paunan

Senator Loren Legarda has called on the private sector to play a pivotal role in environmental protection, emphasizing their significant impact on the ecosystem.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[DSWD to launch new community-led climate adaptation project](#)**

By: Zaldy De Layola

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Monday said a new project will be launched to address the impact of climate change.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

#### **[CCC: Integrate climate considerations into preparedness efforts](#)**

As the country observes the National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) this July, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the critical role of climate resilience in safeguarding the Philippines from the escalating impacts of climate change.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## AL JAZEERA

### Why is July the hottest month of the year?

By: Marium Ali

While summer has only just begun in the Northern Hemisphere, heatwaves have already gripped many parts of the world including across the United States, Mexico, Europe, the Middle East and South Asia.

Extreme heat has led to more than a thousand deaths, urgent health warnings and school closures.

July is historically the hottest month of the year, where in parts of the Northern Hemisphere, temperatures regularly exceed 40C (104F).

According to the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO), July 2023 was the warmest month ever recorded, likely the hottest for at least the past 120,000 years, with this year already on track to be one of the hottest yet.

#### Axial tilt and the summer solstice

The Earth is tilted 23.5 degrees on its axis as it orbits the sun.

This results in varying amounts of sunlight at different times of the year, which creates the changing seasons.

Astronomical summer starts on the summer solstice, which is around June 20 or 21 in the Northern Hemisphere and around December 21 or 22 in the Southern Hemisphere.

This is the day when the sun reaches its highest point in the sky at noon, leading to the longest day and shortest night of the year.

The part of the Earth that receives the most amount of direct sunlight is 23.5 degrees above the equator, which is known as the Tropic of Cancer.

This line passes through Mexico, the Bahamas, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and India among other countries, contributing to very hot summers.

#### Summer in the Northern Hemisphere

While half of the Earth's land mass experiences summer from June to September, roughly 90 percent of the world's population lives in the Northern Hemisphere, where these months coincide with more direct sunlight and longer daylight hours.

In northernmost cities around the Arctic Circle, the sun does not set between late May and late July in a phenomenon known as the midnight sun.

Conversely, during the winter months, these same locations experience a polar night, where the sun remains below the horizon between late November and late January.

#### Why is the afternoon hotter than noon?

During the summer months, more of the sun's energy is absorbed into the ground, which heats up the surrounding air and leads to warmer temperatures.

The time delay between the heating and releasing is known as seasonal lag.

The Earth's surface, especially large bodies of water like oceans, which comprise 70 percent of the Earth's surface, takes time to absorb heat from the sun and subsequently release it.

This explains why the peak temperature of the day occurs in the afternoon, not at midday, and why July, rather than June, typically experiences the highest average temperatures.

How to stay cool this summer

As summer temperatures soar in various regions across the globe, with some even shattering all-time heatwave records, staying cool becomes crucial. Fortunately, there are effective methods to beat the heat, whether you have access to air conditioning or not.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **World Bank appoints new country director overseeing Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei**

By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

The World Bank said it has appointed Turkish economist Zafer Mustafaoglu as its new country director for the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam, with his term beginning July 1.

He replaced Ndiame Diop, who served as the country director for the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, and Thailand for four years.

“I am deeply honored to assume the role of country director for the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei — countries that stand out as some of the most vibrant economies in the East Asia region, with significant achievements in economic transformation and poverty alleviation,” Mr. Mustafaoglu was quoted as saying in a statement.

“I look forward to meeting our partners across government, the private sector, civil society, and academic institutions to deepen my understanding of the unique development challenges these countries face and to explore how the World Bank can further contribute to their progress,” he added.

The bank has extended support in the form of loans and technical assistance in key sectors like infrastructure, agriculture, the environment, social protection, water resources, disaster risk management, and climate change.

Other forms of help include support for the government’s major economic policy and governance reforms, enhancement of private sector participation, and the promotion of peace in Mindanao.

The World Bank was the Philippines’ third biggest source of official development assistance in 2022, according to the National Economic and Development Authority. Around \$6.86 billion worth of loans it provided were spent on 29 programs and projects.

