



NEWS ROUNDUP

12 JULY 2023 [08:30 am]

- Why the EU-New Zealand free trade deal is important
- Can we steer climate change out of overdrive?
- Japan floods: three die as island hit by 'heaviest' rainfall
- [Opinion] The imperatives of sustainable buildings and infrastructure in the Philippines
- Climate models underestimate food security risk from 'compound' extreme weather
- Biden meets King Charles and PM Sunak, hails 'rock solid' UK ties
- Pakistan's flood-wrecked infrastructure faces deadly monsoons
- Islamic Relief PH ends 3-yr inclusive help in Lanao Sur town
- Vermont capital submerged in floodwaters with dam on verge of capacity
- Rice soars to two-year high in Asia on El Niño drought risks
- PH seeks inclusion of seafarers' concerns in IMO 'green' scheme
- DENR 'diversifying' water sources as El Niño looms
- UN declares first week of July world's hottest ever

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- PH, UAE boost climate action ties
- Craft climate change action plan, ordinance, Guimaras LGUs urged
- 5 Guimaras towns urged to pass own climate change action plan

ABS CBN

[Why the EU-New Zealand free trade deal is important](#)

By: Nik Martin

On Sunday, the European Union signed a free trade deal with New Zealand after more than five years of negotiations.

ASIA NEWS NETWORK

[Can we steer climate change out of overdrive?](#)

By: Quamrul Haider

Of the four terrestrial planets in the solar system, Mercury, Venus and Mars are dead balls of rock. That is, they are either too hot or too cold to support life in any form. Earth is the only planet in the Goldilocks zone, or habitable zone, with liquid water and a temperature range conducive to human life, along with a cornucopia of boisterous wildlife slithering, scampering, soaring, swimming, and galloping.

BBC

[Japan floods: three die as island hit by 'heaviest' rainfall](#)

By: Graeme Baker

Three people were killed and three others are missing in flooding in southwest Japan caused by the region's "heaviest" rain ever.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[\[Opinion\] The imperatives of sustainable buildings and infrastructure in the Philippines](#)

By: Ron F. Jabal

The Philippines is a country with a growing population and a rapidly developing economy. As the country continues to grow, there is a growing need for sustainable buildings and infrastructure. Sustainable buildings and infrastructure are designed to reduce their environmental impact and improve the quality of life for the people who use them.

ECO BUSINESS

[Climate models underestimate food security risk from 'compound' extreme weather](#)

By: Dr Kai Kornhuber

Weather and climate extremes, such as prolonged drought, heavy rainfall and heatwaves, can lead to harvest failures. These are occurring with increased magnitude and frequency on a warming planet.

GMA NEWS

[Biden meets King Charles and PM Sunak, hails 'rock solid' UK ties](#)

By: Steve Holland

US President Joe Biden made a whistle-stop trip to Britain on Monday, hailing the "rock-solid" friendship with Washington's close ally before meeting King Charles for a discussion with the monarch and finance chiefs on tackling climate change.

NIKKEI ASIA

[Pakistan's flood-wrecked infrastructure faces deadly monsoons](#)

By: Adnan Aamir

The monsoon season has started wreaking havoc in Pakistan, where infrastructure destroyed during last year's massive flooding has yet to be repaired.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Islamic Relief PH ends 3-yr inclusive help in Lanao Sur town](#)

By: Claire Gigje

Alongside other international humanitarian aids implemented in Lanao del Sur province, the Islamic Relief Philippines has also capped off its "Sustaining Transformative and Resilient Initiatives in Vulnerable Communities (STRIVEC) in Lanao Philippines" project.

REUTERS

[Vermont capital submerged in floodwaters with dam on verge of capacity](#)

By: Brian Snyder and Rich Mckay

A dam upstream from the Vermont state capital was holding at maximum capacity on Tuesday after "catastrophic" flooding shut down roadways leading out of Montpelier and trapped people in their homes.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

[Rice soars to two-year high in Asia on El Niño drought risks](#)

By: Napat Kongsawad

Rice prices in Asia have surged to the highest level in more than two years as importers build up stockpiles on fears that the onset of El Niño will parch plantations and damage crops.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH seeks inclusion of seafarers' concerns in IMO 'green' scheme](#)

THE Philippines, through the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), has strongly pushed for the recognition and inclusion of seafarers' concerns in the revised International Maritime Organization (IMO) strategy on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction from ships.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR 'diversifying' water sources as El Niño looms](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The government is diversifying its water sources to include recycling wastewater and constructing new infrastructure to ensure water security in the face of El Niño, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Tuesday.

[UN declares first week of July world's hottest ever](#)

By: Danessa Rivera, Pia Lee Brago

The first week of July was the warmest week ever recorded, according to preliminary data from the United Nations weather agency.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH, UAE boost climate action ties](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to continue working together in advancing global climate action ahead of the latter's hosting of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) this year.

[5 Guimaras towns urged to pass own climate change action plan](#)

By: Perla LenaPerla Lena

The five municipalities of Guimaras are urged to craft their respective ordinance containing their expanded Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) during the first Guimaras Climate Change Summit held in this municipality on Tuesday.

PANAY NEWS

[Craft climate change action plan, ordinance, Guimaras LGUs urged](#)

By: Glenda Tayona

Local government units (LGUs) in the province of Guimaras are being urged to craft their respective climate change action plans and pass ordinances strengthening their implementation.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Why the EU-New Zealand free trade deal is important

By: Nik Martin

On Sunday, the European Union signed a free trade deal with New Zealand after more than five years of negotiations.

Brussels said the agreement will pave the way for EU states to boost investment in the South Pacific nation by up to 80% and increase bilateral trade by nearly a third.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the deal would bring "major opportunities for our companies, our farmers and our consumers, on both sides" and would help drive "just and green growth."

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said the agreement with the country's fourth-largest trading partner would "generate substantial new economic opportunities."

What are the key points of the deal?

The deal eliminates all tariffs on EU exports to New Zealand, cutting some €140 million (\$154 million) a year in duties.

Tariffs will be eliminated on key EU exports such as pig meat, wine and sparkling wine, chocolate, sugar confectionary and biscuits.

The New Zealand services market, including financial services, telecommunications, maritime transport and delivery services, will be opened up further to EU players.

New Zealand exporters will benefit from significantly improved access to the EU market and some 91% of New Zealand's current trade into the EU will enter duty free from day one.

When fully implemented after seven years, 97% of current New Zealand trade will enter the EU duty free.

A New Zealand government statement said the country would gain up to €1 billion in exports to the 27-nation bloc every year.

Within a decade, bilateral trade could grow up to 30% from the current €12.6 billion in goods and services, according to the European Commission.

Annual EU exports to New Zealand have the potential to grow by up to €4.5 billion in the same period, Brussels said.

