



NEWS ROUNDUP

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Philippine hosting of Loss and Damage Fund Board to bolster Marcos as climate justice champion, says Villafuerte

BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

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By: By Jeremy Chan

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[\[Opinion\] Climate litigation can power China's low-carbon transition](#)

By: Daria Kurushina

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MANILA STANDARD

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Jose Cielito Reganit

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The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is now implementing 74 of the 185 Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs) of the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., Undersecretary for Planning and Public-Private Partnership Services Maria Catalina Cabral said.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] PH hosting of Loss and Damage Fund board a nod to BBM's climate change agenda](#)

By: Daphne Oseña-Paez

WHEN the Philippines won the bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund (FLD) board two weeks ago, it sent the signal that the Philippines was globally recognized for its technical and institutional capacity to address the risks of climate change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[20 flood, landslide-prone areas identified](#)

By: John Unson and Bella Cariaso

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has identified 20 areas in the country that are prone to floods and landslides.

[Tax credits eyed for Baguio green building owners](#)

By: Artemio Dumlao

A proposal seeking to provide tax credits to building owners, who support efforts to reduce the impact of climate change, has been filed before the city council of Baguio.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[Philippine hosting of Loss and Damage Fund Board to bolster Marcos as climate justice champion, says Villafuerte](#)

By: Dexter Barro II

Camarines Sur 2nd district Rep. LRay Villafuerte said the selection of the Philippines to host the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board will bolster the status of President Marcos as a champion for the world's climate-vulnerable economies.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

2 die, thousands of Filipinos flee due to heavy rains in nation's south

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

At least two people died due to nonstop rains in southern Philippines, with more than 17,000 people forced to flee, the local disaster risk agency said on Monday.

Two people were injured in the Davao Region, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in a bulletin, citing reports from the ground.

Affected people reached 54,289, more than half of whom were in the Soccsksargen region, 11,785 in the Zamboanga Peninsula, 9,309 in Northern Mindanao and 722 in the Davao region, it added.

More than 17,000 people were staying in evacuation centers, the agency said.

It said 21 roads — 12 in Soccsksargen and five in Zamboanga — and two bridges were still not passable, while electricity in five cities had not been restored.

Seventy-three houses were destroyed, with damage worth P2.12 million. Damage to infrastructure hit P700,000.

Farm output loss had hit 396.387 metric tons worth P17.88 million, the council said.

The state weather bureau noted that as of 3 p.m. on Monday, a low-pressure area that could develop into a tropical storm was seen 440 kilometers east of Davao City.

The low-pressure area has brought scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in Eastern Visayas, Caraga and Davao regions, it added.

It noted that the southwest monsoon has been affecting the western sections of Southern Luzon and the Visayas.

In a statement, the Presidential Communications Office said financial aid and relief supplies from President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s office had reached affected families in Matanog, Maguindanao del Norte, one of the heavily flooded areas in Mindanao, on Sunday.

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At least 76 residents in the province whose houses had been partially damaged got P5,000 each, or a total of P380,000, it added.

The palace said 286 residents with totally damaged houses got P10,000 each or a total of P2.86 million. "Burial assistance of P10,000 each was given to two beneficiaries."

At the Balabagan Evacuation Center, the government also extended P785,000 in financial aid to 157 residents whose houses were partially damaged (P50,000 each), 10 residents whose houses were totally destroyed (P10,000 each), and P10,000 in burial assistance to two residents, the palace said.

It added that Social Welfare Secretary Rexlon T. Gatchalian and Special Assistant to the President Antonio Ernesto "Anton" Lagdameo, Jr. held a briefing in Maguindanao del Norte with officials from the Bangsamoro region.

Cabinet secretaries also met with Lanao del Sur officials to determine how the National Government could help.

The Philippines has transitioned to La Niña but is still reeling from the impacts of droughts brought by the El Niño weather pattern. From damage from El Niño had reached P6.3 billion as of May 11.

The Philippines lies along the typhoon belt in the Pacific and experiences about 20 storms each year. It also lies in the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, a belt of volcanoes around the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes strike.

Filipino scientists have been urging the government to increase the state weather bureau's budget, citing increased threats from changing climate patterns.

The World Bank has said economic damage to the Philippines due to climate change could hit 13.6% of economic output.

The Philippine government last week hailed the country's selection as host of the Loss and Damage Fund's board, which is responsible for coming up with strategies to deliver climate finance funds to nations vulnerable to climate change.

Rich countries that account for most of the world's greenhouse gas emissions have pledged \$700 billion to the fund, falling short of the \$100-\$580-billion global estimate for the annual loss and damage in developing countries.

A 2024 Green Economy report for Southeast Asia led by Bain & Company said "green" investments in the Philippines rose by 57% to \$1.46 billion in 2023, but still fell short of the more than \$16 billion in required capital investments needed for its green transition.