Mr. Mustafaoglu joined the World Bank in 2005 and has contributed to the lender’s operations and research projects, ranging from macroeconomic to microeconomic policy issues.

He previously served as the practice manager for Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation in the East Asia and Pacific, overseeing operations in China, Mongolia, South Korea, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

He also occupied the same position in Latin America and the Caribbean, and was the lead economist and program leader for Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Before joining the bank, Mr. Mustafaoglu worked for the Turkish government’s State Planning Organization as the head of the Modeling and Economic Analysis.

The new country director earned his doctorate in International Economics from the Middle East Technical University in Turkey.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Nature's fortress: How mangroves protect coastal lives](#)

Mangroves, with their intricate root systems and dense foliage, are more than just trees growing along coastlines. In the Philippines, these natural wonders play a significant role in disaster risk management and in building resilience to the impacts of climate change. Let us know more about what mangroves can do.

**Storm surge barriers:** Mangroves act as natural barriers against storm surges and large waves. For coastal communities, mangrove forests stand as the first line of defense during tropical cyclones.

**Flood control:** During heavy rains, mangroves absorb and slow down water flow, reducing flood risk. In the Philippines, where heavy rainfall and flooding are frequent, this ability to manage water flow is crucial.

**Carbon sequestration:** Mangroves sequester carbon. By absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, mangroves help reduce the impacts of climate change, which contributes to the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters.

**Erosion control:** Mangrove roots stabilize the shoreline, preventing coastal erosion. This natural reinforcement is a cost-effective way to combat the persistent threat of coastal erosion.

**Community livelihoods:** Mangroves support local economies through fishing, tourism, and other activities. They support fisheries as breeding grounds for many fish species and attract tourists with their natural beauty, helping communities diversify and stabilize income sources.

During the National Disaster Resilience Month, we highlight the importance of mangroves for their vital role in protecting the Philippines. By educating and involving communities, we ensure these natural protectors secure a safer, resilient future.

Join us in protecting and restoring mangroves. Get involved in planting mangroves, clean up coastal areas, raise awareness, and urge local leaders to prioritize mangrove conservation and restoration initiatives.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [DENR rolls out drive to educate LGUs on environmental protection](#)

By: Rio N. Araja

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has spearheaded a campaign to educate local government units (LGUs) on best practices in environmental protection and disaster preparedness.

“Project TRANSFORM puts LGUs at the center of community-based disaster resilience programs. The critical role of local stakeholders in environmental protection and climate action cannot be minimized,” DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Loyzaga said.

To develop Project TRANSFORM, the DENR partnered with the National Resilience Council, the First Philippine Holdings Corp., the Philippine Business for Social Progress, Peace and Equity Foundation, and the Zuellig Family Foundation.

TRANSFORM is an acronym for Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multi-stakeholder Engagement with the theme “From Science to Action: Transformative Pathways toward Resilience and Environmental Sustainability.”

The program provides a scientific and strategic mechanism among stakeholders, highlighting the importance of locally driven solutions as well as a participatory approach for achieving environmental sustainability and resilience.

Loyzaga cited the need to prioritize the development of individual and institutional capacities of the LGUs for evidence-informed decision-making, and to invest in increasing capacity for implementation of policies, plans and programs.

A strong multi-stakeholder collaboration, community-driven innovation and knowledge development and sharing would be the LGUs’ help to attain community resilience.

“While every LGU has its different exposure and vulnerability, all experience challenges on how to manage their water, forest and soil resources, and coastal and marine environments,” Loyzaga said.



## [Singapore foundation bares program to focus on water and climate change](#)

The Singapore International Foundation (SIF), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, launched last week a regional multi-stakeholder platform to address the critical challenges of climate change, with a focus on water-related issues.

The Southeast Asia Partnership for Adaptation through Water (SEAPAW) is the first platform in the region to focus on strengthening water resilience as an approach to climate change adaptation.

SEAPAW will galvanize action among stakeholders in support of a shared vision, fostering cross-border projects, and accelerating adaptation financing through public-private-philanthropic models. Stakeholders include knowledge partners, solution providers, financial institutions and philanthropies, as well as governments and policymakers.