Beyond the tariff cuts, the deal will protect well-known EU products in New Zealand, including Prosecco, Polish vodka, Rioja wine, Champagne and Tokaji, as well as traditional food products made in the bloc.

Net zero ambitions written into pact

In a first for an EU trade deal, the agreement contains ambitious outcomes to tackle climate change and makes these commitments enforceable.

The Commission statement said the text has a dedicated sustainable food systems chapter, a dedicated trade and gender equality article and a specific provision on trade and fossil fuel subsidies reform.

The deal has a specific list of green goods and services — such as renewable energy and energy-saving products — that will be free of tariffs from the first day.

The EU has made it a priority that future trade agreements include targets for sustainable development.

New Zealand-Australian farmers cry foul

New Zealand farmers have complained about the lack of improved access to the EU market for their products, blaming protectionist lobbying by the bloc's agriculture sector.

Under the new deal, Brussels will retain the use of quotas for some Kiwi dairy products, including beef and sheep meat, ethanol and sweetcorn.

New Zealand will be allowed to export just 10,000 tons of beef to serve the EU market of over 450 million people who between them consume some 6.5 million tons of beef products a year.

However, there is a small quota increase for New Zealand lamb exports.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Australian farmers had urged their own trade minister to walk away from negotiations with Brussels if the bloc offers a deal akin to the one signed with New Zealand.

"We'd say walk away, thanks but no thanks," Tony Mahar, chief executive of the National Farmers Federation, was cited as saying. "If it doesn't mean commercial dollars then we're not interested."

Brussels has so far ruled out giving Australia increased market access to its sheep, beef, dairy and sugar markets.

Negotiations between Australia and the EU for a free trade deal began around the same time as New Zealand.

What happens now?

The New Zealand deal must now be approved by the European and New Zealand parliaments before it can enter into force.

Brussels says it could take effect in the first half of 2024.

ASIA NEWS NETWORK

[Can we steer climate change out of overdrive?](#)

By: Quamrul Haider

Of the four terrestrial planets in the solar system, Mercury, Venus and Mars are dead balls of rock. That is, they are either too hot or too cold to support life in any form. Earth is the only planet in the Goldilocks zone, or habitable zone, with liquid water and a temperature range conducive to human life, along with a cornucopia of boisterous wildlife slithering, scampering, soaring, swimming, and galloping.

Unfortunately, the planet is slowly but surely moving into an unfamiliar, nightmarish territory because of human activities. In the last few years, extreme heat has besieged both hemispheres of our planet even before the official start of summer. And this year, in early July, some regions in the northern hemisphere felt like a blast furnace. Courtesy of climate change, global average temperatures climbed to a record high of 17.23 degrees Celsius on July 4, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, surpassing the previous daily record by 0.31 degrees set on August 14, 2016. The 2016 high coincided with El Nino conditions, a cyclical weather pattern caused by the warming of the waters in the Pacific Ocean, oscillating back and forth every two to seven years.

While an average temperature in the high teens may sound low, it should be noted that the estimate of daily global temperature encompasses the entire planet, including Antarctica where the average temperature in July (winter) varies between negative 56 degrees (daytime) and negative 63 degrees (nighttime).

Although 17.23 degrees is an average, parts of the globe, particularly Northern Mexico, a large swath of Europe and the United States, and many more places felt the extra heat more severely, with heat index pushing temperatures well into the mid-40s zone. For example, residents of the city of Hermosillo in northwestern Mexico endured a scorching temperature of 49.5 degrees. Searing temperatures swept through the rest of the country, too. Northern Africa saw temperatures near 50 degrees, while China is trying to cope with temperatures over 40 degrees.

In the US, a long-lasting intense heatwave spawned by a heat dome is baking Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Southern California, with highs between 41 and 46 degrees. Meanwhile, residents of South Florida are bracing for an oppressive heatwave that is expected to trigger life-threatening conditions.

The spike in temperatures is occurring after only 1.1 degrees of global warming since the Industrial Revolution. Forecasters are warning that, sooner than later, the Earth could be entering a multiyear period of extreme heatwaves, driven primarily by two factors: 1) continued emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHG), mainly due to humans burning fossil fuels; and 2) return of the El Nino after a seven-year hiatus. As the global average temperature rises, heatwaves will become more severe, more frequent, and longer-lasting, propelling the Earth's climate into an uncharted domain.

Under the worst-case-scenario models, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that by the year 2100, Earth's climate may look like the climate of the early Eocene Epoch 56-34 million years ago. It was one of the warmest intervals of the last 56 million years, with mean global surface temperatures being over 14 degrees warmer than present. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were greater than 1,000 parts per million (ppm). By comparison, the current level is roughly 424 ppm.

What is our way out of the climate change conundrum? How do we stop climate change from rolling ahead in overdrive? We do not have many options on the table, because we cannot solve the problems arising from climate change using the same mindset we had when we created them. Consequently, we should stop adopting unenforceable resolutions at conferences, and instead act without any further delay to achieve net-zero emission of GHGs. This means going cold turkey, drastically reducing our dependency on fossil fuels and implementing geoengineering – human's planned measures – to reverse or forestall some of the adverse effects of climate change by manipulating Earth's climate system.

Earth is slowly but surely moving into an unfamiliar, nightmarish territory because of human activities. In the last few years, extreme heat has besieged both hemispheres of our planet even before the official start of summer. And this year, in early July, some regions in the northern hemisphere felt like a blast furnace. Courtesy of climate change, global average temperatures climbed to a record high of 17.23 degrees Celsius on July 4.

In fact, the US and the EU are taking cautious steps towards geoengineering. On June 30 this year, the Biden administration released a report mandated by Congress in a 2022 appropriations bill, outlining a potential research programme primarily focused on solar radiation management (SRM). The report presents an overview of the possibility of an SRM research programme in the US. It indicates that even if the government does not choose to pursue the programme, the blueprint would prove instructive in case another country is interested in pursuing it.

However, the report does not compare the risks of SRM with the benefits. Rather, it recognises that SRM has its downsides that outweigh the continued, worsening effects of climate change. An article, written by me, discussing the pros and cons of SRM was published in this newspaper on September 16, 2019.

Although the prospect of cooling the Earth using SRM seems real and feasible, unease surrounds the questions pertaining to ethics, costs and benefits, limitations, and risks. More importantly, since there is currently no international governing structure to oversee such work, critics believe that within a political context, SRM has the risk of “reckless pursuit of self-interest” by rogue leaders on the world stage.

Nevertheless, the report addresses many of the governance issues, without prejudging any future decisions on whether or not SRM should be deployed. The European Commission is thus calling for high-level talks on how to govern research and the potential use of SRM.

Finally, whether we adopt SRM or not, there is precedent for success in tackling some of the pressing issues facing us. In the 1980s and 1990s, when we learnt that human-produced chemicals known as CFCs were causing great damage to the ozone layer that protects us from the Sun’s harmful ultraviolet radiation, nations around the world agreed on a series of treaties that ultimately phased those chemicals out of production. As a result, the ozone layer began to recover from earlier damage. This shows that we can indeed be moved to act in the face of threats to our survival, as well as threats to the planet that we call our home.

