



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### AL JAZEERA

#### [China's new problem: climate misinformation driven by nationalism](#)

By: Purple Romero

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By: Keisha B. Ta-asan

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### **[UN rights chief: Climate change spells ‘terrifying dystopian’ future](#)**

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### **[United for the Environment: GCNP-Planet Pillar and BEST join hands to promote circularity](#)**

The Global Compact Network Philippines (GCNP) – Planet Pillar, co-chaired by Globe and PLDT-Smart, has joined hands with Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies, Inc (BEST) for its Circularity Program, “Iwas Kalat, Dagdag Kita,” an initiative promoting sustainable livelihood and environmental stewardship.

## **MINDA NEWS**

### **[TURNING POINT: Bracing for El Niño](#)**

By: William R. Adan

NAAWAN, Misamis Oriental (MindaNews / 03 July) – El Niño was officially here in the middle of June, says the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), meaning that things will be much hotter nowadays than usual. Pagasa says that the eastern part of the country will be the first to experience the dry spell while the western side will be wetter.

## **PHILIPPINE CANADIAN INQUIRER**

### **[Under hazy skies, opportunities for ground-up climate disaster policy changes](#)**

By: Trish Audette-Longo, Sean Holman and Sarah Marie Wiebe

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## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[PH groups press UN anew on rights abuses](#)**

By: Abby Boiser

Civil society groups raised anew their concern over human rights abuses in the country before the 53rd Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, last week.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **['Climate change spells terrifying future'](#)**

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## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **MAHARLIKA TV**

### **[Dela Cruz advocates for collaborative partnerships among stakeholders in addressing climate issues](#)**

In light of reports identifying over 40 vulnerable areas in the Philippines due to the global climate crisis, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. emphasized the significance of partnerships and collaborative efforts among all stakeholders.

## **PAGEONE**

### **[CCC Backs Government, Private Partnership To Protect Natural Resources](#)**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Friday emphasized the importance of closer collaboration between the government and the private sector to protect the country's dwindling natural resources.

## **HERALD EXPRESS**

### **[Aboitiz Group links with CCC to build climate-resilient communities](#)**

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.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **Elon Musk spreads misleading climate claims on Twitter**

Elon Musk, the wealthy owner of Twitter, has falsely claimed that farming has no major effect on the climate — prompting corrections from scientists and raising fears about misinformation on the influential social media platform.

In a tweet in late June, Musk said "what happens on Earth's surface (eg farming) has no meaningful impact on climate change." He continued that the risk of climate change came overwhelmingly from moving carbon deep underground into the atmosphere. "Over time, if we keep doing this, the chemical makeup of our atmosphere will change enough to induce meaningful climate change."

Scientists quickly pointed out that he is wrong on two counts. First, greenhouse gas pollution from agriculture, forestry and other land use made up 13-21% of global emissions between 2010 and 2019. Second, humans have heated the planet 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 Fahrenheit), which has already made extreme weather events from coastal floods to heat waves stronger and more likely.

"Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unquestionably caused global warming," tweeted the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, a global research organization based in Austria, in response to Musk.

Musk, a public figure with 145 million followers on Twitter, who has called himself "a free speech absolutist," has repeatedly promoted conspiracy theories since he bought the platform in October. His recent targets have included billionaire philanthropist George Soros, the frequent recipient of antisemitic abuse; Nancy Pelosi, a US politician from the Democratic Party; and investigative journalism group Bellingcat.

"I'll say what I want to say, and if the consequence of doing that is losing money, so be it," said Musk in an interview with US broadcaster CNBC in May after being challenged on his engagement with conspiracy theories and its effect on Twitter's advertising revenue.

A DW request for comment sent to Twitter's press office on June 27 received an automatically generated reply of a rude emoji. This appears to have become the social media company's standard response to media queries since widely reported layoffs among its communication team earlier in the year.

Climate denial and abuse

The level of climate denial on Twitter has risen in the last year, according to a recent analysis published by global campaign group Climate Action Against Disinformation and misinformation researcher Abbie Richards, a fellow with the nonprofit Accelerationism Research Consortium.

Starting around July 2022, they found the number of tweets with climate denial terms rose from about 30,000 per week to about 110,000. Tweets included claims that climate change is a "scam" pushed by "globalists."

