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GMA

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By: Anna Felicia Bajo

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Philippines elected host of climate disaster fund board - Marcos

By: Mariel Celine Serquiña

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MANILA BULLETIN

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PCO

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[\[Opinion\] Where does the urban poor stand in 'just' energy transition?](#)

The term “just energy transition” (or JET) has been gaining currency because responses to the climate crisis cannot make a significant impact without transforming the energy sector. This transition involves the gradual and steady shift from a fossil fuel-based energy mix—for electricity, transportation, agriculture, and others—to one that comes from renewable sources with low, if any, carbon emissions. For energy transition to be “just,” it must look after the people and communities in the energy systems who could be negatively affected. For example, workers in the coal sector and their families must not be made worse off when the transition results in job losses. Renewable energy projects also must not displace communities or harm the natural environment.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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By: Cristina Chi

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Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said that the country's hosting of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) board is an opportunity to access more climate finance and investments.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

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By: Katrina Domingo

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday announced that the Philippines has been elected to host a United Nations panel in charge of funding for responding to loss and damage due to climate change.

“I am proud to announce that the Philippines has been elected to host the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board, out of seven other contenders,” the President said in a social media post.

“We are also honored to have a seat on the Board itself, ensuring that the Philippines will be a formidable voice in promoting and advancing global climate action— an issue of critical interest to the country,” he said.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the LDF Board is “entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, which would also serve the Paris Agreement.”

Its mandate includes “a focus on addressing loss and damage to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.”

The Philippines was elected to host the LDF Board at the second meeting of the Board of the Fund for responding to loss and damage.

The 26-member LDF Board is composed of 12 members from developed country Parties and 14 members from developing country Parties.

“Hosting the LDF Board reinforces our dedication to inclusivity and our leadership role in ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change shape the future of international climate policies,” Marcos Jr. said.

At its first meeting, the Board elected Richard Sherman (South Africa) and Jean-Christophe Donnellier (France) as its co-chairs for a term of one year.

The Philippines is among the countries that will represent Asia-Pacific states in the Board.

Finance Undersecretary Mark Dennis Y.C. Joven is the Philippines' representative in the board. He is a CPA-lawyer, who is licensed to practice both in the Philippines and in New York.

Aside from the Philippines, seven other countries submitted proposals to the board.

The Fund's secretariat, on the other hand, will be housed at the World Bank, which will be its interim host for the next four years.

The Loss and Damage Fund was operationalized by the Conference of Parties (COP) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) during its 28th and fifth sessions.

The fund was established to address loss and damage, or the "negative consequences that arise from the unavoidable risks of climate change, like rising sea levels, prolonged heatwaves, desertification, the acidification of the sea and extreme events, such as bushfires, species extinction and crop failures," as defined by the United Nations Environment Programme.

What should the PH bring to table as host of Loss and Damage Fund Board?

By: Raphael Bosano

It took several minutes of pause and a deep breath before Rodne Galicha could utter a response to an inquiry of whether or not the loss and damage fund (LDF) and other policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation would actually take shape had extreme weather events like Ondoy and Yolanda not happened.

Galicha, national convenor of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, acknowledges that these typhoons and other slow onset climate events like El Niño and La Niña that actually made the country stand up and push to establish a mechanism to recover from climate-induced destruction.

“Yolanda changed the whole climate negotiations. The Philippines was put on the spotlight as far as the issue of loss and damage is concerned,” he said.

Barely a year since countries pledged funds during the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of Parties (COP28) in the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines was selected to be host of the board — an opportunity which, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, would allow it “to contribute to the fast and seamless operationalization of the LDF, particularly by ensuring that the meetings of the Board are successfully held and supported.”

“The Loss and Damage Fund is a long-fought struggle to directly assist those who bear the greatest impact of climate-induced losses and damage to recover and build. We take on this responsibility in solidarity with all countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,” said Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga in a statement.

While extreme weather events primarily impact infrastructure and livelihood, Galicha says they also cause unavoidable and irreversible damage to other aspects of human lives.

