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[PHL can't handle 'fast' transition to renewable energy — Balisacan](#)

By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

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[\[Opinion\] Empowering farmers through renewable energy](#)

By: By Ignacio R. Bunye

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The Department of Agriculture (DA), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST-Pagasa), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the "Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change" (APA) Project during a landmark inception workshop held from June 18 to 19 at Citadines Roces Quezon City. This initiative marks a significant stride in improving farmers' resilience in the face of mounting climate challenges.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Inspired by Cannes, QCinema aims to take lead in eco-friendly cultural events](#)

By: Charmie Joy Pagulong

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By: Bella Cariaso

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DAILY GUARDIAN

[Western Visayas launches P2.3B in community projects](#)

By: Mariela Angella Oladive

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) revealed during the 8th Bayani Ka Award ceremony that Western Visayas has benefited from P2.3 billion worth of community development projects since 2021.

DAILY TRIBUNE

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The Rayuray Farmers' Agriculture Cooperative (RFAC) in Batac, Ilocos Norte shows the spirit of resilience in the face of climate adversity. The Climate Change Commission (CCC) engaged with the cooperative to better understand the ecological challenges that affect their agricultural productivity.

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The Philippines is identified as one of the most at risk countries to disasters caused by climate change. The country experiences an average of 20 tropical cyclones every year, with eight to nine making landfall. In the last decade, rampaging tropical cyclones resulted in P673.3 billion in losses and damages.

[Making youth allies during disasters](#)

The Philippines is among the most at risk countries from the impacts of climate change. During disasters, children and the youth, particularly those with disabilities and from indigenous communities, are among the most vulnerable. However, their keen observation and inquiring nature can be harnessed to make them active allies in times of disaster.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Preparedness and collective action are keys to disaster resilience](#)

The impact of climate change has become more evident. Heat waves a few months ago affected routine, canceling classes in school, prohibiting outdoor activities, and adjusting the way people went along with their daily schedules. When the rains came, the waters flooded streets and destroyed crops, causing billions of pesos in damage, threatening food security, and claiming many lives.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Over 2K KALAH I sub-projects implemented in W. Visayas since 2021](#)

By: Perle Lena

Western Visayas is a recipient of 2,226 Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAH I) sub-projects, spread in 94 local government units, worth PHP2.3 billion since 2021.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

PHL can't handle 'fast' transition to renewable energy — Balisacan

By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

The Philippine Economy cannot handle a “fast” transition to a dominantly renewable energy (RE) mix, according to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

“We have to buy time... meaning, we can't force our country to transition quickly to a fully renewable or to a dominantly renewable (energy mix),” NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan told reporters on the sidelines of an event on Friday.

“Our economy cannot handle that (a fast RE transition.) We have to be realistic,” he added in mixed English and Filipino.

Latest data from UK-based think tank Ember showed the Philippines has become the most coal-dependent country in Southeast Asia and the seventh in the world.

Ember data showed that the share of coal-generated electricity in the Philippines rose by 2.9% to 61.9% in 2023 from 59.1% in 2022, despite efforts to shift to renewable energy sources.

“We cannot simply adopt what very rich countries say. We are not in the same situation,” Mr. Balisacan said in mixed English and Filipino. “We are not as rich as they are — we don't have the technology; we don't have the finances.”

Despite allowing full foreign ownership of RE projects since last year, renewables still account for only 22% of the country's power generation mix. The government wants to increase RE's share to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2050.

Mr. Balisacan noted that solar batteries would help “dramatically change” the energy ecosystem in the country, although adoption would take time if there are no improvements in the enabling environment.

As of February, the Department of Energy (DoE) has awarded over 1,300 renewable energy service contracts with a potential capacity of over 134,000 megawatts.

In a bid to lessen the country's dependency on coal, the DoE in 2020 issued a moratorium on the development of new coal-fired power plants.

Mr. Balisacan said access to technologies and financing would help fast-track the country's RE transition.

"When we committed, we said that we were going to achieve this under the condition that we have access to technologies (and) finances," Mr. Balisacan said in mixed English and Filipino. "But those were so slow in coming. Many, not just us, developing countries have those issues."