ECO BUSINESS

[Carbon credits a 'catalyst' for climate action, not just a method to offset emissions: ecosecurities chief](#)

By: By Jeremy Chan

For Asia to meet both near and long-term decarbonisation goals, nature-based solutions (NbS) and the carbon credits generated from low-carbon projects and technologies must be part of the picture.

With the region responsible for over half of all global carbon emissions yet home to some of the most significant natural resources on the planet, focusing on NbS could potentially provide 37 per cent of the emissions reductions needed until 2030 to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement.

NbS refers to actions that protect, manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, benefitting society and biodiversity.

The method has gained considerable recognition in recent years as an effective way of sequestering emissions, with the 2023 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report emphasising the protection of natural areas as one of the most effective strategies to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

“From a medium to long-term perspective, forest conservation, forest and mangrove restoration, and regenerative agriculture, are vital in achieving cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, which are necessary for reaching net zero targets,” notes Pablo Fernandez, chief executive officer of ecosecurities, an environmental services provider.

Asia’s rich biodiversity also makes NbS a viable solution. Covering 30 per cent of the planet’s land area, the region is home to 500 million hectares of tropical forest, 25 million hectares of peatland, and the highest blue carbon content globally, which is the carbon captured and stored by coastal and marine ecosystems.

Since NbS projects sequester carbon or avoid emissions, these can be quantified and converted into carbon credits and traded on carbon markets, which can finance the protection of ecosystems and natural resources, and generate funding for other low-carbon tools and solutions.

Leveraging carbon markets

The region's NbS potential may explain why Asia's carbon markets and related emissions trading systems (ETS) – which cap total emissions and allow companies to buy and sell emission allowances – have made some progress in recent years.

That, combined with a stronger regulatory push for climate action, increased investor interest, and growing voluntary and compliance carbon markets, has led to some developments in the region.

Countries such as China, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea already have an ETS in place. South Korea has made marked headway in particular, with its ETS being the second-largest emissions trading scheme in scale, covering close to three-quarters of its national greenhouse gas emissions.

Progress, however, remains fragmented with some countries – such as India, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand – still developing an ETS. Other nations, such as the Philippines, have yet to announce one.

Despite patchy developments in the region and a slowly growing number of companies with net zero goals, Asia appears to be moving in the right direction with its carbon markets, fuelling hopes of stoking increasing global demand for carbon credits: the voluntary carbon market was valued at US\$2 billion in 2021 and projected to reach up to US\$50 billion by 2030.

This, in turn, will present opportunities for companies that specialise in climate mitigation projects and ones that can potentially generate carbon credits.

One of these companies is ecosecurities, which operates in both compliance and voluntary carbon markets, and works with clients to source, develop and finance climate mitigation projects, such as those in renewable energy and NbS.

While the company aims to expand its reach within countries such as Japan and South Korea in light of more advanced ETSSs, it hopes to tap into solutions beyond NbS with the hope of using advanced carbon-absorbing tools to reduce emissions and generate credits.

“Several Asia Pacific countries are implementing or developing carbon pricing mechanisms. But to meet the Paris Agreement goals, these efforts must accelerate and broaden to include sectors such as land use [emissions], the [heavy] industry, and the buildings sector,” Fernandez explains.

Ensuring credibility

To meet the increasing demand for carbon credits, projects that generate such credits must be credible.

For instance, a credible project must provide carbon reductions that would not have occurred without the carbon credit funding; ensure permanence by leading to long-term emissions reductions; must be verifiable by third parties; and align with recognised standards. This is in light of recent controversies that have shone the spotlight on carbon credits and raised questions about their legitimacy.

Fernandez is cognisant of this, noting that the company takes steps to certify the authenticity of the credits its projects generate.

“Through extensive monitoring, reporting, and verification systems that often use technology, combined with ‘boots on the ground’ verification, we ensure projects are performing as expected. This helps us to transparently and accurately track our carbon reductions or removals,” he said.

Companies should responsibly view carbon credits as a “catalyst” for climate action, Fernandez adds, and not merely as a mechanism to offset emissions. This is because carbon credits generate revenue that can be reinvested into projects aimed at reducing emissions, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and reforestation projects.

“Carbon credits can help accelerate the transition to low carbon pathways, providing the vital finance that sectors need to scale up their decarbonisation activities,” he says.

“Our approach emphasises a ‘reduce and invest’ strategy. We encourage companies to integrate carbon credits and investments in projects as part of a broader, long-term net zero or sustainability strategy in alignment with the Science Based Targets initiative.”

A new kind of carbon credit?