Scientists say the level of abuse from climate deniers has also increased since Musk took over.

"I haven't seen it to the same extent as some of my colleagues because I have an itchy block finger," said Julia Steinberger, a professor of ecological economics at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. She estimates she has blocked tens of thousands — if not hundreds of thousands — of climate-denying or abusive accounts. "Things have definitely gotten a lot worse since Musk took over."

Steinberger, an author of the latest report from the UN-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), called Musk a climate denier in a widely shared thread hours after his tweet. Some of the replies contained genuine criticism about what counts as climate denial and what Musk meant by the word "meaningful," she said. Many more came from climate deniers and abusive trolls.

Jordan Peterson, an influential Canadian psychologist with 4.4 million followers who describes himself as a classical liberal, said Steinberger was appropriating the suffering of Jews in the Holocaust by calling Musk a climate "denier." Steinberger, who is the daughter of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize-winning physicist Jack Steinberger, said the backlash "was quite intense but manageable" until that point.

The level of abuse depends on the size of the account and the behavior of their supporters, she added. "Up to a few hundred thousand followers I can handle, but Jordan Peterson has 4 million," said Steinberger.

### Farming and climate change

Musk is also the boss of SpaceX, which makes spacecraft, and Tesla, which makes electric cars. Over the last decade, he has made several comments about the severity of climate change, which he has described as both real and catastrophic.

But in recent months, Musk has downplayed the role of agriculture and said efforts to curb pollution from farms will not help. In response to a tweet in March about Belgian

farmers protesting laws to cut nitrogen emissions, he said: "I'm super pro climate, but we definitely don't need to put farmers out of work to solve climate change. Not at all."

Then, in June, Musk replied to an article suggesting Ireland may cull 200,000 cows to meet its 2025 climate targets with: "This really needs to stop. Killing some cows doesn't matter for climate change."

According to Ireland's Environmental Protection agency, agriculture was responsible for 38% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions in 2021. Most of that came in the form of methane from livestock and nitrous oxide from fertilizer and manure. Some scientists warn that shrinking herds in one country may grow them in others if demand for meat does not fall with supply. Still, they agree that livestock emissions are a key contributor to climate change.

"There's no question that fossil fuel emissions are bigger, but this is a significant aspect," said David Ho, a climate scientist at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, in the US.

World leaders promised to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, but their current policies put it on track for nearly double that. Several studies in recent years have found the emissions from agriculture are enough to blow past the carbon budget on their own.

Global food consumption alone could add nearly 1 degree Celsius to warming by 2100, according to a study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change* in March. More than half of the warming can be avoided by producing food better, adopting healthy diets everywhere — including more vegetables and less meat — and cutting food waste from consumers and shops, the researchers found.

Experts have stressed the need to quickly tackle emissions from agriculture. Tim Searchinger, technical director of the food program at the climate think tank World Resources Institute, said its emissions are rising so fast they are "likely to emit more carbon in 2050 than the world can accept from all human sources."

## AL JAZEERA

### China's new problem: climate misinformation driven by nationalism

By: Purple Romero

Much has been written about climate misinformation in the West but there has been far less scrutiny of the problem in China – a country that is both a significant carbon emitter and a leader in developing green technology.

Annie Lab, our fact-checking project at the University of Hong Kong, looked into the diverse narratives of such climate misinformation, examples of which we have encountered and verified in the past.

One thing we can say is that these narratives are deeply connected to China's assertion of its identity and pursuit of its aspirations. China has bounced back after years of poverty, establishing itself as an economic behemoth. It takes pride in this shift and development, so any challenge to this progress – and to the image of China – is perceived as hostile.

Not too long ago, that included climate change, which, from about 2009-2011, was often depicted in Chinese books and popular TV shows as a Western hoax designed to torpedo China's economic rise.

After 2011, however, the messaging changed. These books and public statements disappeared amid growing public consciousness about climate change. This forced, in some ways, the government to take the problem seriously.

However, online, climate denial lives on and remains strong.

From September 2022 to April 2023, we collected more than a hundred posts from Chinese video, messaging and social media platforms such as Douyin, Bilibili, Xigua, Weibo and WeChat, among others, which showed different kinds of misleading posts about climate change.