Jose M. Layug, Jr., president of the Developers of Renewable Energy for Advancement, Inc., said developed countries must ramp up infrastructure, investments, as well as cheaper and concessional financing to support the shift to RE in developing countries like the Philippines.

"Developing countries' renewables transition, like the Philippines, is a big challenge especially since we already have high cost of power and we lack the necessary infrastructure like transition and ports," he said in a Viber message.

Leonardo A. Lanzona, who teaches economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, said the Philippines must seek financing for its renewables transition from the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, which have previously supported the Philippines' climate change adaptation, disaster resilience, and biodiversity projects.

"As such, they (government) are unwilling to tax those firms that still rely on coal energy and to institute the necessary regulations that will protect the society's property rights for a cleaner environment," he said in a Facebook Messenger chat.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said the Philippines should continue to speed up the permitting process for RE projects, lessen ambiguities in regulations, level the playing field for investors, settle any related disputes, and ensure better cooperation with local government units.

"The biggest foreign investment commitments since last year have been in renewable power such as offshore wind, solar, and other RE projects. So, we have yet to see actual rollout of more RE projects, largely from the private sector, both foreign and local investments," he said in a Facebook Messenger chat.

PANAY NEWS

[\[Opinion\] Empowering farmers through renewable energy](#)

By: By Ignacio R. Bunye

In a groundbreaking move, ACEN and SariSuki have joined forces to launch the Agro-Circularity in Renewable Energy (ACRE) program, a visionary initiative aimed at uplifting local farmers in ACEN's host communities. This collaboration is not just a testament to the power of synergy between agriculture and renewable energy but also a model for sustainable development and food security in the Philippines.

The ACRE program is set to revolutionize the agricultural landscape by providing farmers with essential training and support. By cultivating suitable crops within ACEN's renewable energy sites, farmers can enhance the market value of their produce and streamline the supply chain. This initiative introduces modern farm management practices and essential skills such as crop selection and basic business practices, ensuring that farmers are well-equipped to thrive in a competitive market.

ACEN, the energy platform of the Ayala Group, has long been a pioneer in renewable energy projects, with a goal of achieving 20 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. By integrating agriculture into their renewable energy sites, ACEN is promoting responsible land use while contributing to the Philippines' clean energy transition. This innovative approach not only maximizes land utility but also supports local communities by providing them with sustainable livelihoods.

SariSuki, an online platform founded by Brian Cu, has been instrumental in transforming the agricultural supply chain in the Philippines. By connecting microentrepreneurs and farmers directly with consumers, SariSuki ensures fair prices and efficient access to fresh produce. The partnership with ACEN amplifies SariSuki's impact, enabling farmers to reach broader markets and improve their profitability.

The ACRE program is more than just an agricultural initiative; it is a holistic approach to sustainability. By improving agricultural infrastructure and ensuring efficient market access, the program addresses critical challenges faced by farmers. This collaboration exemplifies how responsible land use and innovative solutions can drive economic growth and enhance food security.

The partnership between ACEN and SariSuki is a perfect model of how collaboration can lead to transformative change. By combining the strengths of renewable energy and agriculture, the ACRE program is paving the way for a more sustainable and prosperous future for local farmers. This initiative not only supports the livelihoods of farmers but also contributes to the broader goals of sustainability and food security in

the Philippines. It is a model that other sectors should look to emulate, demonstrating that with the right partnerships, we can achieve remarkable progress.

Unlocking Potential and Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders at Ayala Group

The Ayala Group recently welcomed a new cohort of 93 college and university students into the refreshed Ayala Group Summer Internship Program (AGSIP), a transformative initiative designed to identify and nurture promising young individuals with exceptional potential to become future industry leaders.

The interns, hailing from top institutions in the Philippines and abroad, are about to embark on an exciting journey within one of the country's largest and most enduring conglomerates.

AGSIP goes beyond the traditional internship experience. It's not just about clocking hours; it's about preparing these young talents for the future. As Francisco Romero Milán, Chief Human Resources Officer of Ayala Corporation, aptly puts it: "AGSIP is more than just about an internship. It is about helping (them) become not just professionals but valuable contributors to society."

