

NEWS ROUNDUP 18 JULY 2024 [08:00 am]

- Climate talks host urges rich nations to break stalemate
- NIA adjusts cropping calendar amid climate change
- Climate change risk stirs oil market
- DSWD allots P86-M for LAWA and BINHI project in Ilocos Region
- Negros Occidental gets spotlight in coastal greenbelt zones exhibit
- Climate advocates react to PH hosting of 'loss and damage fund' board
- PH to host Loss and Damage Fund Board
- Manila sea level rising by 2.6 cm/year study

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Schneider Electric unveils scalable decarbonization roadmap for local manufacturing sector
- Schneider Electric introduces scalable decarbonization roadmap for PH manufacturing, donates P5M worth of equipment to Dualtech

ABS CBN

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DAILY GUARDIAN

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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SUNSTAR

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PH to host Loss and Damage Fund Board

By: Jessa M. Magbutay

The Philippines has been elected to host the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund, a critical mechanism to assist developing countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Manila sea level rising by 2.6 cm/year - study

By: Bella Cariaso

The sea level in Manila has been increasing by about 2.6 centimeters per year from an average rate of 1.3 millimeters per year in the 1900s, with groundwater use in the city enhancing the risk of sea level rise in the country's capital, according to a study. The Philippine Climate Change Assessment report was contained in the 268-page National Adaptation Plan (NAP) approved by President Marcos.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

Schneider Electric unveils scalable decarbonization roadmap for local manufacturing sector By: Vivienne Angeles

To achieve the goal of carbon neutrality, French digital automation and energy management firm Schneider Electric recently laid out a scalable decarbonization roadmap for the local manufacturing industry.

PUNTO CENTRAL LUZON

Schneider Electric introduces scalable decarbonization roadmap for PH manufacturing, donates P5M worth of equipment to Dualtech

Schneider Electric, a global leader in energy management and digital automation, announced a scalable decarbonization roadmap for the manufacturing sector in the Philippines during the recent Go Industry 2024: Driving towards a Net Zero Industry event held at The Mills Country Club, Laguna co-hosted with Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Climate talks host urges rich nations to break stalemate

The host of this year's UN climate summit on Wednesday urged governments to start compromising to break a deadlock over how to help poorer countries tackle global warming.

This November's COP29 summit in gas-rich Azerbaijan is meant to produce a global agreement on how much rich nations should pay developing countries for climate assistance, but talks have stalled.

While poorer nations are the least responsible for carbon emissions, they suffer the most from a warming planet.

Developing countries need massive investments in energy systems to cut their own carbon footprints and money to strengthen defenses against the effects of global warming.

But a diplomatic meeting in Bonn last month ended in a stalemate. Countries were unable to advance on an issue that has eroded trust at climate talks for years.

In a letter to the roughly 200 nations that have signed up to UN climate accords, COP29 president Mukhtar Babayev lamented the absence of "necessary progress".

Time was running out, he warned.

"We clearly need a rapid increase in the pace of our work," wrote Babayev, a government minister and former executive at Azerbaijan's national oil company.

"Time lost is lives, livelihoods and the planet lost," he added.

"We call on all parties to increase the pace of their work and move on from their early negotiating positions."

- 'Supercharge' efforts -

Babayev's appeal comes in the hottest year on record and as extreme heatwaves, floods and wildfires batter communities around the globe.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell, whose own homeland of Grenada was devastated by hurricane Beryl earlier this month, urged countries to put the fight against global warming back on the political agenda.

"Rather than just counting the costs of climate carnage, all governments must supercharge efforts to prevent them," said Stiell.

He was speaking during a visit to the island of Carriacou, where his grandmother's house was among many destroyed.

"Standing here, it's impossible not to recognise the vital importance of delivering climate finance," he added.

Wealthy nations have been under pressure to commit to new financing targets that go well beyond the \$100 billion a year they promised in 2009.

Developing nations excluding China will need about \$2.4 trillion a year in climate investment by 2030, according to an expert assessment commissioned by the UN.

That is nearly 25 times more than the present levels.

But nations are nowhere near agreeing on a dollar aid figure, with talks bogged down over who should pay, what form the money should take, and who should receive it.

Under a 1992 climate accord, only a small handful of the wealthiest industrialized nations at the time were obligated to pay climate finance.

Some want the pool of contributors widened, most notably to include China, which is today vastly wealthier than 30 years ago, and the largest emitter of greenhouse gasses.

But this has been a non-starter for developing nations, who have accused wealthy countries of trying to shirk their responsibility.

To break the ice, Azerbaijan will host the negotiating teams for an informal two-day retreat starting July 26.

They have named two experienced diplomats -- Dan Jorgensen of Denmark and Yasmine Fouad of Egypt -- to help the parties make headway.