“The losses and damages are beyond structures. They also destroy the intangible like culture and heritage, even psychological and mental health. There needs to be modalities and mechanisms to address that that loss of these things don’t happen,” he explained in Filipino.

Like the DENR, Galicha says they welcome the country’s selection as host of the board mainly because it is part of the discourse of climate change at a time when communities live through and will continue to experience the impacts of climate change caused largely by more developed countries.

“We regard loss and damage as accountability. We aren’t the reason behind what we’re experiencing now but rather countries who emit so much greenhouse gasses especially carbon dioxide. And we hope the funds increase because we cannot adapt forever.”

The Philippines, represented by Finance Undersecretary Mark Dennis Joven, is one of the 26 members of the LDF Board. Pledges made by rich countries to the loss and damage fund have so far amounted to \$700 million.

But if there’s one thing the Philippines should bring to the table, Galicha says it’s the collective Filipino experience in dealing with a rapidly changing climate.

“No one should be left behind. Whenever they speak in the board, they speak in behalf of those who died, those who are still suffering and those who are still to receive what is due them.”

GMA

Marcos: PH to have major influence in climate change issue

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday expressed belief that the Philippines would have significant influence when it comes to addressing climate change after the country was elected as host of the Loss and Damage Fund Board.

"Ngayon, ang Loss and Damage Fund Board ay—, magho-host ay ang Pilipinas. Kaya naman ay magiging malaki ang ating impluwensiya para lahat ng ating pangangailangan, lahat ng ating pananaw tungkol dito sa subject matter na ito ay maaari nating sabihin at maaaring magka-influence tayo, sasabihin natin hindi niyo naisip ito o ang kailangan niyo na gawin ay ganito. Lahat ng mga ganyan, may boses tayo na malakas," Marcos told reporters.

(The Philippines will now host the Loss and Damage Fund Board. That's why the we will have significant influence, for all our needs and beliefs on this subject matter. We can say things like, you should've thought of this, or you need to do this. We will have a strong voice in all of these.)

"Iyan ang pinaka-importanteng resulta sa pag-host ng Pilipinas sa Loss and Damage Fund Board," he added.

(That's the most important result of the Philippines' hosting of the Loss and Damage Fund Board.)

Earlier, the President said the hosting of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board would ensure that the voices of those most affected by climate change will be heard.

The Loss and Damage Fund aims to provide financial aid to vulnerable countries dealing with the negative impacts of climate change.

Marcos said the Philippines has nothing to do with climate change, adding that developed nations should be at the forefront in addressing its effects.

"Ang Pilipinas ay wala namang kinalaman sa climate change. Wala tayong ginagawa, wala tayong nilalagay sa environment na sumira at nagkaroon ng global warming, nagkaroon ng ito—, mga El Niño na ganito, mga bagyo na ganito," he said.

(The Philippines doesn't have anything to do with climate change. We have not done or put anything that would harm the environment and result in global warming. We've had our share of El Niño and storms.)

"Wala naman tayong kinalaman diyan. Kaya naman dapat suportahan tayo ng mga developed countries," he added.

(We don't have anything to do with those things. That's why developed countries should support us.)

In announcing the country's hosting of the LDF Board, Marcos said Tuesday that the Philippines was chosen out of seven other nations.

The Philippines garnered a seat on the LDF Board in December 2023.

Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga earlier said the Philippines is the "most qualified" to host the LDF Board because it is a living testament to the effects of climate change.

"We are already host to UN entities, international and regional organizations, providing us the institutional capacity, expertise and partnerships to ensure the successful hosting of the Board. And we stand ready to offer our knowledge grounded in our long history and culture of human resilience," Loyzaga said at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai last December.

Philippines elected host of climate disaster fund board - Marcos

By: Mariel Celine Serquiña

The Philippines has been elected host of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced Tuesday.

“Hosting the LDF Board reinforces our dedication to inclusivity and our leadership role in ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change shape the future of international climate policies,” Marcos said on X.

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MANILA BULLETIN

[Philippines to host Loss and Damage Fund Board—Marcos](#)

The Philippines has been elected to host the Loss and Damage Fund Board, President Marcos announced.

Marcos made the announcement through a post on X on Tuesday night, July 9.