We also found similar dodgy Chinese posts on YouTube and Twitter as well as articles from The Epoch Times, a news organisation reportedly linked to Falun Gong, a religious group banned in mainland China.

Our research unveiled various narratives, one of which explained the recurring manipulated images depicting Swedish activist Greta Thunberg as having gained weight. As it turned out, the doctoring of her photos to make her look that way is not an isolated case, nor is it a juvenile attempt at malicious pillory or an example of harmless mockery.



A deeper look takes us back to comments by Thunberg that stirred patriotic assertions, including that she was a tool or puppet of the West. In a May 2021 tweet, Thunberg said that while China remains a developing country, it must be more conscious about its carbon emissions.

She was accused of being a “selective environmentalist” because she did not comment on Japan’s plans to release nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean, although she did share an article about it. Chinese online posts also said Thunberg told the Chinese people to stop using chopsticks to reduce deforestation – though there is no evidence the climate activist ever made such a statement.

Tensions between China and the West have shaped another narrative, too.

If before, Chinese book authors said climate change was something the West invented so China would rely on it for green technology, now there are social media posts saying the opposite. As the Asian giant has emerged as a leading manufacturer of clean tech, it is now the target of West-based far-right conspiracy theories, too. Misleading posts were found on Twitter as well as video-sharing platforms Rumble and Bitchute suggesting that climate change is supposedly just a scam concocted by China so the West could depend on it for green technology.

An offshoot of this is another strand of misinformation: The use of unverified videos on Twitter in Chinese allegedly showing Chinese-manufactured e-vehicles and wind turbines of shoddy quality.

Meanwhile, other social media claims and articles have downplayed the role of man-made emissions. On YouTube, one said volcanic eruptions put more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than human activities do. This has been debunked.

On WeChat, a user said global warming was caused by changes in the Earth’s orbit around the sun. The United States space agency NASA has clarified that while the sun does indeed have an effect on the Earth’s climate, “it isn’t responsible for the warming trend we’ve seen over recent decades”.

Chinese experts themselves stepped in to correct some of these claims. Authorities from the National Space Weather Forecasting Station of the China Meteorological Administration debunked a claim about solar activity being the main driver behind changes in the Earth’s climate.

The China Environment News, the official outlet of China’s Ministry of Ecology and Environment, meanwhile, came out with an article that explained why, contrary to viral claims, rising temperatures will not usher in a period of prosperity for mainland China.

This particular claim is very specific to China as it harks back to the Han and Tang dynasties, which were said to have experienced stability and prosperity during warmer climates.

Wu Yixiu, a former climate journalist with China Dialogue, a non-profit organisation that analyses climate issues in China and has offices in London and Beijing, told us the claim resonated with the public because it mirrored China's aspiration of "rejuvenation".

This narrative, along with the others, reveals that climate misinformation in China is largely shaped by nationalism, a sentiment that has become more fervent under President Xi Jinping, even if the Chinese government itself has to step in at times to challenge false claims.

It is not always about the science but about the story. And if the story is uncomfortable, a dose of climate misinformation is never far away.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **BSP to complete climate stress testing this year**

By: Keisha B. Ta-asan

THE PHILIPPINE central bank intends to complete the conduct of climate stress testing in collaboration with the World Bank this year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on Monday launched its first sustainability report, which details the progress in pursuing the sustainability agenda in the financial system.

In the report, the BSP said it plans to issue detailed guidelines for banks in conducting their own climate stress testing using their own data.

“The exercise will also inform the enhancement of prudential reports submitted by banks to capture identified data relevant for surveillance of aggregate exposures of the banking system to climate and other environment-related risks,” it said.

The BSP is also looking to update sustainability reporting requirements in the financial sector. This will take into account the final version of reporting standards to be released by the International Sustainability Standards Board.

The central bank is also considering other potential regulatory incentives for banks to promote green lending “such as the use of preferential rediscount rates or provision for higher loan values related to its rediscounting facility.”

“The BSP is also reviewing the single borrower’s limit (SBL) regulations to promote lending to social and green projects under the Sustainable Finance Framework of the (National Government), among others,” it said.

Last month, the BSP proposed an additional SBL of 15% for loans meant to finance green projects and a reserve requirement rate of zero percent for sustainable bonds.