BBC

[Japan floods: three die as island hit by 'heaviest' rainfall](#)

By: Graeme Baker

Three people were killed and three others are missing in flooding in southwest Japan caused by the region's "heaviest" rain ever.

Rivers overflowed and hillsides collapsed as record amounts of rain were dumped on parts of Kyushu island.

The national weather agency logged 402.5mm falling in Kurume on Monday, the highest ever recorded in the city.

Roads and powerlines were cut, and thousands were ordered to evacuate as further downpours were expected.

Satoshi Sugimoto, of the Japanese Meteorological Agency, said he believed the downpours were "the heaviest ever experienced" in the region.

At least three people died in the flooding but the toll could rise, government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno told AFP news agency. Three people were missing in some of the remotest areas of the island.

"We express our condolences to those who died, and our heartfelt sympathy towards those who were affected by the disaster," Mr Matsuno said.

The downpours prompted evacuation notices for hundreds of thousands of people and remote communities remain effectively cut off by flooding and other damage, he said.

An elderly woman died when she was trapped in a house engulfed in mud in Soeda, Fukuoka province, local authorities said. Her husband survived. Another victim was apparently washed away by a flooded river while riding in a car in Kurume.

Japan is currently in its annual rainy season, which often brings heavy downpours, and sometimes results in flooding and landslides as well as casualties.

According to the Japanese Meteorological Agency, the heaviest rainfall recorded in Japan was in Hakone, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 12 October, 2019, when 922.5mm fell in one day.

Scientists say climate change is intensifying the risk of heavy rain in Japan and elsewhere, because a warmer atmosphere holds more water.

The weather agency said it had already been raining for more than a week in the region before the heavy downpours that arrived Sunday night.

And while the sun was shining in many areas on Tuesday, officials have warned of more rain in the forecast, which could loosen already sodden ground.

Landslides are a particular risk in Japan during heavy rains because homes are often built on plains at the bottom of hillsides in the mountainous country.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[\[Opinion\] The imperatives of sustainable buildings and infrastructure in the Philippines](#)

By: Ron F. Jabal

The Philippines is a country with a growing population and a rapidly developing economy. As the country continues to grow, there is a growing need for sustainable buildings and infrastructure. Sustainable buildings and infrastructure are designed to reduce their environmental impact and improve the quality of life for the people who use them.

There are many different ways to make a building more sustainable. Some of the most common strategies include:

- **Using renewable energy sources:** Sustainable buildings can be powered by solar, wind, or other renewable energy sources. This can help to reduce the building's reliance on fossil fuels and its contribution to climate change.
- **Efficient water use:** Sustainable buildings can be designed to use less water. This can be done by using water-efficient fixtures and appliances, rainwater harvesting, and greywater recycling.
- **Energy efficiency:** Sustainable buildings can be designed to be energy efficient. This can be done by using insulation, energy-efficient lighting, and other energy-saving measures.
- **Sustainable materials:** Sustainable buildings can be made from recycled materials or materials that are grown or harvested sustainably. This can help to reduce the building's environmental impact and its contribution to deforestation and other environmental problems.
- **Healthy indoor environment:** Sustainable buildings can be designed to create a healthy indoor environment for occupants. This can be done by using natural ventilation, low-emitting materials, and other strategies that improve air quality and reduce exposure to harmful pollutants.

Sustainable buildings are becoming increasingly popular. There are now many different types of sustainable buildings available, from small homes to large office buildings. As the demand for sustainable buildings grows, the cost of building sustainably is

decreasing. This makes sustainable buildings a more affordable option for both businesses and homeowners.

Indeed, the future of architecture is sustainable. As the world becomes more aware of the need to protect the environment, sustainable buildings will become increasingly common.

Sustainable buildings offer several benefits and some of the most common benefits include:

- **Reduced environmental impact:** Sustainable buildings and infrastructure can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, and protect natural resources.
- **Improved quality of life:** Sustainable buildings and infrastructure can provide a healthier and more comfortable environment for people who live and work in them.
- **Economic benefits:** Sustainable buildings and infrastructure can create jobs, boost the economy, and attract investment.
- **Increased property value:** Sustainable buildings often command a higher price on the real estate market. This is because buyers are increasingly looking for homes and offices that are environmentally friendly.
- **Enhanced employee morale:** Employees who work in sustainable buildings are often more satisfied with their jobs and have higher morale. This is because they appreciate the fact that their employer is taking steps to protect the environment.
- **Improved public image:** Businesses that build sustainable buildings can improve their public image and attract new customers. This is because consumers are increasingly looking to do business with companies that are committed to sustainability.

Examples of sustainable buildings and infrastructure in the Philippines abound. Among the most notable ones are:

- **The Zuellig Building:** The Zuellig Building is a LEED Platinum-certified office building in Makati City. It features a number of sustainable features, including rainwater harvesting, solar panels, and a green roof.
- **The Pioneer House CDO:** The Pioneer House CDO is a LEED Platinum-certified office building in Cagayan de Oro City. It features a number of sustainable features, including natural ventilation, energy-efficient lighting, and water-saving fixtures.

- The ArthaLand Century Pacific Tower: The ArthaLand Century Pacific Tower is a LEED Gold-certified office building in Taguig City. It features a number of sustainable features, including a green roof, rainwater harvesting, and energy-efficient lighting.
- SM Aura Premier: SM Aura Premier is a LEED Gold-certified shopping mall in Taguig City. It features a number of sustainable features, including a green roof, rainwater harvesting, and energy-efficient lighting.
- The Manila Baywalk Tunnel: The Manila Baywalk Tunnel is a sustainable infrastructure project that was completed in 2018. The tunnel helps to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality in the area.

There are some challenges to building sustainable buildings and infrastructure in the Philippines. These include the following:

- High cost: Sustainable buildings and infrastructure can be more expensive to build than traditional buildings and infrastructure. This is because sustainable materials and technologies can be more expensive than conventional materials and technologies.
- Lack of awareness: There is a lack of awareness about the benefits of sustainable buildings and infrastructure among the public and decision-makers. This can make it difficult to get support for sustainable projects.
- Lack of skilled labor: There is a lack of labor in the Philippines with the skills needed to build sustainable buildings and infrastructure. This can make it difficult to find contractors and suppliers who can build sustainable projects.

Despite these challenges, the Philippines has several initiatives to promote the development of sustainable buildings and infrastructure in the country. For one, the Philippines has several policies and programs in place to promote sustainable buildings and infrastructure. These policies and programs include:

- The Philippine Green Building Code: The Philippine Green Building Code is a set of standards for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings.
- The Sustainable Infrastructure Financing Facility: The Sustainable Infrastructure Financing Facility is a program that provides financial assistance for sustainable infrastructure projects.