"I am proud to announce that the Philippines has been elected to host the Loss and Damage Fund Board, out of seven other contenders," Marcos said.

"We are also honored to have a seat on the Board itself, ensuring that the Philippines will be a formidable voice in promoting and advancing global climate action— an issue of critical interest to the country," he added.

The President further said that hosting the Board of the Fund reinforces the Philippines' dedication to take up the role in ensuring that the voices of places vulnerable to climate change are heard.

"Hosting the LSF Board reinforces our dedication to inclusivity and our leadership role in ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change shape the future of international climate policies," Marcos said.

Manila was selected as the host country of the Board of the Fund at the second meeting of the Board on July 9.

On December last year, the country secured a seat in the inaugural Loss and Damage Fund Board at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai.

The Fund was established to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.

PCO

[PBBM: PH elected to host Loss and Damage Fund Board](#)

Seven months after the Philippines secured a seat in the inaugural Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board in December last year, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. announced on Tuesday that the country was elected to host the LDF.

“I am proud to announce that the Philippines has been elected to host the Loss and Damage Fund Board, out of seven other contenders,” President Marcos said on his official X (@bongbongmarcos) account, formerly Twitter.

President Marcos said the country is “also honored to have a seat on the Board itself, ensuring that the Philippines will be a formidable voice in promoting and advancing global climate action – an issue of critical interest to the country.”

In December last year, the Philippines secured a seat in the inaugural Loss and Damage Fund Board at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai.

President Marcos explained that “hosting the LDF Board reinforces our dedication to inclusivity and our leadership role in ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change shape the future of international climate policies.”

[\[Opinion\] Where does the urban poor stand in ‘just’ energy transition?](#)

The term “just energy transition” (or JET) has been gaining currency because responses to the climate crisis cannot make a significant impact without transforming the energy sector. This transition involves the gradual and steady shift from a fossil fuel-based energy mix—for electricity, transportation, agriculture, and others—to one that comes from renewable sources with low, if any, carbon emissions. For energy transition to be “just,” it must look after the people and communities in the energy systems who could be negatively affected. For example, workers in the coal sector and their families must not be made worse off when the transition results in job losses. Renewable energy projects also must not displace communities or harm the natural environment.

But can we talk about JET in the urban context?

As engines of growth and home to a growing majority of the world’s population, cities consume 75 percent of global primary energy. They are responsible for about two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Such data for Philippine cities are hard to come by but their energy demand and use, as well as their contributions to national GHG emissions, cannot be overstated. Cities can then be considered among the culprits of climate change. In the Philippines, however, because of poor urban planning, unregulated land conversion, and the sheer number of people exposed and vulnerable to risks, adaptation (i.e., preventing and minimizing the adverse effects of climate change like floods and sea level rise) has been prioritized over mitigation (i.e., reducing GHG emissions from human activities). Energy transition falls in the realm of mitigation.

It is challenging to talk about JET in the urban context, maybe because there are no evident threats to the population (except probably when all fuel-based transportation will be phased out). Cities will continue to thrive and will do so sustainably if the energy that drives their activities comes from clean sources. But perhaps, JET in urban areas will be relevant if seen vis-à-vis other issues.

Take electricity for example. Results of a small study conducted last year by a group of nongovernment organizations, including our institute, show that urban poor residents in Quezon City and Davao City do not seem to care about how electricity is generated. What matters to them is that electricity is available 24/7. It is a lifeline for the urban poor—from lighting their homes and running appliances to preparing their food and earning a living. Whether it comes from renewable sources or from burning coal and oil that produce enormous quantities of carbon dioxide and other pollutants is the least of their concerns. The few study participants who were aware of the problem with using fossil fuel-based energy systems simply shrugged this off.