If approved, the draft circular will amend sections 362 and 251 of the Manual of Regulations for Banks that cover exposure limits to a single borrower and reserves.

The SBL is a ceiling on the amount of loans, credit accommodations and guarantees a bank or financial institution can extend to one borrower meant to prevent over-concentration of risk.

The BSP said it is working with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission in developing the sustainable finance taxonomy guidelines with the support of the World Bank.

“This taxonomy will build on the Philippine Sustainable Finance Guiding Principles, the country’s nationally determined contributions, and the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) taxonomy,” it said.

The BSP will also continue to improve the earlier-implemented green initiatives in its own offices and facilities and operations. It will also ensure effective implementation in the emission reduction initiative.

Meanwhile, the central bank said the inflationary effects of “temperature shocks” in the short term would be best addressed by non-monetary policy interventions, not monetary policy.

“On the other hand, if inflation pressures remain persistent and evidence of second-round effects materializes, the central bank will respond and adjust its policy interest rates accordingly,” it added.

The BSP monitors climate-related developments as part of its 11-point sustainability agenda. This includes weather disturbances such as the El Niño and storms that may damage crops or livestock, thus affecting supply and threatening price stability.

The state weather agency earlier said the El Niño weather phenomenon may emerge this month with an 80% probability and will likely persist until the first quarter of 2024. The last time an El Niño event hit the Philippines was in 2019, with agricultural damage reaching up to P8 billion.

The central bank said it is currently conducting a study that examines the effects of temperature shocks on economic growth and inflation.

This is the first attempt to quantify the macroeconomic effects of temperature shocks in the Philippines and may serve as the starting point in understanding the wider consequences of climate change, the BSP said.

“To the extent that climatic changes affect agricultural production, this would affect the level and volatility of inflation. Nevertheless, the impact of climate-related risks to price stability can be mitigated by well-timed and targeted interventions of the NG,” it said.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [UN rights chief: Climate change spells ‘terrifying dystopian’ future](#)

Climate change threatens to deliver a “truly terrifying” dystopian future of hunger and suffering, the United Nations’ human rights chief warned Monday.

Volker Turk slammed world leaders for only thinking of the short term while dealing with the climate crisis.

Turk told a UN Human Rights Council debate on the right to food that extreme weather events were wiping out crops, herds and ecosystems, making it impossible for communities to rebuild and support themselves.

“More than 828 million people faced hunger in 2021. And climate change is projected to place up to 80 million more people at risk of hunger by the middle of this century,” said Turk.

“Our environment is burning. It’s melting. It’s flooding. It’s depleting. It’s drying. It’s dying,” he said, evoking a “dystopian future.”

“Addressing climate change is a human rights issue... there is still time to act. But that time is now,” he said.

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at “well below” two degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 – and 1.5C if possible. The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15C above the 1850-1900 average.

On current policy trends, the planet will be 2.8C warmer by the end of the century, according to the UN’s IPCC climate science advisory panel.

“We must not deliver this future of hunger and suffering to our children, and their children. And we don’t have to,” Volk said.

“We, the generation with the most powerful technological tools in history, have the capacity to change it.”

Turk said world leaders “perform the choreography of deciding to act and promising to act and then get stuck in the short term.”

He called for an end to “senseless subsidies” of the fossil fuel industry, and said the Dubai COP28 climate summit in November and December needed to be the “decisive game-changer that we so badly need.”

Turk urged the world to “shun the green-washers” as well as those who cast doubt on climate science, driven by their own greed.

The Human Rights Council’s 53rd session runs until July 14.

## **MINDANAO TIMES**

### **United for the Environment: GCNP-Planet Pillar and BEST join hands to promote circularity**

The Global Compact Network Philippines (GCNP) – Planet Pillar, co-chaired by Globe and PLDT-Smart, has joined hands with Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies, Inc (BEST) for its Circularity Program, “Iwas Kalat, Dagdag Kita,” an initiative promoting sustainable livelihood and environmental stewardship.

This partnership, supported by the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), is committed to the engagement of Philippine businesses including Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), in environmental preservation and climate action while enhancing economic growth and green employment.

BEST, a leader in plastic waste management and a champion of circularity, expressed excitement over the partnership.