Babayev said the impasse would "not be solved by negotiators alone", calling for political leadership on the sidelines to help move discussions toward consensus.

DAILY GUARDIAN

NIA adjusts cropping calendar amid climate change

By: Rjay Zuriaga Castor

In response to the adverse effects of climate change, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is exploring adjustments to the cropping calendar and planting patterns for rice farming.

NIA Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie Guillen told Daily Guardian on Tuesday, July 16, that revising the cropping calendar could mitigate agricultural losses during extreme weather events such as El Niño and La Niña.

"Ultimately, what we will be doing is to change the cropping calendar. We will have it science-based. We will check what time is the best time for planting," he said.

He noted that in regions like Luzon, the traditional December planting season might be shifted to October.

Guillen explained that this adjustment would enable two cropping seasons before the dry season begins, with the wet season offering an additional, though less essential, cropping period.

In Luzon, the main planting season typically begins in June with harvesting occurring around September to October. A second cropping season starts in November or December and concludes around February to March.

In the Visayas, planting usually starts in May and ends in August, followed by a second season from October to January.

In Mindanao, planting schedules generally start in April to May for the first season and October to November for the second season.

Guillen also pointed out that the cropping intensity of farmers in the Philippines lags behind that of neighboring Southeast Asian countries.

"Currently, our cropping intensity in the country is 1.6 percent, unlike Vietnam, which has 3 percent," he said.

He emphasized that if the cropping intensity is further increased to 2.6 percent, just one cropping season and another cropping season for the farmers could eliminate the need for rice imports to ensure food security.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Climate change risk stirs oil market

From forest fires to hurricanes and other natural disasters: climate change risk is increasingly influencing oil prices, just as the world is struggling to shift away from high-polluting fossil fuels.

Hurricane Beryl became the latest weather phenomenon to jangle market nerves, boosting crude prices as it passed through Texas earlier this month.

Texas accounts for some 42 percent of total US crude oil production, according to Energy Information Administration data. It also possesses the largest number of crude oil refineries among US states.

"Almost half of the total US petroleum refining capacity is located along the Gulf, with Texas accounting for one-third of total US refining capacity," Exinity analyst Han Tan told AFP.

And industry experts fear Beryl could herald a "super charged" hurricane season this year, according to Tan.

The World Meteorological Organization has warned that Beryl's early formation and swift intensification could foreshadow similarly severe storms in the future.

Earlier this year meanwhile, oil market sentiment was jarred in May as forest fires broke out in Canada.

Traders took flight as out-of-control wildfires threatened to spread to the crudeproducing hub of Fort McMurray, the nation's largest oil sands mining facility.

'More visible and more extreme'

Traders, more used to pricing in geopolitical turmoil, are now also weighing up the risks arising from the climate crisis.

"Climate change and its effect is a major source of risk in the oil markets, and I expect that that risk will only increase in the coming years as the effects of climate change become more visible and extreme," Rystad Energy analyst Jorge Leon told AFP.

"Geopolitical risk is -- at least partly -- manageable by different actors. For example, international diplomacy could prevent a war.

"However, climate risk is less manageable in the short and medium run. In the long run, you can manage it by trying to reduce emissions," he added.

At the same time, climate disruption is also having an increasingly visible impact on the operations of oil and gas companies, which are frequently slammed by environmentalists over their role in global warming.

"Climate change has been and will be affecting production," summarised Tamas Varga, analyst at PVM Oil Associates.

He added that it also impacted refinery utilisation rates because "hot weather leads to malfunctioning" of the facilities.

Many European refineries were designed in the 1960s and 1970s to withstand colder rather than warmer temperatures, according to Tan.

Fossil fuels — coal, gas and oil — are responsible for over 75 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to estimates from the United Nations.

At the COP28 UN climate conference in Dubai last December, almost 200 countries agreed to a call for a transition away from fossil fuels and a tripling of renewable energy capacity this decade.

However, the text crucially stopped short of a direct call for phasing out fossil fuels, while there were major concessions to the oil and gas industry and producer countries.

'Economics can't find solution'

Analysts argue that the oil market participants are simply focused on generating profit rather than saving the environment.

That throws the onus onto the world's politicians and regulators, they add.

"Investors can't be rationally expected to reverse the phenomenon when they try to maximise profits," SwissQuote analyst Ipek Ozkardeskaya told AFP.

"Unless financial costs of climate damages outweigh the financial benefits, the economics can't find the solution to the climate problem."

"So, the ball is in politicians' hands. Only concrete, sharp and worldwide regulatory changes with meaningful financial impact/incentives... could shift capital toward clean and sustainable energies."