- The Green Investment Program: The Green Investment Program is a program that provides tax incentives for businesses that invest in sustainable infrastructure.

However, there is still more that needs to be done to encourage the development of sustainable buildings and infrastructure. Some of the policies that could be implemented include:

- Financial incentives: The government could provide financial incentives, such as tax breaks and grants, to businesses and individuals who build sustainable buildings and infrastructure.
- Regulations: The government could implement regulations that require new buildings and infrastructure to meet certain sustainability standards.
- Providing training: The government can provide training to workers in the construction industry so that they can develop the skills needed to build sustainable buildings and infrastructure.
- Public awareness: The government could raise public awareness about the benefits of sustainable buildings and infrastructure through education and outreach programs.

By implementing these policies, the Philippines can encourage the development of sustainable buildings and infrastructure. This will help the country to reduce its environmental impact, improve the quality of life for its citizens, and create a more sustainable future.

ECO BUSINESS

[Climate models underestimate food security risk from 'compound' extreme weather](#)

By: Dr Kai Kornhuber

Weather and climate extremes, such as prolonged drought, heavy rainfall and heatwaves, can lead to harvest failures. These are occurring with increased magnitude and frequency on a warming planet.

In addition, such events can disrupt supply chains, decreasing food supply and leading to price spikes.

Our previous work shows that when extreme weather events happen simultaneously – such as a heatwave and drought at the same time – this can negatively affect crop yields in major crop-producing regions, known as “breadbaskets”.

This co-occurrence constitutes a growing food security risk.

In our latest paper, published in Nature Communications, we highlight factors that can lead to low crop yields in several breadbasket regions simultaneously. We also examine how well state-of-the-art climate and crop models are able to reproduce observed relationships.

We find that climate models tend to underestimate the risks of concurrent extreme weather events, potentially leading to “blind spots” in our understanding of future implications.

Complex climate risks

Ensuring global food security under changing climate conditions is a global challenge.

Meeting this challenge relies on reliable projections of future climate conditions, in order to establish reasonable and preventive adaptation measures.

Such assessments are not trivial. They rely on “coupled” experiments that combine both climate models and crop models. The projections must also be done for a range of emissions scenarios in order to fully understand the risk.

Climate extremes are rare, but impactful, events. The accuracy with which we can determine future climate risks for agriculture depends on the skill of climate models in

accurately reproducing their frequency and magnitude, as well as the crop models' accuracy in simulating crop responses.

Research shows that increasingly complex climate risks, in which several extremes interact, are a direct consequence of rising extreme weather trends.

More and longer-lasting extremes translate to higher likelihoods of consecutive climate disasters.

For example, two hurricanes in a row hitting the same region; several different disasters occurring at the same place at the same time, such as concurrent heatwaves and drought; or multiple disasters occurring at the same time globally, such as heatwaves in multiple regions.

Such “compound” events are usually associated with greater impacts, often beyond the sum of the effects had each disaster occurred in isolation. Interacting effects put extra stress on existing vulnerability, disaster preparedness and disaster response measures.

For instance, heatwaves are particularly disastrous for local crop production if they occur in unison with intense drought conditions. Consecutive heatwaves in a region can cause crops to fail that might have survived a solo event.

‘Breadbaskets’

From a global food security perspective, simultaneous extremes are particularly problematic as they could lead to harvest failures in several crop-producing regions – known as “breadbaskets” – at the same time.

As a result, countries that rely heavily on crop imports could experience heightened food insecurity, as global scarcity could lead to price spikes and even result in national export bans.

Many breadbasket regions, such as central North America, western and eastern Europe and Asia, are located in the temperate climate zones of the mid-latitudes. In these regions, weather patterns are controlled by the jet stream, a current of fast-flowing air that encircles the globe.

The important role of the jet stream in driving extreme weather conditions has been illustrated by some of the most extraordinary climate events of the past few years.

In 2021, the record-shattering “heat dome” in the Pacific north-west that fuelled wildfires and caused hundreds of deaths was directly linked to an intense “ridge” in the jet stream. This caused a high-pressure system to linger over the region. Likewise, the record-breaking heatwaves in Europe in 2018 and 2019 were associated with a meandering, wavy jet stream.

Often, these meanders – also referred to as Rossby waves – expand over larger parts of the globe, promoting extremes in several regions at the same time. In 2022, during the northern hemisphere summer, a strongly meandering jet led to synchronised extremes in the US, Europe and China. Media outlets at the time were quick to point out the links between the heatwaves.

The map below shows surface temperature anomalies across the northern hemisphere during the week of 18 July 2022, with red indicating higher than average temperatures. The concurrence of the five heatwaves – marked with circles – was caused by the meandering jet stream.

Our previous work has shown that certain jet stream patterns can not only enhance the concurrence of extreme weather events, but also negatively affect crop yields in major breadbasket regions.

In our latest paper, we show that summers with strongly meandering jet stream patterns favour the co-occurrence of low crop yields in several pairs of major crop-producing regions, increasing the probability of such events by a factor of three in some regions. This constitutes a risk for food security.

Meandering jet stream

Given the jet stream’s importance for weather and climate events – and the outsized impacts of those extremes on societal systems, such as agricultural production – quantifying its response to climate change is an important problem to solve.

Previous research has suggested that future climate change will lead to an increase in persistent extreme weather. So far, observations have not confirmed the suggested changes in the frequency of a highly meandering jet stream. However, rising background temperatures will make the heatwaves associated with such patterns more impactful, even if their frequency is unchanged.

Our new research looks at observed declines in crop yields that occurred during jet stream meandering events between 1960-2014. We compare the observations to a crop model driven by the Copernicus/ECMWF global atmospheric reanalysis product (ERA5)

and coupled crop-climate models, part of the latest generation under the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6).

In addition to looking at how well the models can recreate historical data, we examine future responses for the years 2045-99 under a scenario known as SSP5-8.5. SSP5-8.5 is one of a set of “pathways” that examine how the world might change over the next century. With this approach we are able to discuss sources of uncertainties in the crop response modelling chain.

Of the full set of pathways available, SSP5-8.5 is essentially a worst-case scenario of unchecked warming – and many may consider it to be unrealistic.

But it is the extreme nature of this scenario that makes it useful for comparing impacts in models and observations. Our conclusions are not based on this particular projection and have more general implications.

Underestimation

Our results suggest that climate models do not exhibit a significant increase in the frequency of meandering jet patterns under the very high emissions SSP5-8.5 scenario.

Most importantly, we find that while current climate models represent the position and intensity of the meandering jets, they do not accurately reproduce the magnitude of local temperature anomalies. This, therefore, underestimates the impact these meanders have for extreme weather events.

This underestimation has previously been shown for older climate models, but we now show that a similar issue persists in the newest generation of models used for impact studies.