Beyond emissions reductions and credits generated from restoring land, there are hopes that another method, dubbed “technology-based solutions (TbS)”, can also create carbon credits from emissions removed from the atmosphere.

This would, for example, see solutions such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology used to trap emissions from industrial processes and then storing them underground.

Other forms of TbS include direct air capture (DAC) tools, which capture carbon directly from the ambient air using chemical processes, or “bioenergy storage” via biochar, which is a form of charcoal that can potentially store carbon for longer periods when added to soil. Another is “enhanced weathering”, or when carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere by speeding up the natural weathering process of rock.

These approaches currently boast longer carbon storage durations, from 100 to 1,000 years but are also more expensive to develop, which may lead to higher carbon credit prices.

TbS currently represents a small fraction of the carbon credit market, but Fernandez notes that there is potential for much growth and emissions cuts this decade, especially if used in tandem with NbS. He adds that ecosecurities aims to expand its focus on TbS because of its near and long-term carbon capture potential.

“From a 2030 perspective, certain types of NbS, energy transition-related solutions, and TbS can be particularly helpful in delivering rapid cuts in greenhouse gas emissions,” he said.

While TbS could potentially benefit carbon-intensive economies the most, such as those in engineering, manufacturing, and technology-based industries, many will require financing in light of high costs – an issue the company aims to address.

“Innovations such as CCS and DAC often have high abatement costs, sometimes ranging from US\$400 to US\$500 per tonne of CO₂. Our focus is on using our local, regional, and international networks to accelerate the deployment of new decarbonisation technologies, aiming to flatten the cost curve and make these solutions more accessible to corporations looking to inset or offset emissions within their value chains.”

In a bid to expand into TbS, ecosecurities announced a partnership with SK Group in December 2023 – a South Korean conglomerate that operates across sectors including energy, semiconductors, telecommunications, and life sciences.

The collaboration is the conglomerate’s largest investment into the carbon market and will allow ecosecurities to access SK Group’s carbon reduction solutions and technologies.

“By providing incentives and support to companies with innovative solutions, we aim to catalyse the emergence of technology-based carbon reduction initiatives,” said

Moochwan Kim, executive vice president of SK Inc., adding that the expansion of technology-based solutions could generate carbon credits and, in turn, also grow the voluntary carbon credit market.

“Our short-term goals are to connect potential climate investors from Singapore, Japan and South Korea with high-impact carbon project development opportunities in host countries,” Fernandez added.

While NbS and TbS may provide some impetus for near- and long-term decarbonisation within Asia, governments must create favourable conditions for carbon markets to function effectively and grow, concludes Fernandez.

“This means strong demand signals from companies, as well as national, regional and international ETSs, clear policy frameworks and rules of engagement,” he says.

“Without these, the market is likely to remain fragmented and regionalised, and the catalysing potential of carbon finance in supporting a low carbon transition globally and in the APAC region will be limited.”

[\[Opinion\] Climate litigation can power China's low-carbon transition](#)

By: Daria Kurushina

Between June 2023 and May 2024, every month was its hottest on record globally. It is in this context that more civil-society actors are raising questions about their governments' inadequate measures to combat climate change. Climate litigation has become a mechanism to compel governments to enact stronger climate action and to uphold existing environmental legislation. It has also pushed enterprises to respect the rule of law and comply with environmental regulations.

Compared to a strong climate movement globally and a robust mechanism of climate lawsuits across jurisdictions, China's climate litigation is still in its nascent stage. Nonetheless, it has the potential to help the world's top emitter achieve its dual carbon goals – of peaking emissions before 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality before 2060. It can also help China adapt to the impacts of climate change by increasing local-government transparency in upholding central directives.

Landmark cases shape global legal landscape

In April, the European Court of Human Rights made a landmark decision. It ruled in favour of environmental activists, finding the Swiss government responsible for inadequate efforts to reduce carbon emissions that might threaten the health and lives of vulnerable populations during heatwaves. The ruling might strengthen the role national courts play in global climate litigation and fuel the rise of lawsuits against governments' failure to comply with climate targets. Similar cases have indeed been addressed at the national level, such as when a Dutch environmental group successfully obliged its government to reduce the country's greenhouse-gas emissions by 25 per cent by 2020 through a supreme court ruling in 2019.

Globally, the number of climate-litigation cases almost tripled between 2017 (884 cases) and 2023 (2,540), according to the Sabin Center's US and global databases. This demonstrates the increasing importance of climate law in international and domestic legislation. China's low number of climate-litigation cases, accounting for just two recorded cases, may be due to insufficient climate policies. Its dual-carbon targets, for example, are not enshrined in law. It may also be due to rulings lacking a substantive reference to climate change, per the Sabin Center definition of climate-change litigation. Overall, around 400,000 environmental public-litigation cases were filed in China between 2018 and 2022. Of these, 87 per cent were administrative and the rest were civil. Some courts also rule in commercial and criminal cases regarding environmental

harm. However, many of them only incidentally mention climate mitigation and adaptation and are never considered in court.