During the intensive 8-week program, AGSIP interns will be deployed across 20 different companies within the Ayala group. Among the participating companies are Ayala Land, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Group, ACEN, AC Health, AC Logistics, ACMobility, Asticom, GCash and Ayala Foundation, Inc.

The interns will dive into critical functional units, engage in real-world missions, and receive mentorship from seasoned professionals. This hands-on exposure will equip them with practical skills and insights, laying the groundwork for their future careers.

Cezar Consing, Ayala Corporation's President & CEO, welcomed the interns to one of the most exciting companies in the country. Consing said that Ayala's commitment extends beyond the internship period. Even if the interns don't end up working with Ayala, they'll leave with a toolkit of skills and experiences that set them apart. This program is Ayala's pledge to shape the future workforce, ensuring that these young talents thrive wherever their career paths lead.

Consing encouraged the interns to make the most of this opportunity. "Find meaning, understand corporate life, learn how companies like ours operate," he advised. "The connections made during AGSIP, the people met, and the lessons learned will resonate throughout your lives. To the incoming summer interns: Enjoy these eight weeks — it's a stepping stone toward a bright future."

AGSIP runs from June 20 to August 9, 2024 and the Ayala Group eagerly awaits the impact these interns will make.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Pagasa: Rainy Monday likely in parts of Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao

By: Faith Argosino

A rainy Monday is highly possible due to the easterlies in parts of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

“At yung prevailing weather system ngayon sa ating bansa ay yung easterlies ito ang magdadala ng mas malaking tsansa ng mga pag-ulan partikular na sa may silangang bahagi ng ating bansa, ito yung area ng Isabela, Cagayan, Aurora, Quezon, Bicol region, Eastern Visayas, Caraga, at Davao,” Pagasa weather specialist Obet Badrina said in an early morning bulletin.

(The easterlies is the prevailing weather system which means a bigger chance of rain, especially in the eastern part of our country, particularly Isabela, Cagayan, Aurora, Quezon, Bicol region, Eastern Visayas, Caraga and Davao regions.)

Rain showers and thunderstorms may also prevail in the rest of the country from afternoon until evening.

Pagasa added that no weather disturbance is looming in and around the Philippine area of Responsibility.

No gale warning is likewise in effect over any of the country’s seaboards.

THE MANILA TIMES

[FAO, DA, Pagasa launch climate change project for agri](#)

The Department of Agriculture (DA), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST-Pagasa), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the "Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change" (APA) Project during a landmark inception workshop held from June 18 to 19 at Citadines Roces Quezon City. This initiative marks a significant stride in improving farmers' resilience in the face of mounting climate challenges.

Anchored on the success of the DA's Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Project, the APA project focuses on advancing climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) technologies and empowering farmers to develop sustainable enterprises in nine provinces across the country identified as climate hotspots. With a target of reaching 1.25 million farmers, the project aims to raise awareness of climate risks, enhance capacity for resilient agricultural practices, and facilitate access to vital financial resources.

"The AMIA villages, which serve as community-based resilience-building models, will now be scaled up under this project. Through financially and economically viable CRA projects, we can help maximize farmers' incomes and improve their adaptive capacities," said DA Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Atty. Alvin John Balagbag.

DoST-Pagasa Administrator Nathaniel Servando highlighted the project's significance, saying, "The DoST-Pagasa strongly supports this initiative, emphasizing that new agriculture is Climate Resilient Agriculture under one DA framework that is economically viable and environmentally sustainable."

With a total fund of \$39.2 million, including a \$26.3 million grant from the Green Climate Fund—the largest agricultural grant in the Philippines to date—and \$12.9 million in co-financing from the DA and DoST-Pagasa, the APA project is poised to transform the Philippine agricultural landscape. The project will integrate technical support services including training, provision of production inputs, market access, and financing to improve food security, increase household incomes, and enhance resilience.

"By supporting our farmers, we are strengthening our agri-food system to withstand the impacts of climate change. Let us work together to ensure the success of this project," said FAO Representative to the Philippines Lionel Dabbadie.