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

DSWD allots P86-M for LAWA and BINHI project in llocos Region

By: Hilda Austria

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has allotted about PHP86 million for its project targeted to mitigate the impact of food insecurity and water scarcity caused by calamities.

DSWD llocos Region Assistant Director for operations Anniely Ferrer, in a phone interview on Wednesday, said 9,978 beneficiaries from 20 local government units (LGUs) in the region have been included in Project LAWA (Local Adaptation to Water Access) and BINHI (Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished).

She said the project is under DSWD's Risk Resiliency Program Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Disaster Risk Reduction and is in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s focus to address poverty and hunger in communities affected by calamities.

"They are doing community project that will provide source of water and a community garden that will have nutritious vegetables so (that) they will have source of affordable or free food in their communities," she said in Filipino.

LAWA and BINHI beneficiaries undergo comprehensive training on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and practical skills for water harvesting, gardening, vermicomposting, and hydroponics under the cash-for-training component of the project.

The participants will do the repair and construction of water harvesting systems and community gardening projects under the cash-for-work.

Ferrer said the cash-for-training and cash-for-work sessions will run for 20 days and each beneficiary will get PHP8,700 after.

"They will receive wages while they are learning or training in disaster preparedness and in working to build sustainable LAWA and BINHI projects," she said.

The number of beneficiaries per LGU depends on the population and number of identified villages affected by the El Niño phenomenon, she added.

Ferrer said San Carlos City in Pangasinan has the highest number of beneficiaries with 3,307.

"LGUs recommend (the beneficiaries) but preferably (these should be) those in the Listahanan or members of the Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program or farmers and fisherfolk who have experienced losses due to El Niño," she said.

Out of the 20 areas included in the project, 11 have completed the cash-for-training and cash-for-work. These include three towns in llocos Norte, three in llocos Sur, and five in Pangasinan.

The remaining nine are mostly in La Union, with five LGUs, and four in Ilocos Norte.

Negros Occidental gets spotlight in coastal greenbelt zones exhibit By: Nanette Guadalquiver

The coastal wetlands protection efforts of Negros Occidental are among the images featured in "Our Coastal Greenbelts, Our National Treasure" photo exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History in Ermita, Manila from July 16 to Aug. 2.

Negros Occidental is the first province in the Philippines to establish a network of coastal greenbelt zones across 10 local government units (LGUs) through the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Area Management Alliance (NOCWAMA) situated in the southern part of the province.

"This captivating photo exhibition highlights the country's coastal greenbelts, showcasing their pivotal role as our frontline defense against the profound impacts of climate change," the National Museum of the Philippines said in a statement.

Held at the Hyundai Hall, "Our Coastal Greenbelts, Our National Treasure" is also part of the observance of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem on July 26.

Governor Eugenio Lacson, represented by Provincial Environment Management Office head Julie Ann Bedrio, during the unveiling ceremony on Tuesday, said Negros Occidental is both proud and humbled to be at the forefront of the environmental mission.

"While it is true that our province is the first to establish a network of local greenbelt zones in the country, spanning 10 LGUs (local government units), the recognition also serves as a reminder of the need to establish more greenbelt zones in other parts of our province," he said in a video message.

To pursue this, the Provincial Board recently enacted an ordinance to expand the coastal greenbelt network to the entire province.

Lacson said the journey in Negros Occidental has been "one of learning, adaptation, and progress, and that establishing a network of greenbelt zones involved close collaboration with local governments, communities, and environmental organizations."

"The positive impacts of these efforts are already evident. Coastal areas that were once vulnerable to natural disasters are now more resilient. Marine life is returning, and local communities are witnessing the benefits of healthier ecosystems. Our experience in Negros Occidental serves as a testament to what can be achieved when there is a shared vision and a collective effort," he added.

Last year, Negros Occidental received a special citation for being the first province in the country to have established the network of coastal greenbelt zones during the 2023 Para El Mar given by Oceana Philippines and Marine Protected Areas Support Network.

In 2021, NOCWAMA's entry, "Network of Alliances for Coastal Wetlands Conservation," was named one of the Top 10 winners in the Galing Pook Awards that recognizes innovative practices by LGUs.

SUNSTAR

<u>Climate advocates react to PH hosting of 'loss and damage fund' board</u> By: Ronald O. Reyes

Amid their approval of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board's decision to choose the Philippines as its host country, climate campaigners have urged the government leaders to demand more from the global fund.

"The Philippines, as a country that is extremely vulnerable to loss and damage, should demonstrate political leadership in demanding the governments of developed countries to fulfill their historical, legal, and moral obligation to provide reparations for climate devastation," said Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD).

"Developed countries should deliver trillions of grants-based finance, not the shameful millions they have pledged thus far," added Nacpil, as they welcomed the LDF Board's decision to select the Philippines.