The stark disparity between recorded cases in China and the Global North underscores the urgent need for Chinese courts to enhance their climate-litigation procedure, helping to translate climate action for the low-carbon transition more explicitly into the domestic agenda.

China's unique position in climate litigation

Several factors distinguish China from the global climate-litigation trend. First, climate cases are mostly concentrated in the Global North, with leading numbers from the US (around 70 per cent of the total), Australia and Europe. In the groundbreaking *Held v State* case filed in 2020, 16 young environmental activists sued the US state of Montana for violating their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment, and won. In August 2023, Judge Seeley ruled that regulators must evaluate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions before issuing fossil-fuel permits. The lawsuit is notable for its proactive approach to holding government agencies accountable for not only current but also future generations and ecosystems.

Unlike preventative and outward-looking litigation in the Global North, climate litigants in developing countries operate on limited regulatory instruments to combat environmental degradation and negligence of governmental policies at more local levels. Global South climate litigation, including China's, is steadily growing. This is being driven by global trends, the expansion of environmental legislation, the strengthening of domestic environmental institutions and rising vulnerability to increasingly adverse climates. Despite the significant improvement in recent years, however, Asian courts have the fewest cumulative cases after Africa and the Caribbean.

Furthermore, unlike overseas climate litigators targeting various entities, including governments, enterprises, and municipalities, China's courts focus on upholding government policies among corporations and local authorities. Ruling a case against the central government for inadequate climate measures would be impossible in most Global South countries, including in China, where environmental and decarbonising policies take the place of a comprehensive climate-change law. Therefore, a different approach that involves the proactive role of state agencies and transparency among all domestic actors could prove more effective for China. Climate litigation can serve as the mechanism for gaining official support in the climate agenda across industries and jurisdictions, galvanising existing regulatory systems to promote climate mitigation.

Legal transformation in China empowers climate litigators

China's environmental legal system has been gradually transforming over the past decade. This was triggered by unprecedented levels of air pollution from 2008-2014, which caused respiratory diseases and even impacted traffic safety. When public awareness reached a tipping point, the government was prompted to allow public-interest lawsuits filed by NGOs against polluters.

The opportunities for public environmental litigation further expanded in 2018. China's "ecological civilisation" concept was officially proclaimed in the constitution, and a set of 10 typical public-interest litigations was released by the supreme procuratorate.

In 2020, the supreme court issued an initial classification of climate cases. The following year, China for the first time included decarbonisation targets in its five-year economic plan, the most influential tool for nationwide regulations. This inclusion acknowledged the significance of climate and sustainability goals within a national economic model. Last year, the supreme procuratorate released a set of carbon-peaking and carbon-neutrality cases, and the supreme court issued guidance on climate governance and the promotion of the dual-carbon goals. These various developments have empowered prosecutors to file claims recognising global standards in climate litigation.

This legal improvement signals the central government's dedication to fulfilling its dual-carbon pledge by empowering climate litigators, though challenges persist in public-interest litigation brought by environmental NGOs.

The role of environmental NGOs in climate litigation

Only a small proportion of China's registered civil-society organisations focuses on the environment. Much fewer initiate climate-litigation cases, with most deterred by restrictive regulations and the burden of legal fees. Despite the 2015 law allowing environmental NGOs to initiate public-interest climate litigations, few in China are willing to take this risk. Among the most prominent that do are the state-backed China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, and Friends of Nature, an NGO. The latter recently won a case against Gansu State Grid, forcing the state-owned enterprise to invest in and transition to renewable energy. But environmental NGOs' general reluctance demonstrates the limitations of China's climate-litigation field. Most cases are resolved in the legal warning stage, when prosecutors send a notice before filing the case to the court. This allows time and space for corrective action from defendants and requires less funds from plaintiffs.

Additionally, if climate litigations are backed by efficient tracking of pollution data, China's climate-litigation system might create a precedent globally. In fact, this opportunity already exists thanks to the Blue Map platform. Blue Map was launched by non-profit research organisation the Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE). It provides real-time environmental and climate-compliance data and can facilitate lawsuits against polluters.

Financial help, central-government support and streamlined regulations could unlock the true potential of climate litigation as a powerful oversight and transparency tool, with NGOs playing a more proactive role on a local level.

Lessons from other Asian countries might strengthen China's climate litigation

China also has other priorities of course. One of the biggest potential stumbling blocks for achieving the dual-carbon goals is the prioritisation of economic development over strict environmental-law enforcement. Other Asian countries that are balancing economic development with enhancements to their climate-litigation framework might offer valuable insights for China. Although the legal systems may differ drastically, transboundary lessons should strengthen climate jurisdiction and existing environmental courts in China.