In a video message, Jong-Jin Kim, FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, remarked, "With such huge targets and potential impact, I fervently hope that everyone maintains a good level of commitment and passion in implementing this project."

Approved in March 2023, this seven-year project aims to indirectly benefit over five million Filipinos living in climate-vulnerable areas by enhancing institutional capacities and information systems, and facilitating widespread adoption of climate-resilient agriculture.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Inspired by Cannes, QCinema aims to take lead in eco-friendly cultural events

By: Charmie Joy Pagulong

The QCinema International Film Festival (QCIFF) is not only a platform to showcase the best of Philippine and world cinema, but it's also an eco-friendly cultural event that promotes sustainability.

According to a study titled "Setting the Stage for Sustainability: An Environmental Impact Baseline Study of QCinema International Film Festival," the QCIFF has created a positive impact on the environment during its run.

The study found a high level of climate change awareness among QCIFF attendees. It noted that 70 percent of respondents had a high awareness of climate change issues and almost 86 percent rated climate change as an essential issue.

Likewise, 72.92 percent strongly supported climate change efforts despite less than half (48.03 percent) being moderately involved in activities contributing to climate change solutions.

It further said that 64.63 percent of the respondents were willing to pay a sustainability fee on top of the ticket price.

When it comes to its ecological impact, the data showed that some 60 percent of the audience consumed food bought from establishments at the venues, and 76 percent consumed mostly water and soda, generating solid waste from popcorn, chips, water bottles, and soda cans.

Apart from its sustainability efforts, the said study also looked into the event's impact on the entertainment industry. The results showed that over 84 percent viewed the event as a pivotal educational platform while a total of 92 percent highly rated the festival's contribution to appreciation of the art and craft of filmmaking.

It can also be noted from the data that more than 85 percent of the respondents highly rated QCIFF's contribution to producing high-quality films.

Further, the study revealed that film festivals are perceived to have a significant impact on the country's economy. Seventy-three percent of the respondents underscored the festival's significant role in economic stimulation, potentially boosting local spending, tourism, and employment opportunities generated by the event.

The study, which examined how cultural and creative industries impact on sustainability, was funded by the University of Glasgow (UofG) Glasgow Centre for International Development in partnership with the UPLB Foundation, Inc.

There were a total of 229 individuals who responded to the survey. They were asked about their festival viewing habits, level of awareness on climate change issues, willingness to act towards climate action, and perception of the festival's economic and cultural impact.

Lead researcher Michael Kho Lim remarked that “there is an urgent need to adopt sustainable festival practices,” citing the Philippines as a country that hosts numerous festivals.

“Many studies have shown that mounting these events considerably negatively impacts our environment. It is high time other organizers followed suit and took significant steps that could drive the cultural and creative industries towards a greener and more sustainable future,” he added.

“This initiative to establish baseline data is the first step towards creating a possible environmental management plan and sustainability framework for the festival. This can form the basis of similar plans and frameworks for other cultural and creative activities in the country,” the press statement read.

QC Mayor Joy Belmonte cited the study by Lim and his team, including Assistant Prof. Katrina Tan and Prof. Eduardo Roquiño as co-researchers, as one that goes beyond just a research study because it is also “a visionary effort.”

“It lays the groundwork for assessing the environmental impact of cultural events, identifying areas for improvement in Cinema’s footprint, and developing strategies for communication and collaboration around climate action,” mentioned Belmonte in a speech.

She also stated that the results-based approach of the study is aligned with the city’s commitment to data-driven decision-making and further enumerated the local government efforts in implementing the vision of the city to be “a livable, green, and sustainable city.”

“Inspired by the Cannes Film Festival’s sustainability efforts, QCinema is poised to become a leader in eco-friendly events,” she asserted.

“This is an opportunity for us to set a new standard for cultural events, making cinema a model of environmental responsibility and inspiring other festivals worldwide to follow

suit. It will not just be a celebration of film but a demonstration of our commitment to a sustainable future.”

Belmonte concluded her speech by saying that they will continue to “make the lights of cinema and our other cultural events brighter and more sustainable” and explore more on how film festivals can become leaders in eco-friendly cultural events. “Let us work together — lights, camera, and action for sustainability.”