SEAPAW will focus on growing the community and identifying projects in key areas of interest to drive climate resilience in Southeast Asia. It will also report on the region's progress in water-related resilience goals and climate adaptation, which will help identify areas of need for further action.

SEAPAW was officially launched at a dialogue hosted by the SIF, the World Economic Forum, and the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW). The event was held alongside the Singapore International Water Week 2024.

SEAPAW's aims are in line with the GCEW's call to collective action—to turn the tide and build a sustainable and equitable water future.

Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam was the guest of honor at the event. He is also the patron of the SIF, co-chair of the GCEW and a member of the World Economic Forum's board of trustees.

Tharman stressed the need to manage demand for more efficient and sustainable water use in every sector in Southeast Asia, from rice-farming to advanced manufacturing, highlighting the region's growing vulnerability to water scarcity and the impacts of climate change.

"The good news is that the solutions for water are within reach. But they require bolder partnerships to spur investments in both new technologies and proven, economically viable solutions," he said.

"SEAPAW draws on the SIF's regional network and the World Economic Forum's expertise in public-private cooperation, and can help promote these investments in water resilience for the benefit of the region and the world," he added.

## NEWS5

### [DSWD touts new project to help address climate change](#)

By: Rodolfo Dacleson II

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Monday announced that it will launch a community-led project by next year to address the impact of climate change on the vulnerable population of the Philippines.

The DSWD, via the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), said the “Panahon ng Pagkilos” project seeks to help areas with high poverty incidence, severe climatic hazards, and a majority of indigenous population.

“The KALAHI-CIDSS is committed to institutionalizing its program and preparing a new project to help poor communities in dealing with the climate crisis,” said national program manager Atty. Bernadette Mapue-Joaquin in a media release.

She claimed that the intensifying climate crisis and social inequality are intertwined, affecting poor Filipino communities.

“Addressing this requires integrated solutions that promote social justice and leverage local knowledge to ensure that adaptation efforts are inclusive and effective,” added Mapue-Joaquin.

In 2021, the World Bank profiled the Philippines as highly vulnerable to the effects of worsening climate change, such as tropical cyclones, flooding, and landslides.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said around 13-16 typhoons could hit the country in the fourth quarter of the year. It also projected that tropical cyclones will become stronger.

The Philippines also suffered from intense heat during the summer, which was heightened by El Niño. Last April, Metro Manila recorded its hottest day in history at 38.8°C.

Last May, the Department of Agriculture estimated that damage caused by El Niño to the agriculture sector totaled P5.9 billion.

According to international studies, the Philippines is among the biggest contributors to the climate crisis, being one of the world’s top plastic polluters.

KALAHI-CIDSS stressed that combating risks brought by climate change requires transforming communities and enhancing their resilience.

“Effective local-level financing is essential to build resilience and adaptive capacity in these communities, ensuring that they can withstand and recover from climate-related disasters,” said Mapue-Joaquin.

Pres. Bongbong Marcos Jr. said he will also focus on addressing the climate crisis. But environmental groups said the country needs concrete solutions rather than “lip service.”

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Scientists warn WPS marine ecosystem at risk](#)

By: Jane Bautista

Scientists are expressing concern over the continuous environmental degradation in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) amid the worsening dispute over territorial boundaries with China, according to oceanographer Deo Florence Onda.

Plastic pollution, climate change-induced coral bleaching, and overfishing, among others, are the main problems Onda identified, challenges that have now pushed the Philippine waters and the rest of the South China Sea to a “very critical point.”

“The scientists are very worried because we talk about territories but degradation is continuously happening. The sad thing is that probably when we come to the point where we’ve already resolved our disputes, there’s nothing to protect anymore. So what’s the value of that?” Onda said in a recent dialogue organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs-Foreign Service Institute.

Onda, who also serves as an associate professor at the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute, said there was an ongoing effort to encourage other countries to return to the “negotiation table” and tackle the environmental problems in the South China Sea.

“Science itself has been pushed as a nonaggressive approach or intervention for conflict resolution since the 1990s in the South China Sea,” he said.

#### Main polluters

For example, plastic pollution, Onda said, was a very “neutral, pervasive and prevalent” topic that could serve as a “jumping point” for discussions.