“We are thrilled to be part of the GCNP- Planet Pillar and share our expertise in driving sustainability, circularity, and waste management. We believe that through this initiative, we can help reduce plastic waste in local communities and bring significant environmental benefits,” shared Engr. Ceidge M. Razon, Corporate Sustainability Manager of BEST.

GCNP-Planet Pillar and BEST have partnered for a community-level pilot program to digitize waste management and increase the participation of local MSMEs in the transition to a circular economy. Recently launched in Barangay Escopa, it focuses on capacity-building and enhancing awareness about sustainability and climate resilience for households and MSMEs. Data collection and analysis on the program’s impact will be shared to aid the development of a replicable and sustainable intervention model for other barangays.

Melissa Vergel de Dios, PLDT Inc. Chief Sustainability Officer and Lead of Planet Pillar, said: “We are delighted to join hands with BEST. Their pioneering innovative approaches to waste management will benefit the Circularity Program and help transform the way MSMEs manage plastic waste.

Meanwhile, Yoly Crisanto, Chief Sustainability and Corporate Communications Officer of the Globe Group and Co-Lead of Planet Pillar, shared her optimism about the collaboration with BEST, saying: “With this partnership, we aim to make significant strides in reducing plastic waste at the community-level and build an inclusive and sustainable future for us all.

BEST's incentivized waste management program "Trash to CashBack" and its My Basurero App demonstrates its commitment to the cause. Through these initiatives, BEST actively fosters improved waste management practices and circularity.

Under Trash to CashBack, households, offices, and other establishments are encouraged to exchange paper, plastic, metal, or glass recyclables at My Basurero Eco-Community (MBE-C) Centers, earning Environmental Points (EPs) that can be used to exchange for products or rewards through the bXTRA catalog, BEST's loyalty program partner.

Meanwhile, the My Basurero App is a comprehensive waste collection tool for private individuals and companies. It simplifies obtaining quotes for a variety of waste types, including Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), construction debris, garden waste, food waste, bulky waste, and recyclable waste.

During the pilot program, GCNP-Planet Pillar will hold a monthly GCNP Day at Barangay Escopa where the community can bring their clean and dry plastic waste and receive double or triple the EPs. The EPs can then be used to exchange for products through the bXTRA catalog, which includes some products of the GCNP-Planet Pillar members. During GCNP Day, BEST and GCNP-Planet Pillar will also hold learning sessions for the community and MSMEs to upskill them in circular practices and improve their knowledge on environmental management.

Representing a broad spectrum of industries, Planet Pillar's members have united to counter the critical problem of plastic waste in the country. Through the Circularity Program, the GCNP-Planet Pillar encourages businesses, especially MSMEs, to adopt resilient and sustainable business recovery plans, thereby fostering a culture of comprehensive waste management.

Aside from Globe, PLDT and Smart, other members of Planet Pillar are Bayo Manila, International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI), Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), Manila Electric Company (Meralco), Nestlé Philippines, The PTC Group, and Unilever Philippines.

To learn more about the Private Sector Champions Initiative, visit <https://gcnp.org.ph/private-sector-champions/>.



## **MINDA NEWS**

### **TURNING POINT: Bracing for El Niño**

By: William R. Adan

NAAWAN, Misamis Oriental (MindaNews / 03 July) – El Niño was officially here in the middle of June, says the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), meaning that things will be much hotter nowadays than usual. Pagasa says that the eastern part of the country will be the first to experience the dry spell while the western side will be wetter.

The El Niño phenomenon results from the warming of a large swatch of ocean surface in equatorial Pacific Ocean and its eastern side.

The natural phenomenon usually occurs every two to seven years, more frequently than its opposing climate phenomenon, La Niña, which occurs during the cool period in the temperature fluctuation of the ocean. But neither follows a schedule. El Niño dry spell typically lasts nine to 12 months, but can sometimes carry on for years, leaving in its wake drought and wildfires.

El Niño fuels tropical cyclones in the Pacific and boosts rainfall and flood risk the world over. La Niña, like El Niño, also unleashes rainstorms, floods, droughts and wildfires worldwide.

Already, the warming of the ocean resulting from climate change has brought about violent storms in recent years whose monstrous winds, rains and floods have devastated less developed countries bordering the western Pacific Ocean that includes the Philippines, destroying many lives and billions of dollars worth of properties, public infrastructure and agriculture.