Additionally, we identify regions that are likely to experience amplified heat on top of average shifts in regional climatologies due to these meanders. North America and Siberia, two areas that have suffered from extraordinary extreme weather in the recent past, are at heightened risk.

The challenge

It is perhaps widely accepted that climate models can struggle with the depiction of extreme weather events.

Understanding the intricate risks related to climate change requires precise representation of the position, scale, frequency and timing of extreme weather events. How all of these change in the future depends on the different emissions scenarios.

While climate models project the average response of the Earth system to ongoing greenhouse gas emissions, our analysis suggests these models may underestimate the potential impact of concurrent extreme weather events on regional crop yields and the consequences of their synchronised failure.

Standing waves in the jet stream have been important ingredients of many past record-breaking weather extremes, such as the heatwave that affected the Pacific north-west in summer 2021. An accurate representation of surface temperature anomalies associated with such patterns is crucial for understanding accelerated trends in these extremes.

Our study reveals that current climate risk assessments may be overlooking sectors and regions at high risk from the complex interactions of several extremes, often linked to dynamical mechanisms in the atmosphere and climate change.

This highlights the pressing need for more empirical and process-based research to improve models relating to both climate and agriculture.

The underestimation of synchronised low yields, as well as other areas of high risk, emphasises how the complexity of climate extremes may increase without rapid emissions reductions, perhaps to the point of becoming unmanageable.

GMA NEWS

Biden meets King Charles and PM Sunak, hails 'rock solid' UK ties

By: Steve Holland

US President Joe Biden made a whistle-stop trip to Britain on Monday, hailing the "rock-solid" friendship with Washington's close ally before meeting King Charles for a discussion with the monarch and finance chiefs on tackling climate change.

Biden's visit to Britain kicked off a three-nation trip that will include the NATO summit in Lithuania, at which allies aim to show solidarity with Ukraine against Russia's invasion while not yet accepting Kyiv as an alliance member.

The president's meeting with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, their fifth in as many months, lasted less than an hour, with the focus on Ukraine.

"We've got a lot to talk about," said Biden as they sat in the garden of Sunak's Downing Street office. "Our relationship is rock-solid. Couldn't be meeting with a closer friend and a greater ally."

Sunak and Biden shared notes before the NATO summit which kicks off on Tuesday. Ahead of the trip, Biden urged caution for now on Ukraine's campaign to join NATO, whose mutual defense pact obliges all members to come to the aid of any member that is attacked.

"We want to work with the U.S. and our allies on the pathway for Ukraine to join," Sunak's spokesperson told reporters, saying it would not be appropriate for Ukraine to join while the war was ongoing.

The leaders also discussed the U.S. decision to send Ukraine cluster munitions, which are banned by more than 100 countries, including Britain, which view them as a potential threat to civilian populations because they typically release large numbers of smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately.

Russia, Ukraine and the United States have not signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans their production, stockpiling, use and transfer.

"We stand by our obligations under the convention, which include discouraging their use. There is no change from us on that, obviously it is for each country to make a decision," Sunak's spokesperson said.

After the meeting, Biden, 80, headed to Windsor Castle to meet the king, where he was greeted with traditional pomp and ceremony in the castle quadrangle.

Biden, who skipped the king's coronation in May in line with the longstanding practice of U.S. presidents, exchanged a warm welcome with the 74-year-old monarch before they met with banking bosses, financiers and philanthropists to discuss how to help boost private investment to combat climate change.

The issue is one both Biden and Charles, an environmental campaigner for more than five decades, say poses an existential threat. The meeting comes at a moment when Sunak has faced criticism over his commitment to environmental issues.

"We had several trillions of dollars of assets that are managed and deployed represented in the group that met today, all people who are deeply committed to dealing with the climate crisis," said John Kerry, the U.S. special climate envoy, who was one of those present.

Amongst the other attendees were COP28 President-Designate Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber, and chief executives from HSBC, NatWest, Blackrock, Lloyds of London and Allianz Holdings.

NIKKEI ASIA

[Pakistan's flood-wrecked infrastructure faces deadly monsoons](#)

By: Adnan Aamir

The monsoon season has started wreaking havoc in Pakistan, where infrastructure destroyed during last year's massive flooding has yet to be repaired.

Cloudbursts and flash floods in multiple cities have killed at least 80 and injured over 140 since the monsoon season started in late June, according to the National Disaster Management Authority, which says up to 1 million people may be affected. Experts caution that the worst still lies ahead in the cash-strapped South Asian country that many say is being hammered by climate change.

"The monsoon season has just begun and the real devastation is yet to come," said Ahmad Rafay Alam, an environmental lawyer in Lahore, who told Nikkei Asia that record-breaking rainfall in the city is a sign of climate change's impact.

Sherry Rehman, Pakistan's federal minister for climate change, warned in a tweet on Sunday: "Urban flooding alerts issued for cities and municipal areas with risks of landslides. Coordinated preparedness and proactive responses saves lives, so all response teams need to stay vigilant."

Already gripped by economic and political crises, Pakistan last summer was hit with floods that claimed more than 1,700 lives, washed away millions of homes, and wiped out crops and livestock -- causing as much as \$30 billion in damage in a country that has been teetering on the brink of default. A study in the aftermath by World Weather Attribution linked the disaster to global warming.

Now, many fear a repeat.

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, a member of advocacy group Water Environment Forum Pakistan, noted that this June was the planet's hottest on record. "Flooding in Pakistan, China and India are manifestations of the hottest June," he told Nikkei Asia.

Record-high temperatures in early June have contributed to intense rainfall in short periods, as opposed to precipitation over several days, experts say. In the last few days, torrential downpours have also caused flash floods in multiple northern Indian states, prompting authorities there to release large amounts of water in the Chenab and Ravi rivers, according to reports.

The Flood Forecasting Division of Pakistan has predicted medium to high flooding in the Ravi River, which passes through Lahore.

Sheikh, an expert on climate change and development, said the major threat this year comes from the release of water in the Ravi. "There has been no flooding in the Ravi for a long time," he said. "Its riverbed is dry and encroached by housing societies and illegal settlements, which will be hit badly by floods."

Sheikh suggested that given the problems the monsoon rains are causing in both India and Pakistan, the bitter rivals have a good starting point to collaborate on early warning systems for floods, a step that would benefit both countries.

Across Asia, countries have been reeling from extreme weather, with devastating heat waves hitting Bangladesh and India last month and cooking Beijing and Tokyo this week. Southeast Asian farmers have been bracing for the effects of El Nino.

But many in Pakistan worry that unrepaired infrastructure broken by last year's flooding means the risks are especially high this season.

Moula Bakhsh Rind, a resident of the Kachhi district of Balochistan province, pointed to the destruction of Pinjra Bridge, which allows the Balochistan-Sindh interprovincial highway to cross the Bolan River.