Indonesian litigators file more climate lawsuits than those of any other Asian nation. Like China, Indonesia does not have an explicit climate-change law. Instead, it focuses on governmental support and political will. Thus, its environment and forestry ministry has acted as a plaintiff in a number of cases against polluting and damaging industries and companies. Similarly, China's ecology and environment ministry could use its reports to emphasise the role environmental courts and climate litigation can play, and provide advisory support.

India, despite setting a net-zero target for 2070 (10 years later than China's), also presents a valuable case study. It has a specialised body, the National Green Tribunal, for dealing with environmental cases. It provides both judicial and technical expertise, which minimises the auditing burden. For instance, in the hearing on the Vizhinjam International Seaport, the body appointed an expert committee to assess the environmental impact of the port's construction on coastal erosion.

Last month, India's supreme court recognised the constitutional right to be free from climate-change impacts. India is the world's third-largest emitter of carbon and this ruling will empower its climate-litigation field.

Both the Indonesia and India examples could benefit China's litigation framework, ultimately narrowing the implementation gap in China's net-zero commitments.

Navigating China's transition to a low-carbon economy

By enhancing environmental law and climate litigation, strengthening the framework for civil-society participation, and following regional developments, China won't miraculously achieve carbon neutrality while sustaining its economic growth rate. However, the global climate-litigation trend sets a vital example for China to ensure compliance with environmental policies and national directives at the local level. Using more litigation to drive climate compliance additionally supports the transition to a low-carbon economy. The guidance promoted by the supreme procuratorate and supreme court should be translated into national legislation, enforcing China's ecological and environmental regulations.

Even with persistent challenges, revised climate litigation in China can create a precedent for developing economies and reinforce its role in driving the Global South's low-carbon efforts.

MANILA STANDARD

[Filipinos say they have already experienced climate change but are optimistic about future](#)

New research from global professional services company GHD reveals 95 percent of surveyed Filipinos feel they have experienced the effects of climate change (compared to a 10-country average of 64 percent).

Furthermore, 94 percent of Filipinos say the government should spend more to protect communities from water-related climate change events, like storms, floods and rising sea levels.

GHD's CROSSROADS intergenerational equity research is based on a comprehensive survey conducted across ten countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, the Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States. A total of 13,000 adults, sampled to be representative of age, gender and region in these countries, participated in the survey in mid-May 2024.

Asked to look 30 years into the future and consider "...whether the decisions being made by the current generation of leaders will leave your community in a better or worse state than it is today," all Filipino generations are more optimistic than their "Anglosphere" counterparts. The differences are most stark with older generations, with 63 percent of Filipino Gen X and 65 percent of Filipino Baby Boomers agreeing the state of their community would be much better or a little better, compared to 10-country averages of 44 percent and 34 percent respectively.

All generations in the Philippines nominated "Developing green, nature-based solutions to ensure supply of clean, safe drinking water that protects natural waterways/oceans" as the highest priority, with Generation Z respondents giving equal priority to "Building a sustainable economy that reduces, reuses, repairs, recycles, recovers and disposes sustainably."

According to Daniele Coronacion, GHD's Executive Advisor, Philippines, the findings reflect widespread support across all age groups for resilient infrastructure that can withstand climate-related challenges.

"Our objective in pursuing this research was to better understand intergenerational differences, but what we have found is that all generations in the Philippines are united in their desire for more sustainable infrastructure and communities," Coronacion says.

“Intergenerational equity is about achieving fairness and justice across all generations, both now and in the future. The survey shows that there is broad agreement on priorities that must be tackled and an optimistic outlook that makes progress possible. At the same time, there is a need to ensure that everyone’s voices are heard and all generations are included in decision-making.”

CROSSROADS is a thought-provoking exploration of intergenerational equity, through an infrastructure lens. By overlaying community sentiment with GHD’s technical insights, the report is intended to spark an informed discussion of what can be done today to support the delivery of fair and fit-for-purpose infrastructure for tomorrow.

Other key findings of CROSSROADS survey include:

- 95 percent of Filipino respondents say they are committed to making sustainable choices and practicing more eco-friendly habits to reduce the impact of climate change
- 73 percent of Filipino respondents are open to “drinking treated or recycled water like purified wastewater, stormwater, or sea water with the salt taken out”
- 83 percent of Filipino respondents are willing to pay more for household water if it means everyone in the community has access to clean drinking water and sanitation
- 95 percent of Filipino respondents would like to see more green and sustainable building methods
- 90 percent of Filipino respondents would use public transport more to get to work, school, shopping and healthcare if it was easier, more reliable and/or cheaper
- 93 percent of Filipino respondents say the government needs to do more to cut transport emissions, like providing incentives for electric vehicles, encouraging public transport use and providing safe paths for walking and cycling
- Compared to respondents in other countries, Filipino respondents in particular cited concerns about safety and quality of roads and bridges.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Civil servants urged to promote disaster resiliency

By: Jose Cielito Reganit

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is enjoining all civil servants nationwide to actively promote disaster preparedness in celebration of this year's National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM).