He said based on their studies that measured how much plastics go out on a system, Manila Bay was still the most polluted with 23.77 plastics per square meter, followed by Eastern Palawan (5.48) and Western Palawan (0.84).

Surprisingly, he said, Pag-asa, an island located far away in the middle of the South China Sea, recorded a pollution index of 1.71, higher than Western Palawan.

“The first time I went to Pag-asa I thought [it was] paradise but no, I spent two days cleaning up the coast, trying to collect those plastics,” Onda said.

It’s not an isolated case, he added, because even in Taiwan or Taipei, where he also went, isolated islands accumulated piles of trash and plastic, which usually come from other bodies of water connected to the sea.

In addition to analyzing the amount of plastics, Onda and his team also identified the usage of the plastics to determine what industry, organizations and sectors were contributing to the problem so the targeted policies and intervention could be developed.

In Palawan, he said the majority of the plastics were foamed fragments, fishing lines, ropes and strings, which meant that most of the waste came from the fishing and maritime industry.

In Manila Bay, the most common types of waste were thin plastic wraps, foamed fragments and straws, which came from the food and commercial industry.

## Need for data-sharing

The marine scientist said their team also identified the origin of the plastics found on Pag-asa Island and based on the results, during the northeast monsoon, 60 percent of the plastics were foreign.

During a southwest monsoon, 90 percent of the plastics come from Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, Taiwan and even Singapore.

“I always refer to this as the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) convention of trash,” Onda quipped, adding that it showed the transnational boundary nature of the problem.

Asked how the environmental problems in the South China Sea could be addressed, Onda noted that a “low-hanging fruit” would be data sharing in the region.

“Different studies have been done in the South China Sea but they are not available. One thing that we are pushing for is a low-politics scientific symposium ... to talk about how we are going to approach the problem,” he said.

Onda emphasized the need for information as well as support for scientists who are in a “good position to push for confidence-building in the West Philippine Sea.”

“At the end of the day, we always ask the scientists, what’s the status of the South China Sea? [What’s the] status of the environment? We can’t do that if we don’t give them support, we can’t do that if they can’t go out to the sea because there’s no gasoline in their vessel,” he said.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [Legarda highlights stakeholders' key role in environmental protection](#)

By Jerome Carlo Paunan

Senator Loren Legarda has called on the private sector to play a pivotal role in environmental protection, emphasizing their significant impact on the ecosystem.

She reminded the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) partner-stakeholders of their crucial role in environmental protection during the 2024 Philippine Environmental Month Culminating Activity on June 29 at the National Museum of Natural History in Manila.

“We call on the sector here with the greatest potential for both harm and positive change — the private sector,” Legarda said in her message.

“You can be the guiding force in our economy, embracing natural capital accounting, and adopting business practices that enhance rather than exploit natural ecosystems,” she added.

“The academe will provide the strategic insights needed for success, while the role of the government remains crucial.”

Legarda, a four-term senator, has long pushed for environmental laws since first being elected into office in 1998.

She had led the passage into law of many landmark pieces of legislation such as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, the Expanded NIPAS of 2018, and the Climate Change Act of 2009.

During the ongoing 19th Congress, the experienced solon principally authored and sponsored the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act, which is crucial for the inclusion of the value of finite natural resources into the national accounting system, contributing to more informed environmental management decisions.

“Partnerships among all these sectors are flexible and focused, amplifying impact, and increasing knowledge sharing and testing,” Legarda said.

“When partnerships succeed, whether through the removal of species from the threatened species list, the rehabilitation of hectares of land, or schools adopting zero waste and edible schoolyards, we should celebrate these achievements,” she added.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [DSWD to launch new community-led climate adaptation project](#)

By: Zaldy De Layola

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Monday said a new project will be launched to address the impact of climate change.

The new initiative would be implemented through the agency's Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) once all the preparations are completed.

Dubbed as "Panahon ng Pagkilos", the community-led climate adaptation project will cater to areas with high poverty incidence, severe climatic hazards, and a significant proportion of indigenous population.