"Almost a year after its destruction the bridge still could not be built," Rind said. He added that if even lesser floodwaters pass through the Bolan this year, they could trap people for days.

Pakistanis lament another problem: Despite the heavy rains and floods, the country is still unable to ensure adequate water supplies to all areas.

Salah ud Din, an engineer with the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources, said that last year the Mangla and Tarbela reservoirs in Pakistan did not reach capacity due to irregular rainfall.

Din added that due to climate change, the country gets less snow than it used to, resulting in less water reaching reservoirs. This has serious knock-on effects.

"Less water affects the irrigation system in Punjab and subsequently agriculture, which threatens the food supply of Pakistan," he explained. "That's why we need more dams in Pakistan to use floodwater for our benefit," Din said.

Experts say that while the negative impact of climate change is inevitable, Pakistan could mitigate the losses by improving its heat wave management and flood control.

The lawyer Alam, who is also a Yale World Fellow, argued that Pakistan needs to change its development paradigm. Development projects in the country need to have built-in "resilience to brace for climate change-induced crises."

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

Islamic Relief PH ends 3-yr inclusive help in Lanao Sur town

By: Claire Gigje

Alongside other international humanitarian aids implemented in Lanao del Sur province, the Islamic Relief Philippines has also capped off its "Sustaining Transformative and Resilient Initiatives in Vulnerable Communities (STRIVEC) in Lanao Philippines" project.

Following this, the organization spearheaded an exit conference, both at the provincial and municipal levels, for the conclusion of its project wherein it met with the officials of the provincial government of Lanao del Sur, schools and the municipal government of Ditsa-an Ramin, and some cooperatives in the province which became their beneficiaries for the past years.

Islamic Relief Area Programme Manager Sittie-Jamaira Disomimba said the STRIVEC Project was a three-year initiative running from 2020 to 2023 and funded by Islamic Relief Canada.

She said its goal was to integrate sustainable development and strengthen the resilience of six focused communities through livelihood support and enhance economic opportunities, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and access to education.

Through the donor and other partner stakeholders, the STRIVEC Project has, accordingly, aided 3,618 individuals, 600 households, 600 school children, and 18 teacher trainees.

Disomimba claimed that they were able to deliver help to six villages of Ditsa-an Ramin town, namely, Barangays Barimbingan, Bagoalngud, Lumbatan, Linamon, Maindig and Buadialao while six education institutions also received assistance from their organization.

"Na witness ko the behavioral change. Dati (I witnessed the behavioral change. Before), they do not see any opportunity around them. Akala nila iyon lang buhay nila (they thought that would already be their life) but right now, they are more progressive. They are addressing life in a positive way," she said.

Disomimba, however, conveyed that issues were also raised during the exit conference, such as additional skills training and capital for the acquisition of more equipment and

materials, market and product development, and social protection programs to complement the livelihood assistance.

She also shared that for the education aspect, their beneficiaries wished that scholarships would be offered, material and equipment support would continue, volunteer teachers would be augmented, schools' support for the community would be amplified, and madaris would get the same amount of support.

For the DRR aspect, she cited that capacity building, and material and equipment support were prayed to be augmented.

Disomimba stressed that the first-hand assessment they gathered would be further evaluated to see the remaining needs of their benefiting communities.

“The result of which we will bring to the provincial government and also, to the donor of the STRIVEC Project, the IRW-Canda. We are hoping na (that) if there are remaining gaps, maybe we can have a part two,” she said.

REUTERS

[Vermont capital submerged in floodwaters with dam on verge of capacity](#)

By: Brian Snyder and Rich Mckay

A dam upstream from the Vermont state capital was holding at maximum capacity on Tuesday after "catastrophic" flooding shut down roadways leading out of Montpelier and trapped people in their homes.

The Wrightsville Dam, which forms a reservoir four miles (6.4 km) north of Montpelier, neared the point at which a spillway would need to release water into the North Branch of the Winooski River, city officials said.

That would aggravate what the National Weather Service has called "catastrophic" flooding in Montpelier's picturesque downtown district, where people navigated the submerged streets in canoes and floodwaters reached the windows of businesses and the tops of vehicles.

The North Branch converges with a second, larger branch of the Winooski near the Vermont statehouse.

The growing frequency and intensity of severe weather across the United States is symptomatic of global, human-driven climate change, climate scientists say.

While a Northeast state capital is under water, ocean temperatures have soared to as high as 90 Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) in Florida, Texas is sizzling under a heat dome, and California is bracing for temperatures as high as 120 F (49 C) in desert areas this weekend.

Much of the U.S. Northeast including parts of New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut have already had as much as 8 inches (20 cm) of rain over the last several days.

"Make no mistake, the devastation and flooding we're experiencing across Vermont is historic and catastrophic," Vermont Governor Phil Scott said at a briefing Tuesday.

Montpelier City Manager William Fraser in a Facebook post urged the city's 8,000 people to be prepared to move to the upper floors of their homes as highway closures made evacuations difficult or impossible.

Throughout the state, search teams have rescued 117 people from their homes and cars by swift boat, as officials fielded calls that even more people were trapped in their homes in remote areas, Mike Cannon, leader of the state's Urban Search and Rescue operation, told a briefing.

Vermont officials called the flooding the worst since Hurricane Irene reached the New England state as a tropical storm in 2011 and caused about \$750 million in damages and seven deaths in the state.

The city's topography - bordered by hills with the downtown in a valley - increases the potential for flooding, Montpelier City Council member Conor Casey said.

"My wife and I live right on the river and it's about two feet from coming in the living room," Casey said. "We're a bit used to it from Irene, so it's not totally foreign, but I think the scary thing is that it feels a bit worse so far."

The flood took its toll on the regional economy, with private forecaster AccuWeather estimating damages and economic loss at \$3 billion to \$5 billion.

Most of the crops at Boyd Family Farm in Wilmington, Vermont, were lost in the storm, said Janet Boyd, who owns the 80-year-old business along with her husband and son at the southern end of the Green Mountains.

"We lost all the vegetables and only have our blueberries left," Boyd said, "all the greens, the tomatoes, the peppers, the garlic."

Joe Miles, 59, owner of the Montpelier-based R.K. Miles Building Materials, said three of his eight locations in the state were heavily damaged, with two of them cut off by flooding.

Much of his lumber and plywood inventory was lost to water damage.

"It's awful and tragic, but fortunately no one got hurt," Miles said. "We'll get through it."

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

[Rice soars to two-year high in Asia on El Niño drought risks](#)

By: Napat Kongsawad

Rice prices in Asia have surged to the highest level in more than two years as importers build up stockpiles on fears that the onset of El Niño will parch plantations and damage crops.

A benchmark grade in the region, Thai white rice 5% broken, has climbed about 15% in the past four months to \$535 a ton, the strongest since early March 2021, according to data from the Thai Rice Exporters Association.