The theme for this year is "Bantayog ng Katatagan at ang Pagbubuklod sa Layuning Kahandaan" to highlight the need to work collectively to enhance the country's resilience and preparedness.

"With 1.9 million civil servants nationwide, government employees have a crucial role in helping raise awareness and promoting the government's program on disaster resilience," CSC Chairperson Karlo Nograles said in a news release.

"We encourage civil servants to actively engage in the initiatives and activities prepared by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), as well as their respective agencies aimed at enhancing preparedness," he added.

While the Philippines cannot change its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire or its vulnerability to climate change and other natural hazards, Nograles said "we can do our best to prepare."

"As public officials and employees, we must do our part by contributing our knowledge, skills, and resources to achieve our collective goal of a safer, more resilient Philippines," he added.

Nograles pointed out that the CSC has pushed for initiatives that contribute to the disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) agenda in support of the government's whole-of-nation approach to building disaster resilience.

Under CSC Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 21, s. 2018, government agencies are required to conduct DRRM training to enhance employees' capabilities in mitigating and preparing for disaster risks.

Agencies must coordinate with the NDRRMC and the OCD to provide DRRM training as part of the orientation to its new employees, periodic reorientation for existing

employees, and specialized courses for officials and employees whose roles are directly involved in DRRM.

Meanwhile, the CSC-Department of Health-Department of Labor and Employment Joint MC No. 1, s. 2020, or the Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Public Sector, aims to protect all government employees from the dangers of injury, sickness, or death in the workplace through the adoption of safe and healthy working conditions.

Agencies shall have an established risk reduction management system, a crisis management plan, and a contingency program in an emergency situation; adequate emergency supplies such as fire extinguishers, medical first aid kits, among others; first aiders who are trained and certified by the Philippine National Red Cross; and a Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement with the nearest government health facility to provide medical services during an emergency.

The National Disaster Resilience Month gears toward building resilience covering four thematic areas: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation, and recovery per the Executive Order No. 29 issued on June 28, 2017.

DPWH implementing 74 PBBM infrastructure flagship projects

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is now implementing 74 of the 185 Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs) of the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., Undersecretary for Planning and Public-Private Partnership Services Maria Catalina Cabral said.

Speaking at the recent Presidential Communications Office's "Build Better More" Infrastructure Forum to showcase the progress of legacy projects and achievements in IFPs, Cabral presented the DPWH's infrastructure accomplishments, future plans, and initiatives in "reshaping the country's infrastructure landscape toward sustainable development."

She said the DPWH's projects include extensive road networks, bridges, flood control measures, and urban development initiatives geared toward "enhancing connectivity, fostering economic growth, and improving the quality of life for Filipinos."

Cabral listed three DPWH completed infrastructure flagship projects-- the Samar Pacific Coastal Road Project, the Flood Risk Improvement and Management Project for Cagayan De Oro River, and the Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Measures in the low-lying areas of Pampanga Bay Project.

She said 38 projects are ongoing while 33 are in pre-construction stages.

Under the DPWH's High Standard Highway Network Development plan, Cabral said it includes building highways and expressways to connect strategic economic zones, tourism destinations, and production centers nationwide "seamlessly".

The DPWH, she said, is prioritizing the enhancement of the 3,082-kilometer Maharlika Highway (N1), the main transportation artery of the country.

"DPWH is also implementing projects under the Inter-Island Linkage Bridge Program to ensure seamless connectivity among the Philippines' three major islands," she said.

She said the Metro Manila Logistics Improvement Program involves the construction and improvement of 11 bridges crossing the Pasig River, Marikina River, and Manggahan Floodway, while the DPWH's Flood Control Management Program targets 18 major river basins and other critical areas vulnerable to floods are underway.

“The Philippines is on the brink of emerging as an economic powerhouse in Asia. By investing in these transformative infrastructure projects, we are not just building roads but also creating a pathway to a brighter, more prosperous future for every Filipino and bolstering a thriving, globally competitive tourism industry,” Cabral said.

The three-day forum was a comprehensive platform to promote the administration’s “Build Better More” Infrastructure program, to broaden the understanding of government communicators and media practitioners of the strategic framework and status and timeline of the infrastructure development policies and programs of the present administration.

The forum was participated in by more than 40 journalists from the tri-media sector and more than 70 government communicators from various departments and their attached agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations.