"The KALAHI-CIDSS is committed to institutionalizing its program and preparing a new project to help poor communities in dealing with the climate crisis," KALAHI-CIDSS national program manager Bernadette Mapue-Joaquin said in a news release.

She said the climate crisis is deeply intertwined with social inequality, which affects disproportionately vulnerable populations.

"Addressing this issue requires integrated solutions that promote social justice and leverage local knowledge to ensure that adaptation efforts are inclusive and effective," she said.

She said in combating climate risks, the KALAHI-CIDSS has achieved significant milestones, transforming communities and enhancing their resilience.

The program, she said, helped build 1,250 community centers, multi-purpose buildings, and evacuation centers, providing safe havens during disasters.

The KALAHI-CIDSS had also supplied 928 disaster and pandemic response and rescue equipment that bolstered the preparedness and response capabilities of local communities across the country.

Recognizing the importance of healthcare facilities, the program also built 3,566 quarantine facilities, now re-purposed to help manage public health emergencies during disasters.

"Effective local-level financing is essential to build resilience and adaptive capacity in these communities, ensuring that they can withstand and recover from climate-related disasters," Mapue-Joaquin said.

#### Retooling efforts

In 2023 alone, the KALAHI-CIDSS completed 16,320 subprojects, benefiting 5.56 million households. This success is attributed to strategic retooling efforts, including clustering subprojects, streamlining requirements, and increasing engagement with local chief executives.

The retooling process expanded the scope of subprojects by introducing clustered subprojects, bringing together barangays within the same KALAHI-CIDSS municipality for larger community projects.

Mapue-Joaquin said this approach allows greater funding but with increased capacity.

For instance, instead of each barangay building its own evacuation center with limited capacity, communities can pool resources to build a single, larger center.

In Roseller Lim, Zamboanga Sibugay, 26 barangays collaborated to build a 15-room evacuation center that accommodates 300 people. Similarly, in San Pablo, Zamboanga del Sur, 22 barangays built an 8-room center.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

#### [CCC: Integrate climate considerations into preparedness efforts](#)

As the country observes the National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) this July, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the critical role of climate resilience in safeguarding the Philippines from the escalating impacts of climate change.

Under the theme "Bantayog ng Katatagan at ang Pagbubuklod sa Layuning Kahandaan" (Pillar of Resilience and Uniting for Preparedness), this year's observance emphasizes the necessity of proactive measures to enhance the country's ability to withstand and recover from climate-related disasters.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, urged everyone to support climate initiatives that enhance disaster resilience, educate others about the importance of climate resilience, and take proactive steps to reduce vulnerability to climate-induced disasters.

"Effective climate resilience measures can save lives, reduce economic losses, and protect livelihoods. They contribute to the preservation of natural resources and biodiversity. As we observe National Disaster Resilience Month, let us commit to integrate climate considerations into our preparedness efforts, enhance our adaptive capacities, and foster solidarity," Borje said.

As the impacts of climate change become more evident, the CCC said embracing climate resilience is crucial.

"The CCC advocates for preparedness by urging individuals and communities to stay informed about climate-related risks and integrate climate considerations into their disaster plans. Families are encouraged to create emergency plans that account for climate hazards and to prepare disaster supply kits with essentials such as water, food, medication, and important documents," the CCC said in a news release on Monday.

It said adaptation plays a pivotal role in enhancing climate resilience, calling for support for climate-resilient infrastructure improvement and the adoption of sustainable practices, including recycling, energy conservation, and sustainable transportation.

"Engaging in local disaster risk reduction programs and integrating climate adaptation strategies into community planning are vital steps in building resilient communities," it said.

"Solidarity and collective action are fundamental to climate resilience. Building strong connections with neighbors and community organizations, participating in local volunteer efforts focused on climate-related disaster response and recovery, and spreading awareness about climate resilience through schools, workplaces, and social networks are also important," it added.

The observance of the National Disaster Resilience Month, as mandated by Executive Order 29 s.2017, shifts focus from disaster awareness building to disaster resilience.

This transition underscores the importance of equipping individuals, communities, organizations, and local government units with the capacity to adapt to and recover from the effects of hazards and disasters through effective risk management.



**=END=**