Philippines, EU eye green economy partnership

By: Bella Cariaso

A partnership on green economy, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction has been discussed by the Philippines and the European Union.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga met with EU Ambassador Luc Veron to discuss a close partnership amid efforts to minimize the impact of climate change.

“Grateful to DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) for their sustained efforts in safeguarding the Philippines’ environment and its natural resources,” Veron posted on X, formerly Twitter, after his farewell courtesy call yesterday.

Efforts to minimize climate change’s impact are gaining headway with the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP), Loyzaga said.

Loyzaga is the official representative of President Marcos to the Climate Change Commission.

The NAP and its companion measure NDCIP are in full swing, she noted, as local government units are urged to adapt and become resilient.

“This will ensure that adaptation and mitigation can be embedded across sectors, scales and geographies,” she added.

Loyzaga has mobilized support for the NAP and NDCIP, particularly in coordinating assistance and investments of development partners and financial institutions to achieve mitigation and adaptation goals.

The Philippines is one of 56 countries that have submitted their NAP to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Support being established with development partners would be aligned with climate action priorities, which include the protection and regeneration of blue and green ecosystems, building climate-resilient communities, transition to clean energy, water and food security, responsible and sustainable mineral resource development, investing in gray and green infrastructure, value-generating digitalization and creation of more green and blue jobs, Loyzaga said.

Citing the President's instruction, she reiterated that the value of the NAP and NDCIP must be translated to the benefit of communities and disseminated among local governments.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY GUARDIAN

[Western Visayas launches P2.3B in community projects](#)

By: Mariela Angella Oladive

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) revealed during the 8th Bayani Ka Award ceremony that Western Visayas has benefited from P2.3 billion worth of community development projects since 2021.

These initiatives, comprising 2,226 Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI) sub-projects, spanned 94 local government units.

The event was held on July 5 at the Grand Xing Hotel in Iloilo City.

The National Community-Driven Development Program-Additional Financing (NCDDP-AF) led with 1,863 sub-projects, showcasing the largest portfolio. This was followed by KALAHI-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) initiatives alongside Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay (KKB), numbering 185 projects.

The Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Program (PMNP) contributed 148 projects, with Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) completing the efforts with 20 projects.

In her address, Didith Bosen, Deputy National Program Manager for Support at the KALAHI-CIDSS national project management office, credited the program's success to the collaboration between community volunteers and LGUs, calling them the lifeblood and lifeline of the program, respectively. She emphasized their crucial role in providing technical guidance and resources essential for project implementation.

She noted the upcoming closure of the National Community-Driven Development Program – Additional Financing (NCDDP-AF) this year and expressed optimism about future initiatives.

“The largest portfolio program, the NCDDP-AF, will be closing this year, but let this not be the end of our efforts. As we reflect on our journey, let us look to the future with optimism and determination. Our work is far from over. We still have to hurdle many challenges to deliver the remaining tasks and ensure that no sub-project is left behind,” she said.

Looking ahead, she mentioned ongoing efforts to institutionalize Community-Driven Development (CDD) beyond 2024. She outlined plans for the “Panahon ng Pagkilos” program, scheduled to begin in 2025 with a USD 700 million loan from the World Bank.

The initiative aims to bolster local capacities for climate resilience planning and action in vulnerable communities, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Climate Change Commission.

“This project will work toward the enhancement of the local climate change action plan of LGUs and support them in achieving the required competencies for the Seal of Good Local Governance. It will also help capacitate local governments to access the People Survival Fund,” she remarked.

Meanwhile, Atty. Carmelo Nochete, DSWD-6 regional director, underscored the importance of community volunteers, who have played a pivotal role in the success of KALAHI-CIDSS initiatives. He praised their dedication and commitment, reflecting on their significant contributions over the past four years.

The Bayani Ka Award ceremony recognized volunteers for their dedication to the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI) initiatives, highlighting their significant contributions to sustainable development across Western Visayas.