Another recurring theme in the focus groups was the cost of electricity. With the high cost of living in cities, many struggle to pay their monthly bills. This is even more difficult for those in informal settlements. In such communities, households depend on submeters connected to their neighbor's line and are charged twice as much as Meralco rates per kilowatt-hour. This informal arrangement is also common in government resettlement projects where relocated households must wait for months (even years) before they have their legal connection. Applying for a formal connection costs a lot as well. According to some interviewees, one must spend as much as P30,000 on a meter, cables, labor, and permits. And then there are the homeless urban poor who can only afford to use kerosene lamps when night falls. Candles are the cheapest source of light, but these can engulf an entire neighborhood when left unattended, which is a common occurrence in informal settlements.

So, they ask: Can renewable energy ensure a reliable supply of safe electricity for their daily tasks and work? Can renewable energy bring electricity prices down? These are indeed issues of justice.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH win to host LDF Board shows leadership in climate change actions](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The Department of Finance (DOF) said the Philippines' successful bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board is due to the country's leadership in tackling climate change through concrete solutions and actions.

"We were chosen because of our strong commitment and concrete climate actions on the ground, and we thank the President for his steadfast support and dedication in making this happen," Finance Secretary Ralph Recto said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Hosting the LDF Board will unlock more opportunities for the Philippines to accelerate its access to climate finance and investments, which are critical for future-proofing our economy and ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth for all Filipinos," he added.

The LDF is a global financial mechanism designed to provide support to countries' response and recovery from losses and damages caused by climate change.

The Philippines secured a seat on the Board in December 2023.

To secure the spot to host the LDF Board, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. established a technical working group (TWG) on March 1, 2024 to prepare the country's bid submission.

The country's bid offer was spearheaded and prepared by the TWG interagency team composed of the DOF, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Climate Change Commission.

The Philippines was chosen over seven other contenders namely Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Eswatini, Togo, and Kenya.

The 26-member LDF Board selected the Philippines as the host during its second board meeting in Songdo, South Korea on July 9, 2024.

The DOF said that by hosting the LDF Board, the Philippines will play a leading role in helping attract significant support from developed countries and development partners to provide concrete financial contributions in averting, minimizing, and addressing losses and damages.

It will also serve as an avenue for the Philippines to showcase its initiatives, transformative reforms, and science-based innovations on adaptation and mitigation actions as well as disaster risk management aligned with its national plans and strategies.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Philippines-US nuclear deal for 'peaceful uses' takes effect](#)

By: Cristina Chi

The deal between the Philippines and the United States that will allow Washington to export nuclear technology to Manila for peaceful uses has taken effect, the US State Department announced on Tuesday.

The landmark nuclear cooperation pact, which the US hailed as a framework for "peaceful nuclear cooperation" based on non-proliferation commitments, came into force on July 2, around eight months after it was signed by country representatives at an economic summit in San Francisco, California.

This deal aligns with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s plan to increasingly tap nuclear energy to meet the Philippines' growing power demands, but the viability of nuclear as a clean energy source and the government's slow transition to renewables has also been questioned by environmental and clean-energy advocacy groups.

The so-called 123 Agreement permits the transfer of nuclear material, equipment (including reactors), components, and information for nuclear research and civil nuclear energy production to the Philippines, the US State Department said in a statement.

The agreement also "[enhances] our cooperation on clean energy and energy security and strengthen our long-term bilateral diplomatic and economic relationships," the US State Department added.

The agreement was named after Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act, which requires the completion of a peaceful nuclear cooperation deal for the US to send significant amounts of nuclear material to a country.

The US State Department said that the deal builds on almost 80 years of peaceful nuclear cooperation between the US and the Philippines and establishes a continued civil nuclear trade between the two countries.

Target for renewables

The Philippines has adopted an ambitious target of increasing its share of renewable energy in its power generation mix to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

Department of Energy data in 2023 shows coal still dominates the country's power mix, accounting for 43.9%, while renewables come in second at 29.7% of the mix.

Greenpeace Philippines has urged the Philippine government to move away from relying on nuclear energy for electricity in the Philippines given that Germany, like other developed countries, has weaned off nuclear power — an undertaking that it began in 2002 and was accelerated in 2011 after the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan.

Solar energy costs have gone down 89% since 2009 while nuclear costs jumped by 26%, according to the environmental group, which described nuclear energy as an "expensive and risky" investment that needed years of planning.