El Niño conditions have developed in the tropical Pacific for the first time in seven years, according to the World Meteorological Organisation, threatening to bring drought to Southeast Asia. That comes just as three days of record global temperatures last week increased concerns over the pace of climate change.

While monsoon rains have brought relief to rice fields in parts of India, the top exporter, dry weather is threatening crops in No. 2 shipper Thailand, with the country facing widespread drought conditions from early 2024. The government has already asked farmers to restrict their planting to just one crop this year.

“With El Niño, we’ll start to clearly see the effects of dry weather later around September and October,” said Chookiat Ophaswongse, honorary president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association. “This being said, we’ll see stockpiling continue as El Niño looks set to drag on into next year.”

Indonesian Purchases

Importers have started building inventories at aggressive rates. Vietnam expects rice exports this year to climb to the highest in about a decade, with shipments surging to buyers in the Philippines, China and Indonesia.

“The large buying from Indonesia and Philippines has pushed the market higher,” said Jeremy Zwinger, founder and chief executive officer of research firm The Rice Trader. Still, “weakness will return in the new year or even the fourth quarter, unless politics or weather changes direction.”

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH seeks inclusion of seafarers' concerns in IMO 'green' scheme](#)

THE Philippines, through the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), has strongly pushed for the recognition and inclusion of seafarers' concerns in the revised International Maritime Organization (IMO) strategy on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction from ships.

This call to action was made during the 80th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), which concluded with the adoption of the 2023 IMO Strategy on GHG Reduction from Ships.

During the deliberations at the 15th session of the Intersessional Working Group on GHG from June 26-30, 2023, the Philippines emphasized the importance of addressing seafarers' interests in the strategy.

Ambassador Teodoro Locsin Jr., speaking at the opening of the 80th MEPC session, reiterated the crucial role of seafarers in achieving the shipping industry's decarbonization objectives.

The Philippines has welcomed the adoption of the 2023 IMO Strategy on GHG Reduction from Ships as a clear demonstration of the organization's commitment to combating climate change.

Notably, Item 3 in the MEPC resolution, which endorses the revised strategy, acknowledges the significance of addressing the human element and the impact on seafarers and other maritime professionals in ensuring a safe implementation of the strategy.

Specifically, the strategy's provisions in items 5.5 and 5.6 emphasize the need for a comprehensive approach to regulating safety on ships utilizing zero or near-zero GHG emission technologies, fuels, and energy sources.

Furthermore, these items underscore the importance of assessing the strategy's effects on seafarers and other maritime professionals, urging the IMO to evaluate its instruments, guidance, and training standards to facilitate an equitable transition that leaves no one behind.

In addition, the Philippine delegation expressed its support for setting the ambitious goal of reaching net-zero GHG emissions from international shipping by 2050.

Recognizing the urgent need to address climate change, the delegation emphasized the importance of scaling up and enhancing programs and partnerships for technical assistance and capacity building.

These initiatives would particularly benefit developing countries, least developed countries, and small island developing states in their transition towards sustainable shipping practices.

The Philippine delegation reaffirmed its commitment to working collaboratively with other nations and industry stakeholders to achieve the shared goal of reducing GHG emissions from international shipping. By setting ambitious targets, enhancing technical assistance, and conducting thorough impact assessments, the delegation aims to foster a sustainable and environmentally responsible maritime sector.

As part of the capacity-building efforts to support the implementation of the revised strategy, the IMO may develop a training and skills program for seafarers focused on reducing GHG emissions from ships.

This program could be funded through initiatives such as the Integrated Technical Cooperation Program (ITCP) and the GHG Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, as well as other programs sponsored by member states.

The Philippine delegation, headed by Ambassador Locsin, comprised key representatives, including Sonia Malaluan, deputy administrator for planning at the Marina; Director Marc Anthony Pascua from Marina-NCR; Vice Admiral Robert Patrimonio from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG); Minister Ana Marie Hernando, alternate permanent representative to IMO; and Maritime Attaché Jean Pia, Technical Adviser Capt. Neil Azcuna, and other delegates from the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Climate Change Commission (CCC), Department of Science and Technology, PCG, and Marina.

Their active participation in the deliberations was facilitated through a hybrid facility.

The Philippines remains committed to collaborating with international partners to address climate change concerns within the maritime industry and ensure the fair and just transition of seafarers and other maritime professionals.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR 'diversifying' water sources as El Niño looms](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The government is diversifying its water sources to include recycling wastewater and constructing new infrastructure to ensure water security in the face of El Niño, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Tuesday.

Environment Undersecretary Carlos Primo David said the government is trying to reduce its dependence on Angat Dam in Bulacan, which is the main source of water for Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

David noted the water level in Angat dropped to 178.8 meters—below the dam’s water 180-meter minimum operating level.

“One strategy is to diversify our sources of water and not to rely too much on Angat. There have been a couple of efforts over the last months to increase our sources of water,” said David, who is in charge of the newly-created Water Resources Management Office.

David cited the Kaliwa Dam project as one of the government’s medium-term strategies to solve the capital region’s water problem. Kaliwa Dam is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. El Niño is projected to last until early next year.

Some members of the Dumagat-Remontado indigenous group have expressed concern that the P12.2-billion dam project—which will be funded by a loan from China—will submerge their ancestral domain, threaten their livelihoods and destroy their cultural heritage.

David added that the government—along with water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad—is also implementing short-term fixes such as tapping Laguna de Bay as a water source and treating wastewater.

'Conserve water'

The government has issued several directives to government offices, barangay officials and residential managers, and reminders to the public to conserve water.

David said the government does not want a repeat of the 2019 El Niño phenomenon that caused Angat Dam’s water level to plunge to record lows, causing a water shortage in the capital region and nearby areas.

“We’re not in that situation yet. But we are fasttracking interventions so we do not reach that situation,” David said. “Hopefully, the rain comes sooner or later.”

The WRMO is also helping plug leaks in government agencies that had water bills amounting to millions.

David said that the water bills of some government agencies amounted to P15 to P17 million. He noted that some of these offices are compounds composed of dozens of buildings, and that their buildings have undetected leaks.

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said Monday that the DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways and Department of Agriculture are working together to mitigate the effects of El Niño.

[UN declares first week of July world's hottest ever](#)

By: Danessa Rivera, Pia Lee Brago

The first week of July was the warmest week ever recorded, according to preliminary data from the United Nations weather agency.

“The world just had the hottest week on record, according to preliminary data. It follows the hottest June on record, with unprecedented sea surface temperatures and record low Antarctic sea ice extent,” the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a statement.

WMO experts said the global sea surface temperatures reached a record high in May, June and July – and the warming El Niño weather pattern is only just getting started. The record-breaking temperatures on land and in the ocean have potentially devastating impacts on ecosystems and the environment. They highlight the far-reaching changes taking place in Earth’s system as a result of human-induced climate change.