The advent of El Niño exacerbates the effects of climate change and adds juice to the calamity it spawns.

Beyond preparing food packs for victims of tropical storms, it's a guessing game what other preparations have the government in mind, especially in cushioning the impact of an impending long drought.

Often, wet months precede the El Niño long dry spell. It is advisable to harvest and store rainwater in tanks and water cisterns where possible.

In rural settings, particularly in agricultural areas, which do not have sufficient water channels, the government may dig deep wells and build water impoundments for

farming communities. This will be of great help in meeting their basic water needs and in the care of farm animals and some heat-tolerant food crops during the dry months.

For food security, it is imperative that the government immediately deliver a water development program across the country in combating El Niño. The Build, Build, Build government program for roads, bridges, ports and airfields may be suspended for the meantime to refocus efforts in implementing a nationwide water program the soonest possible time.

## PHILIPPINE CANADIAN INQUIRER

### [Under hazy skies, opportunities for ground-up climate disaster policy changes](#)

By: Trish Audette-Longo, Sean Holman and Sarah Marie Wiebe

Smoke hung over Ottawa and many Canadian cities in June as hundreds of wildfires burned across the country. For those setting policy in the capital, the haze underlined overlapping demands to fight flames and keep people safe across provinces and territories.

Heavy smoke is relatively rare where public policy is debated and designed, in Toronto, Quebec City, Montreal and especially Ottawa. Researchers have even described the Great Lakes region as a “climate refuge” or the destination of choice for those who have the independent means and mobility to move away from risky areas.

But the climate is changing in the Great Lakes region, too. If policymakers were to listen to the stories of people in areas where climate disasters are more frequent, including in Indigenous or marginalized communities, they could learn a lot. There are important lessons in these stories – whether it’s about action plans during wildfires and flash floods, or government responses during heat waves – that could inform government policies.

Collecting and sharing a range of stories and potential solutions is a goal of the Climate Disaster Project.

Journalists and researchers from around the world who are part of the project have gathered 128 eyewitness accounts, interviewing people about their experiences living through wildfires, heat domes, floods and other extreme events that are happening with greater frequency and force as the world climate changes.

In sharing survivors’ “as-told-to” stories in their own words, we aim to unearth shared experiences despite differences in geography, politics, language and culture.

We also aim to articulate potential policy changes from the ground up. This is a vital matter of environmental and policy justice. Decision-makers must not just hear but also listen to the stories of those directly affected. Listening is a necessary step toward transformative change and it is not limited to the workings of Parliament Hill.

In sharing their experiences with climate disasters, survivors shed light on policy gaps and response gaps as well as avenues for potential change at all levels of government – local, regional, Indigenous, provincial, federal and international.

Through each story, we learn more about the needs and hopes of people at the cusp of this new age of disaster.

We heard from Langley, B.C. fishing guide Jordi Williams about the need for a quicker government response to the kind of flooding that happened in southern British Columbia in 2021.

We heard from Edmonton pizza delivery driver Jack Farrell about the need for emergency government funding so low-income people can keep themselves cool during the kind of heat waves that happened throughout western North America in 2021.

We also heard from retired Lytton, B.C., shop teacher Ken Pite about the need for more greenery to cool communities like his, which was devastated in a 2021 fire.

And we heard from radio-station manager Racine Jeff about how the T̓silhqot̓in National Government has bolstered its disaster preparedness following the 2017 British Columbia wildfires, which Tl'etinqox Chief and Council decided to stay and fight in the face of RCMP opposition.

This is slow work. Hours are spent with interviewees as they reflect, share memories and their stories of returning home, rebuilding, finding things they thought were lost, and leaning on family, friends and community members.

Each story is different. For example, a recent investigation by Francesca Fionda showed Indigenous people in British Columbia were more likely than non-Indigenous people to be displaced by fires, floods, landslides and sinkholes.

This is not the only pattern identified. Survivors raise questions about how local governments can be better prepared to respond to disasters, and they speak about how governments have failed to respond.

Their stories illustrate the importance of communicating with residents before, during and after a disaster, and how the co-ordinated efforts of politicians, policymakers and emergency responders demand constant reassessment.