"Permanent nuclear waste storage and its management are perpetual costs that the government needs to plan for centuries, shouldered by consumers, and using taxpayer money," the group said in a May 2023 statement.

"Ultimately, nuclear power is just not worth it when we already have a vast potential in wind and solar energy waiting to be tapped," the group added.

In 2022, when the 123 agreement was first raised by US and Philippine officials, scientists of the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People opposed the plan, saying the Philippines "will be held hostage by the US in adopting nuclear technology in our energy security.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS WORLD

[Bioplastics roadmap due for completion by fourth quarter](#)

By: Justine Irish D. Tabile

The Board of Investments (BoI) said the Philippine Bioplastics Industry Roadmap is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter.

According to the BoI, the roadmap is one of the outputs of a zero-waste initiative known as “Building Plastic Circularity through Biodegradable Plastic to Ensure Zero Waste in the Philippines.”

The Philippines’ partners in the project are the Global Green Growth Institute and the Korea Export-Import Bank.

On Tuesday, the BoI announced that it led an eight-member Philippine delegation on a five-day industry familiarization activity in South Korea to gather input for drafting the roadmap.

The delegation was joined by representatives from the Department of Science and Technology, the Climate Change Commission, the Philippine Plastics Industry Association, Inc. (PPIA), the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS), and the Sustainable and Compostable Horizons Industry Group, Inc.

The BoI said that bioplastics applications in South Korea include fishing nets and gear, packaging, single-use plastics, textiles, and other uses.

“This industry benchmarking and capacity-building activity included lectures on bioplastics testing, certification labeling, and research and development (R&D) strategy,” it added.

During the visit, the delegation visited the KTR testing laboratory and the KRICT biodegradable R&D facility to hear presentations on best practices and policy options.

The visit also led to a discussion with Cheil Jedang (CJ), which has made overseas investments in Indonesia to make the biopolymer PBAT (polybutylene adipate terephthalate).

“This activity allowed the BoI to develop strategies for positioning the Philippines as an attractive destination for future investments from not only CJ but also other major Korean companies like LG Chem, SK Chemical, and Lotte Chem, which are actively engaged in biopolymer and bioplastic manufacturing,” it said.

“Additionally, both PARMS and PPIA have pledged their proactive support for the strategic application of bioplastics in the Philippines,” it added.

Quoting Ministry of Economy and Finance Director General Taekon Kim, the BoI said that South Korea is closely monitoring Southeast Asia for potential investment partnerships in bioplastics.

“He noted the region’s comparative advantages in biomass and feedstock production, as well as the growing demand for bioplastics,” it added.

MANILA BULLETIN

[DOF: Hosting of Loss and Damage Fund to boost climate investments](#)

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said that the country's hosting of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) board is an opportunity to access more climate finance and investments.

"We were chosen because of our strong commitment and concrete climate actions on the ground, and we thank the President for his steadfast support and dedication in making this happen," Recto said in a statement on Wednesday, July 10.

"Hosting the LDF Board will unlock more opportunities for the Philippines to accelerate its access to climate finance and investments, which are critical for future-proofing our economy and ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth for all Filipinos," he added.

The Philippines was chosen after a closed-door meeting of the 26-member LDF board in Incheon, South Korea, on Tuesday.

Countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Eswatini, Kenya, and Togo also expressed interest in hosting.

The LDF is a global financial mechanism designed to support countries' response to and recovery from losses and damages caused by climate change. The Philippines was elected to the board in December last year.

By hosting the LDF Board, the country will play a leading role in helping attract significant support from developed countries and development partners to provide concrete financial contributions in averting, minimizing, and addressing losses and damages.

The country's active engagement in the LDF will also allow countries worldwide to collaborate with the Philippine government in tackling climate-related challenges.

The World Bank will operationalize the fund for an interim period of four years under an independent secretariat.

So far, rich nations responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions have pledged \$700 million to the fund, which will be used for climate finance or to help poor countries address the impact of climate change.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. established a technical working group (TWG) on March 1 to strategically prepare the country's bid submission.

The country's bid offer was spearheaded and prepared by the TWG interagency team composed of the DOF, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Climate Change Commission.

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