DAILY TRIBUNE

Agri coop faces ecological challenges

The Rayuray Farmers' Agriculture Cooperative (RFAC) in Batac, Ilocos Norte shows the spirit of resilience in the face of climate adversity. The Climate Change Commission (CCC) engaged with the cooperative to better understand the ecological challenges that affect their agricultural productivity.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's projection is that Ilocos Norte will have an increase in temperature and rainfall by 2036 to 2065, which will result in drier dry days and wetter wet days. This poses challenges for various sectors, particularly agriculture, which is highly vulnerable to the impacts of prolonged drought and extreme rainfall conditions.

During the visit, the farmers shared their firsthand experiences of how water scarcity and changing rainfall patterns have affected their crops and livelihoods. The community has increasingly relied on groundwater extraction as their support for irrigation. This method, while beneficial, also presents risks of land subsidence.

"The supply of water to us depends on rain. Due to climate change, the season when water is strong and weak also changes and this affects our crops," Barangay Captain Norberto Puyot said in Filipino.

Cooperative members identified initiatives and programs that are vital in sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. This includes solar-powered irrigation systems, rainwater catchment facilities, harvest calendar, drought-resistant crops, post-harvest marketing, and information dissemination, and knowledge and capacity development.

The CCC emphasizes the importance of collaborative efforts to support cooperatives and local communities such as the Rayuray Farmers' Agriculture Coop.

The CCC formed a partnership with Mariano Marcos State University, Philippine Rice Research Institute and the local government of Ilocos Norte to help formulate more appropriate plans of action toward climate-resilient agriculture in the region.

The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives (IDC) every first Saturday of July. The commemoration aims to highlight the relevance of cooperatives in promoting and advocating for sustainable development.

This year's IDC theme, "Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All," acknowledges their efforts in creating a sustainable and equitable future by empowering communities and promoting inclusive economic growth.

Expanding stakeholder participation in transformative climate action: COOPERation is key

The Philippines is identified as one of the most at risk countries to disasters caused by climate change. The country experiences an average of 20 tropical cyclones every year, with eight to nine making landfall. In the last decade, rampaging tropical cyclones resulted in P673.3 billion in losses and damages.

Because of climate change, the Philippines is also increasingly becoming exposed to longer and harsher dry seasons, invariably impacting economic activities and productivity due to effects on the health and well-being of Filipinos.

Without drastic cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions, the Philippines is expected to face even more severe climate change impacts in the near future. Amid these challenges, expanding stakeholder participation is critical as part of whole-of-society approach to transformative climate action.

Cooperatives are key stakeholders that can play a vital role in helping Filipino communities cope with and adapt to climate change impacts.

The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) defines cooperatives as “autonomous and legally registered associations of persons, with a common bond of interest, who have voluntarily joined together to achieve their social, economic and cultural needs and aspirations by making equitable contributions to the capital required, patronizing their products and services.”

In simple terms, cooperatives are publicly owned businesses that provide financial, resources and knowledge support to its members and their households.

In the Philippines, there are roughly 20 types of cooperatives, including credit, service, multipurpose, electric, transport, housing, fishermen and agriculture coops. Often, these cooperatives operate at a community level, directly giving support to local community members. By fostering local resilience, promoting low-cost and sustainable solutions and services, and undertaking information and education programs, cooperatives empower communities to better address risks, prevent disasters, and minimize and manage calamities driven by climate change.

“In the face of worsening climate change impacts, cooperatives are indispensable actors in raising the climate resilience of Filipino communities. By providing technical knowledge and financial assistance to its members, cooperatives promote grassroots transformation along the lines of sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, renewable

energy, eco-friendly transportation and resilient communities,” said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje of the Climate Change Commission.

Energy cooperatives can support the transition towards clean, renewable and sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectricity and move away from fossil fuels.

Relevant technologies and innovative tools can be made more accessible to members to greatly reduce dependence on fossil fuels and provide choices to foster behavioral changes in consumers.

Transportation cooperatives can advocate eco-friendly approaches to move people, goods and services by developing a comprehensive and integrated sustainable, multimodal public transportation plan. They can also scale up the use of efficient engines and explore sustainable power sources for transportation systems, thereby actively reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Fishing and agriculture cooperatives, on the other hand, can introduce sustainable and modern systems of aquaculture and agriculture to members. Likewise, multipurpose cooperatives and other types of coops can offer opportunities to local members to run microbusinesses economically and, at the same time, sustainably.