Survivors also share questions about the future. If one summer was bad, what will the next be like? They might ask what their grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's lives will look like. They also might express hope or optimism about finding ways to live alongside and through disasters.

Not everyone we meet is on the same page. Not everyone attributes the disasters they have experienced to climate change. Not everyone has been similarly affected by those

disasters. The risks to lives, loved ones and livelihoods are shared unevenly, and not everyone lives with these risks again and again.

But everyone we have met has a powerful lived experience, making them knowledge-bearers of what it will mean to live in an increasingly warming and precarious world.

University of British Columbia researcher Sarah Kamal has argued that policies designed to address climate-disaster displacement must be informed by people on the ground. She suggests “reactive and top-down responses have often caused more trauma to communities.”

Working with people to document their personal stories of living with climate change contributes to finding and amplifying solutions in and across communities. The questions we hear and relay from survivors, and their shared experiences and hopes for the future, can provide points of departure for decision-makers to consider imaginative, community-responsive climate and disaster policies.

This spring, we found ourselves under hazy skies and an orange sun. Dust clung to outdoor surfaces and neighbours wore masks outdoors. It was a new reality for us. Even when the immediate danger passed, people were being warned it may not be over.

The greater fire risk remains in more vulnerable rural, remote and Indigenous communities. The mayor of Sept-Îles, Que., told his community that they will need to “learn to live with risk, since a fire of this magnitude doesn’t die easily.”

There are, and there will be, more stories to tell. Stories of massive power outages in Ottawa, storms on the East Coast and the effects of shorter, warmer winters. Through it all, we have an opportunity to find common ground in shared experiences of climate change.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [PH groups press UN anew on rights abuses](#)

By: Abby Boiser

Civil society groups raised anew their concern over human rights abuses in the country before the 53rd Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, last week.

Representatives of the Center for Environmental Concerns, Coalition for People's Rights to Health, Council for Health and Development, Ibon Foundation, Kilusang Mayo Uno, and National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL) — groups which form part of the Philippines' Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as mandated by the UN — attended the conference.

They said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s first year in office was marked by a lack of accountability and progress in upholding civil and political rights.

"Beyond the optics and [rhetoric] of the Marcos Jr. administration, we come once again to the UN to hold power to account by presenting our data and recommendations which can serve as an alternative to state-backed narratives," said lawyer Edre Olalia, NUPL chair and UPR co-head.

He said UPR's report presented the realities of human rights abuse that the Filipino people face, in contrast to the state's narrative before the international body.

Poverty, violations

The report served as an update after the Philippine government accepted the recommendations by the council's other member states at the 4th cycle of UNHRC in March.

Some member states suggested the "ratification of international treaties" and the adoption of "measures to address structural challenges relating to income inequalities and poverty."

UPR said the government failed to address "deeply-rooted problems," such as job insecurity, poverty and inequality, the prevalence of poor health, lacking social services, environmental distress, and climate change.

The groups behind UPR also urged the council to investigate reported attacks against people who “raise dissent or dare challenge state narratives [and] face harassment, intimidation, Red-tagging, surveillance or death.”

“The lives of countless workers, lawyers, judges, health workers, environment defenders, and development workers are senselessly taken, and basic democratic rights are continuously attacked with impunity,” Olalia said.

Attempts by the state to “repress” these people only push them “to tirelessly make their voices heard” by the global community, he said.

### Dialogue

UPR members also held a dialogue with the UN’s special rapporteurs on physical and mental health, protection and promotion of human rights in the context of climate change, and the independence of judges and lawyers.

The UNHRC’s conference began on June 19 and ends on July 14.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### 'Climate change spells terrifying future'

Climate change threatens to deliver a "truly terrifying" dystopian future of hunger and suffering, the United Nations' human rights chief warned Monday.

Volker Turk slammed world leaders for only thinking of the short term while dealing with the climate crisis.

Turk told a UN Human Rights Council debate on the right to food that extreme weather events were wiping out crops, herds and ecosystems, making it impossible for communities to rebuild and support themselves.

"More than 828 million people faced hunger in 2021. And climate change is projected to place up to 80 million more people at risk of hunger by the middle of this century," said Turk.

"Our environment is burning. It's melting. It's flooding. It's depleting. It's drying. It's dying," he said, evoking a "dystopian future." "Addressing climate change is a human rights issue... there is still time to act. But that time is now," he said.