Among the departments which participated were the Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Finance, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Health, and the Philippine National Police.

Among the GOCCs were Clark International Airport Corp., Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Bases Conversion Development Authority, Philippine Retirement Authority, and the Clark Development Corporation.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] PH hosting of Loss and Damage Fund board a nod to BBM's climate change agenda](#)

By: Daphne Oseña-Paez

WHEN the Philippines won the bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund (FLD) board two weeks ago, it sent the signal that the Philippines was globally recognized for its technical and institutional capacity to address the risks of climate change.

It is also important to know that hosting the board was envisioned by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. When funding discussions for Loss and Damage were discussed at COP27, and the possibility of the creation and inclusion of the actual Loss and Damage Fund would be in the agenda of COP28, the President already directed the Philippine team to aim for a seat at the board and propose to host the actual board in Manila. It was more than a lofty aspiration. The President believed we were ready, capable and experienced, and we should be the voice of the most vulnerable countries in the region and the world. Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga, who represents the President in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said BBM had a distinct vision for the role of the Philippines in the global climate change conversations.

I was at COP28 in Dubai, working with Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga who headed the Philippine delegation. It was, as she said, our "all hands on deck" approach that paved the way to host the FLD board. Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga, the DENR climate change team, the Climate Change Commission, the DFA, our permanent mission in New York, NEDA, the Department of Finance, and the Office of the President all worked together to organize and articulate the Philippines' proposal to have a seat at the board and host the FLD board. The groundwork had been laid by many previous Philippine delegations, and it was the role of our delegation to represent our readiness to lead the policy direction on funding loss and damage in the most vulnerable countries.

The negotiations on loss and damage had been a contentious issue at the UNFCCC for over three decades. It was controversial for developed countries, the ones who contributed most to carbon emissions, because compensating poor and vulnerable countries for loss and damage from adverse climate impacts might mean an admission of legal liability that could lead to large-scale compensation claims. The discussions were ignored and tabled. Other funds for adaptation and mitigation were set up instead. Finally, at COP27, countries agreed to put loss and damage on the formal agenda. This

led to the historic decision to establish a Loss and Damage Fund on the first day at COP28. And the Philippine team was prepared.

The idea of "loss and damage" was a general term at the UNFCCC that referred to the consequences of climate change that go beyond what countries can adapt to or mitigate. By nature of the Philippines' geography, being in the Pacific Ring of Fire and at the front row of the typhoon belt, we have had a headstart with other Small Island Developing States in bearing the brunt of these extreme weather disturbances. It has been a part of our lives as one of the countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Filipinos have found ways to deal with the damage and loss we bear with every climate disaster through responsive risk reduction, innovation and community-based mechanisms. These soft approaches, on top of investments in large infrastructure projects such as dams, dikes, sewage treatment plants and flood control, have also put the Philippines further into the forefront of the climate agenda. Building resiliency is now part of the conversation about climate change. In October this year, the Philippines will host the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

President Marcos placed climate change considerations at the center of all government policies and programs since his day one in office. Our population growth and economic development go hand in hand with increased climate risk and vulnerability. He has, in many instances, urged developed countries to do more to address the impacts and threats of climate change. In his speech at the Australian Parliament, he called it an injustice, saying, "This glaring disproportion between our share of responsibility and our vulnerability reflects an injustice that must be corrected. Developed countries must do more. And they must do it now." With the hosting of the FLD board in Manila, the Philippines will have, as he said, "a formidable voice in promoting and advancing global climate action" for all climate-vulnerable countries.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

20 flood, landslide-prone areas identified

By: John Unson and Bella Cariaso

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has identified 20 areas in the country that are prone to floods and landslides.

The identification of these areas came as the Philippines was elected host of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) board.

The LDF has been established to address the inability of some member-countries to comply with the Paris Agreement, to meet, cope with and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), an attached agency of the DENR, identified these areas in the geohazard mapping and assessment program, and included these in the 268-page National Adaptation Plan (NAP) approved by President Marcos.

The DENR-MGB said the top 10 flood-prone areas are Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Maguindanao, Bulacan, Metro Manila, North Cotabato, Oriental Mindoro and Ilocos Norte.

“Several provinces are strikingly the most flood-prone. Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Bulacan are among the provinces listed by the DENR-MGB. These areas are susceptible to flooding due to their proximity to rivers and bodies of water as well as other factors such as topography, land characteristics and subsidence,” the NAP report said.

“Metro Manila, being a highly urbanized region, is also included in the list due to its low-lying coastal areas and insufficient drainage systems,” it added.

The DENR said the most landslide-prone provinces are Benguet, Mountain Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Kalinga, Apayao, Southern Leyte, Abra, Marinduque, Cebu, Catanduanes and Ifugao.