Moreover, financial cooperatives can offer financial assistance to members, which can be used as start-up capital for members’ sustainable business venture. Extending this further, cooperatives can strengthen and green the supply chain by providing targeted financing and support for clean and sustainable products. Cooperatives, too, can provide safety net mechanisms for climate-induced damages to their livelihoods.

Building on these foundations, cooperatives can be considered natural allies in the country’s fight against climate change.

Beyond promoting sustainability and resiliency, cooperatives actively engage in community education. This grassroots involvement can be enhanced by advocating for climate policy changes and supporting projects already championed by cooperatives. Moreover, cooperatives hold a strong driving capacity to usher innovation and research, particularly in developing climate-smart solutions using information and communications technology.

Despite the numerous opportunities and impactful potentials of cooperatives in the Philippines, however, they still face a plethora of challenges.

Many cooperatives in the country, especially agricultural coops, face financial constraints and lack access to technical assistance. This decreases their ability to implement sustainable practices efficiently. Likewise, due to the country's high vulnerability to climate risks and natural disasters such as tropical cyclones, flooding and earthquakes, many cooperatives struggle with business continuity and operations. Furthermore, many of them are hindered in promoting sustainable practices within their communities due to lack of financial and knowledge resources.

These challenges underscore the need for the government to continuously support cooperatives financially and technically. It also highlights the need for more policies that recognize the integrity and imperativeness of cooperatives in the Philippines' venture towards climate change adaptation. In this regard, efforts by the CDA to empower, capacitate and support cooperatives are recognized.

The CDA has integrated sustainability and innovation as part of these efforts, as well as including active discussions on climate change adaptation and mitigation to further strengthen cooperatives.

In the Philippines' very first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) created and adopted under the Marcos Administration, cooperatives are included as part of the country's climate solutions, stressing a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to raising climate resilience.

The NAP incorporates inputs from various stakeholders, including cooperatives, to enhance community-based adaptation efforts and promote sustainable development across sectors. The NAP covers the importance of robust partnerships with cooperatives in the effective implementation of strategies for food security, water management, and livelihood protection.

The roles and impacts of cooperatives in Philippines' climate action are multifaceted, multidimensional and cross-sectoral. Investments made by the government for the full development of Philippine cooperatives are rightly key for them to become broad-based instruments of social justice, equity and balanced national progress and climate resiliency.

Making youth allies during disasters

The Philippines is among the most at risk countries from the impacts of climate change. During disasters, children and the youth, particularly those with disabilities and from indigenous communities, are among the most vulnerable. However, their keen observation and inquiring nature can be harnessed to make them active allies in times of disaster.

It is important to involve children and the youth in disaster preparedness as they can serve as young advocates within their families and communities. This also increases their social responsibility and resilience. By utilizing their knowledge and skills, children and young individuals can contribute to create a safe and resilient environment for their families, even in their own little ways.

The Climate Change Commission firmly believes that children and the youth are more than capable of providing significant contributions to society, and is committed to ensure that no one is left behind, especially in times of disaster.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Preparedness and collective action are keys to disaster resilience](#)

The impact of climate change has become more evident. Heat waves a few months ago affected routine, canceling classes in school, prohibiting outdoor activities, and adjusting the way people went along with their daily schedules. When the rains came, the waters flooded streets and destroyed crops, causing billions of pesos in damage, threatening food security, and claiming many lives.

We are familiar with the scenarios that climate change has brought on. After emerging from a long dry spell of El Niño, we are preparing for the La Nina weather phenomenon. The reality of climate change should by now create a deeper awareness on the importance of resilience, or our ability to recover quickly from disaster.

That is the focus of the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) campaign on the role of climate resilience in safeguarding the Philippines from the escalating impacts of climate change. Its observance of National Disaster Resilience Month is focused on the theme "Bantayog ng Katatagan at ang Pagbubuklod sa Layuning Kahandaan" (Pillar of resilience and uniting for preparedness). Programs emphasize the necessity of proactive measures to enhance the country's ability to withstand and recover from climate-related disasters.