“The exceptional warmth in June and at the start of July occurred at the onset of the development of El Niño, which is expected to further fuel the heat both on land and in the oceans and lead to more extreme temperatures and marine heatwaves,” said Prof. Christopher Hewitt, WMO director of Climate Services.

“We are in uncharted territory and we can expect more records to fall as El Niño develops further and these impacts will extend into 2024,” he said. “This is worrying news for the planet.”

Just last week, WMO announced the onset of El Niño, characterized by a warming of the Pacific Ocean. Combined with the human-induced greenhouse gas effect, the weather pattern is expected to make one of the next five years the warmest on record.

“According to various datasets from our partners in different parts of the world, the first week of July set a new record in terms of daily temperatures,” said Dr. Omar Baddour, chief of climate monitoring at WMO.

The WMO and wider scientific community, he said, are closely watching these dramatic changes in different components of the climate system and sea surface temperatures.

The Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), meanwhile, is pushing for incentivizing water

conservation for government offices to encourage them to save water amid a looming El Niño-induced dry spell.

At a briefing yesterday, DENR Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science Carlos Primo David said they have opened discussions with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Civil Service Commission and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the possibility of granting incentives to government offices with water conservation measures.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH, UAE boost climate action ties](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to continue working together in advancing global climate action ahead of the latter's hosting of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) this year.

This developed after Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Robert Borje and COP28 President Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber met in Bonn, Germany, last week to "further discuss areas of cooperation towards advancing and accelerating global climate action for the global south."

In a statement, the CCC said the discussion between the two officials focused on critical pillars of mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and means of implementation and support.

To advance global climate action given national circumstances, Borje raised the importance of partnerships on technology development and transfer, finance and investments, capacity building, and other areas that may be explored, including communication, education and awareness, and research and development projects.

Sharing the same vision, Al Jaber said they are committed to working together towards a transformative, scaled-up, and integrated South-South Cooperation in the lead-up to COP28 and even beyond.

CCC said the bilateral partnership between the two countries opens many opportunities to address the issue of climate change.

"The bilateral partnership presents new pathways of cooperation towards accelerated just transition and greenhouse gas emissions avoidance and introduction of new and appropriate technology and innovation," it said.

"Under the guidance of President Marcos, the CCC is hopeful that this partnership with the United Arab Emirates and other UNFCCC Parties will contribute to stronger global cooperation towards meaningful and transformative climate action," it added.

COP28 aims to "bring the world together" at a critical moment for global transformative climate action. This year, COP28 will prioritize efforts to accelerate emissions reductions through a pragmatic energy transition, reform land use, and transform food systems.

President Marcos has been invited to attend the event in Dubai this coming December.

5 Guimaras towns urged to pass own climate change action plan

By: Perla LenaPerla Lena

The five municipalities of Guimaras are urged to craft their respective ordinance containing their expanded Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) during the first Guimaras Climate Change Summit held in this municipality on Tuesday.

Climate Change Commissioner Albert dela Cruz, in his prerecorded message, said the province is considered “highly vulnerable” because it is a coastal area.

He added that due to climate change, the province and the municipalities will be expecting ocean acidification due to increased water temperature.

“The enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan will be the bible of each and every LGU (local government unit) in our fight against the debilitating effects of climate change,” he said, adding that the lives of livelihood of the people are at stake.

The action plan contains how the LGU will address the risk of hunger due to climate change, and an inventory of vulnerable sectors and indigenous communities who are exposed to the problem, among others.

Climate Change Commission Senior Consultant Dr. Michael Raymond A. Aragon said climate change “impacts deeply” in Guimaras, citing, in particular, the effects of the El Niño and the La Niña phenomena.

“If we have this phenomenon, its impact in Guimaras is hunger, the livelihood. The drought will impact the agriculture sector, the drought will impact poverty. These are the things that we would like to talk about in these two days,” he said.

Aragon added that among the five LGUs, the municipality of Nueva Valencia has already submitted its LCCAP but they would like the local government to put it into an ordinance.

If it is an ordinance, then funds can be allocated to implement the action plan, he said.

PANAY NEWS

[Craft climate change action plan, ordinance, Guimaras LGUs urged](#)

By: Glenda Tayona

Local government units (LGUs) in the province of Guimaras are being urged to craft their respective climate change action plans and pass ordinances strengthening their implementation.

“Doing so, we hope, will make Guimaras ready to adapt, mitigate and become resilient to the terrible effects of climate change,” said Dr. Michael Raymond Aragon, senior consultant to the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

Aragon represented the CCC during the 1st Guimaras Climate Change Summit held at Playa de Paraiso Resort in San Lorenzo, Guimaras. The two-day event, themed “Resiliency against Climate Emergency, Disasters, Diseases and Poverty towards a health, safe and prosperous Guimarasnon”, was hosted by San Lorenzo town as co-convenor of the summit.

Aragon emphasized that climate change is not only an environmental issue but a human rights issue and must be addressed now.

He cited the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 2021 report which placed Guimaras in the No. 16 spot among 24 poor provinces in the country

“The devastating effects of the global climate emergency to our beloved province and in particular to the poor Guimarasnons is a violation of their right to the basic things in life like food security, healthcare, clean and safe environment. and many more guaranteed in the Philippine Constitution,” added Aragon who also is the founding chairman of national environmental watchdog Clean Air Philippines Movement, Inc. (CAPMI).

Joining the summit were concerned government agencies through their respective regional counterparts such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agriculture, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agrarian Reform, and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, among others who all assured their support and commitment to this undertaking against climate change.

Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) assistant secretary, Dr. Virgilio Lazaga, meanwhile, served as keynote speaker of the event.

Lazaga emphasized that everyone should have the social, moral and political obligation to save the Earth.

“You and me belong to the Earth and we need to protect and prolong our lives, we must at all cost protect and prolong the life our planet,” he stressed.

DENR regional executive director Livino Duran, in his message of support, emphasized that climate change has been included as one of the agenda of Regional Development Plan 2023-2028 of Western Visayas which will be launched on July 14.

“Environment is an issue of life that is beyond principle and ideology, politics, boundaries and generations. Indi naton ini dapat ipamana sa aton mga anak. Meaning indi lang diri sa Guimaras but also in other areas in the region,” said Duran.

DOH-6 director Dr. Adriano Suba-an, for his part, said the department, together with the DENR and Commission on Population, have joined forces to combat climate emergencies, disasters and diseases through the “Heal the Earth Project” as integrated intervention supportive of Population, Health and Environment (PHE).

The project, he explained, aims to address environmental issues by capacitating communities to plan for sustainable intervention that promote ecological balance.

“The DOH is confident that with the aid of the local climate change plan of the LGUs, together with the collective determination of the different government agencies, we can create a province that is self-reliant and resilient,” he stressed.

=END=