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 — and 1.5 C if possible. The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15 C above the 1850-1900 average.

On current policy trends, the planet will be 2.8 C warmer by the end of the century, according to the UN's IPCC climate science advisory panel.

"We must not deliver this future of hunger and suffering to our children, and their children. And we don't have to," Volk said.

"We, the generation with the most powerful technological tools in history, have the capacity to change it." Turk said world leaders "perform the choreography of deciding to act and promising to act and then get stuck in the short term." He called for an end to "senseless subsidies" of the fossil fuel industry, and said the Dubai COP28 climate summit in November and December needed to be the "decisive game-changer that we so badly need." Turk urged the world to "shun the green-washers" as well as those who cast doubt on climate science, driven by their own greed.

The Human Rights Council's 53rd session runs until July 14.



## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### MAHARLIKA TV

#### [Dela Cruz advocates for collaborative partnerships among stakeholders in addressing climate issues](#)

In light of reports identifying over 40 vulnerable areas in the Philippines due to the global climate crisis, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. emphasized the significance of partnerships and collaborative efforts among all stakeholders.

He particularly highlighted the importance of involvement from local government units (LGUs) and the private sector in formulating and implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to the extreme conditions caused by climate change and global warming.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) previously urged LGUs, academic institutions, and other stakeholders to prioritize the afforestation and reforestation of one million hectares of classified forest areas.

Environment Secretary Antonia ‘Toni’ Yulo-Loyzaga stated that partnerships among stakeholders would greatly contribute to enhancing lives, livelihoods, and the country’s commitment to achieving a low-carbon, green, and sustainable future.

Commissioner Dela Cruz supported this stance, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach involving the entire nation and local communities to effectively address the impacts of climate change.

As part of his efforts, the climate official recently visited Pagsanjan, Laguna, where he inaugurated the municipality’s transition from landfill to waste-to-energy (WtE) technology.

He also participated in a tree-planting activity alongside local officials led by Mayor Cesar Areza and representatives from waste management firm PEDECO, including its executive director Maximino ‘Mike’ Camacho and business contractor Bimbo De Leon.

Dela Cruz expressed enthusiasm, stating, “This collaboration will ensure the realization of our community-based forest management goals, which were initiated with the integrated social forestry program. These initiatives have been established since the time of President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr., and with the support of his son’s National Development Plan (NDP) for 2023 to 2028, we can easily achieve them.”

In conclusion, Dela Cruz emphasized that our forest cover serves as the life support system for our country, and without it, water, energy, and food security would be impossible to attain.

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### **CCC Backs Government, Private Partnership To Protect Natural Resources**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Friday emphasized the importance of closer collaboration between the government and the private sector to protect the country's dwindling natural resources.

In a statement, CCC Commissioner Albert dela Cruz Sr. said immediate actions are needed to address the mismanagement of resources.

"Science has given us many warnings and scientists and environmental experts have warned us 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," Dela Cruz said.

As of 2020, the Philippines has around 7.2 million hectares of forest cover, according to data from the Department of Environment Natural Resources (DENR).

The country's forest cover has steadily dwindled because of the exportation of forest products, Dela Cruz said, citing the production of 827,000 cubic meters of logs and 138,000 cubic meters of lumber in 2021.

Dela Cruz said the government, with the help of the private sector, should protect the remaining forest cover.

"We have to open our consciousness in protecting our environment by taking full advantage of resources in order to protect forest land and not abuse it through the mismanagement of our natural wealth," he said.

During the 160th anniversary of the Philippine Forestry Service in Quezon City on June 26, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. urged the concerned government agencies and the private sector to work together in protecting and managing the country's limited resources.

Marcos said environmental preservation and awareness "are critical in nurturing a deeper consciousness among (the citizenry) as well as in addressing the problems caused by climate change and the centuries of mismanaged resources."

In a Palace briefing on June 27, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said the DENR is eyeing the reforestation of 1 to 2 million hectares in the country under Marcos' watch.

The DENR has created the national environment and natural resources geospatial mapping tool for the identification of areas for reforestation, watershed management, and crafting of mining policies.

## HERALD EXPRESS

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

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 barangay Bato, Toledo City, Cebu, the host community of AboitizPower-TVI. 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.

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