Preparedness is the key to resilience and this requires that individuals stay informed of what's happening around them, especially on community programs that have been designed for dealing with climate change. Being connected to one's community can start with volunteer work. Use this day to find out where you fit in your barangay's disaster preparedness programs.

"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," the CCC said.

The agency's programs also include calls to support climate-resilient infrastructure improvement and the adoption of sustainable practices, including recycling, energy conservation, and sustainable transportation. Any effort to lessen one's footprint on this planet – such as reducing waste – can contribute to sustainable practices. Start with avoiding the use of single-use plastic bags and containers, a situation which confront each of us daily.

The crucial role that local government units (LGUs) will play in the implementation of national climate change mitigation and adaptation plans has been highlighted by the CCC during the recent Eastern Visayas Summit on Climate-Resilient Development. Among the programs discussed were the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change, National Climate Change Action Plan, and the National Climate Risks Management Framework.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is preparing for a significant initiative next year with its new community-led climate adaptation project under the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS).

Now on its initial planning stage, the program is designed to tackle the dual challenges of poverty and climate change in vulnerable areas, particularly those prone to severe climatic hazards and home to indigenous populations.

Already, the DSWD has reported that the KALAHI-CIDSS has achieved “significant milestones, enhancing community resilience by constructing 1,250 community centers, multi-purpose buildings, and evacuation centers, providing safe havens during disasters.” It has also provided 928 units of disaster and pandemic response equipment, and built 3,566 quarantine facilities, re-purposed to manage public health emergencies during disasters.

The government programs to build disaster resilient communities need the support of individuals and families who make up the barangays. Start with a disaster preparedness plan in your household.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Over 2K KALAH I sub-projects implemented in W. Visayas since 2021

By: Perle Lena

Western Visayas is a recipient of 2,226 Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAH I) sub-projects, spread in 94 local government units, worth PHP2.3 billion since 2021.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) data presented during the 8th Bayani Ka Award held at the Grand Xing Hotel in Iloilo City on Friday showed that the National Community-Driven Development Program-Additional Financing (NCDDP-AF) provided the highest portfolio with 1,863 sub-projects.

These are followed by KALAH I-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAH I-CIDSS) projects implemented alongside the Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay (KKB), 185; the Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Program (PMNP), 148; and Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA), 20.

KALAH I-CIDSS national project management office officer-in-charge Deputy National Program Manager for Support Didith Bosen, in her keynote address, recognized the role of local government units (LGUs) that she called the lifeline.

"We are successful as a program because of our lifeline. These are our partner local government units who provided us with the technical guidance and resources that played a significant role in the successful implementation of the program," she said.

Bosen said that while the NCDDP-AF will be closing this year, she encouraged implementers to look at the future with optimism and determination.

"Our work is far from over. We still have to hurdle many challenges to deliver the remaining task and ensure that no remaining sub-project is left behind," she said.

Bosen said the advocacy on Community-Driven Development (CDD) will not stop in 2024 with the closure of the NCDDP-AF because the department will be working for the CDD institutionalization.

She said they are also working on a successor program, the "Panahon ng Pagkilos (time for action)," aimed to strengthen local capacities for participatory climate resilience planning and deliver action in vulnerable communities.

Bosen said it will be funded by a USD700 million loan from the World Bank (WB) to be implemented in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government

(DILG), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Climate Change Commission to kick off in 2025.

“This project will work toward the enhancement of the local climate change action plan of LGUs and support them in achieving the required competencies for the Seal of Good Local Governance. It will also help capacitate local governments to be able to access the People Survival Fund,” she added.

Meanwhile, DSWD regional director Carmelo Nochete, in his message during the event, said the Bayani Ka Award is intended to acknowledge the hard work of volunteers, who have reached close to 57,000 in the last four years.

“The Bayani Ka Award is intended to acknowledge the hard work of local everyday heroes who put their communities before themselves. Community volunteers are the backbone of our KALAHI-CIDDS implementation,” he said.

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