“Landslides occur in areas with mountains and high elevation. In the top 10 landslide-prone areas identified by the DENR-MGB, all provinces in the Cordilleras are included. The region is situated on and around the Cordillera Mountain range, making the entire

region susceptible to landslides after periods of heavy rains, typhoons or earthquakes,” the report said.

Flood hits more Central Mindanao towns

Meanwhile, floods spawned by heavy rains submerged 18 more towns and destroyed bridges and houses in three provinces in Central Mindanao on Saturday.

The calamity displaced up to 40,000 people in Maguindanao del Sur and Cotabato provinces, which are near swamps and rivers that connect to the Ligwasan Delta, which swells during rainy days.

Two bridges in sitio Tambis, Barangay Sta. Clara in Kalamansig as well as in Barangay Kidayan in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat were destroyed by floodwaters.

The provincial government deployed emergency responders in Kabacan and Pikit towns to help local government units address the needs of flood victims.

The Office of Civil Defense in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the BARMM-Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) are helping residents in flood-stricken areas in Montawal and Pagalungan towns in Maguindanao del Sur as well as in 63 Bangsamoro barangays in Cotabato.

BARMM-MSSD chief Raissa Jadjurie deployed teams to distribute relief supplies in Matanog, Maguindanao del Norte and in the nearby towns of Balabagan, Kapatagan and Malabang in Lanao del Sur.

Tax credits eyed for Baguio green building owners

By: Artemio Dumlao

A proposal seeking to provide tax credits to building owners, who support efforts to reduce the impact of climate change, has been filed before the city council of Baguio.

Councilor Leandro Yangot Jr. said his proposal would encourage residents to participate in efforts intended to boost environmental sustainability and public health.

The proposal is also expected to inspire the public and private sectors to integrate into their plans green buildings and landscape requirements based on local climate, geological and topographical conditions.

Tangot said that once approved into an ordinance, the environmental impact of buildings would be reduced through improvement of their energy, water and resource efficiencies.

To avail themselves of the tax discount, building owners must present proof of ownership of the establishment.

The tax discount will depend on the ratings that an establishment obtains from the BERDE (building for ecologically responsive design excellence) rating certification system.

The system serves as a benchmark in grading environmental performance of establishments.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[Philippine hosting of Loss and Damage Fund Board to bolster Marcos as climate justice champion, says Villafuerte](#)

By: Dexter Barro II

Camarines Sur 2nd district Rep. LRay Villafuerte said the selection of the Philippines to host the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board will bolster the status of President Marcos as a champion for the world's climate-vulnerable economies.

In a statement on Sunday, July 18, Villafuerte said hosting the LDF Board will help expand the Marcos administration's access to annual financing that the world's most industrialized and richest nations have long committed for.

This financing is committed to climate-proofing LDCs (least developed countries) like the Philippines, along with SIDS (small island developing states), that have long face the brunt of the catastrophic impact of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions heating up the Earth's surface.

"More importantly, Manila's selection as host of the LDF Board...has propped up Mr. Marcos' position as champion or spokesman of the most vulnerable economies long seeking climate justice, in the form of damage compensation from the world's most affluent industrialized states that have become richer as the heaviest polluters of the environment," said Villafuerte.

The National Unity Party (NUP) president pointed out that this will give Marcos a "more emphatic voice" to push for climate justice and ample financing for economies most affected by climate change.

The Philippines was able to secure a seat on the LDF Board after the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) last year.

Last July 9, the country was selected to be global fund's host after beating other nations that have expressed interest, which include Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Eswatini, Kenya, and Togo.

Rich countries responsible for most of the world's GHG emissions have so far pledged over \$700 million to the LDF.

As host, the Philippines will oversee the LDF Board in operationalizing access modalities, allocation parameters, and resource mobilization strategies to vulnerable countries

Villafuerte noted that the country's selection as host was "certainly a sensible decision" as President Marcos had long been a consistent advocate for climate justice.

He said during the president's trips abroad, Marcos has continuously called for assistance from first-world nations to help high-risk countries adjust from the onset of climate change.

"The Philippines is one of the countries, if not the No. 1 country, that has so far suffered the most, in terms of economic and infrastructure losses, from typhoons and other natural calamities that have become nastier by the year as a result of climate change," the lawmaker added.

According to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the country has projected losses worth P637 billion over the past 10 years from the impact of climate change.

Villafuerte emphasized that climate change is one of the factors behind the country's slow economic growth.

In addition, he said the Marcos administration has always pursued concrete steps on decarbonization despite budgetary constraints.

"The government has prioritized hydrothermal, geothermal, solar power, wind power as well as other low-emission energy development projects, to meet its target for increasing the share of renewables in our country's power generation mix from the current 22 percent to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040," he shared.

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