Aside from the Philippines, the countries that submitted proposals to host the Board were Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahamas, Barbados, Eswatini, Kenya, and Togo.

According to Nacpil, the Philippine government "must stand firm for an LDF that is democratic and independent of the World Bank."

"As interim host, the World Bank should not compromise the integrity of the Fund's operations and decision-making," she added.

Nacpil maintained that the participation of civil society organizations at the Fund's board meetings "is crucial."

"We call on the Board to encourage and facilitate a mechanism that ensures the active and meaningful engagement of civil society organizations in all Loss and Damage Fund processes and decisions," Nacpil said in a statement to the media.

While the country will become the Board's host country, the Fund's secretariat will be housed at the World Bank, its interim host for the next four years.

"In response to the World Bank's role, climate justice movements in the Global South are pushing for the Fund's independence from its host, citing the Bank's history of financing fossil fuel projects, supplying billions in trade finance to oil and gas projects as recently as 2022, and preference for loans with conditions," Nacpil said. Meanwhile, Nacpil said that "it's unacceptable that the Fund has received only 661.39 million USD in pledges when loss and damage will cost 447 to 894 billion USD a year by 2030."

"It's particularly shameful that the United States has pledged only 17.5 million USD when they're the largest historical emitter of greenhouse gasses and therefore most responsible for the climate crisis. The Philippines should join the rest of the Global South in demanding trillions, not millions, in climate finance from the developed countries who've pushed us to the brink of climate chaos," she added.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. earlier announced that the county is also "honored to have a seat on the Board itself, ensuring that the Philippines will be a formidable voice in promoting and advancing global climate action -- an issue of critical interest to the country."

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

The Loss and Damage Fund Board, comprising 26 members from Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, is tasked to assist developing countries on its economic non-economic loss and damage amid its vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

PH to host Loss and Damage Fund Board

By: Jessa M. Magbutay

The Philippines has been elected to host the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund, a critical mechanism to assist developing countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said this is a "welcome development" for the Philippines, one of the countries most impacted by climate change.

She said the Loss and Damage Fund is a "long-fought struggle to directly assist those who bear the greatest impact of climate-induced losses and damage to recover and build."

The Philippines' bid was strongly supported by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who said it would "reinforce our dedication to inclusivity and our leadership role in ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change shape the future of international climate policies."

Yulo-Loyzaga pledged that the Philippines will "make the most out of" hosting the Fund's Board, drawing on the country's institutional capacity, expertise, and partnerships to ensure its successful operation.

She emphasized the Philippines' commitment to advancing global climate action and resilience, urging world leaders to set aside differences for the sake of the "planet and all peoples."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Manila sea level rising by 2.6 cm/year – study

By: Bella Cariaso

The sea level in Manila has been increasing by about 2.6 centimeters per year from an average rate of 1.3 millimeters per year in the 1900s, with groundwater use in the city enhancing the risk of sea level rise in the country's capital, according to a study. The Philippine Climate Change Assessment report was contained in the 268-page National Adaptation Plan (NAP) approved by President Marcos.

"The implications of rising sea levels are compounded by the occurrence of land subsidence in certain areas, exacerbating the impact of sea level rise and leading to increased vulnerability to flooding and extreme sea levels," the report said.

Vulnerable

The NAP also cited a report from the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration that Southeast Asia is often considered especially vulnerable to the impacts of sea-level rise, and local areas of the Philippines have been experiencing relatively high rates of sea-level rise.

"About 60 percent of the Philippine population and over 50 percent of Philippine municipalities, including the country's capital, Manila, are in the coastal zone," the report said.

"Manila has experienced a rapid increase in sea level, primarily attributed to long-term land subsidence caused by excessive groundwater extraction. In contrast, Legazpi and Davao have witnessed gradual sea level rises, while no clear trend has been observed in Cebu and Jolo, Sulu," the report added.

Groundwater use, subsidence related

The report said that the research utilizing satellite data has revealed a significant correlation between subsidence zones and regions with high groundwater usage, particularly in Regions IV-B, III, VII and XI.

"Given this understanding, an important adaptation strategy for reducing the effects of sea level rise and flooding in these vulnerable areas would be to manage water (including groundwater) usage effectively," the report added.

It added that sea level rise poses a significant threat to the Philippines, particularly in terms of inundation.

A sea level rise of one meter would affect 7,000 square kilometers and 1.8 million people in 2,490 barangays, according to the report.

A three-meter rise would affect over 15,000 square km and 3.4 million people in 5,387 barangays.

"Sea level rise also affects natural systems, such as mangrove degradation, coral reef bleaching and saltwater intrusion," the study said.

According to the report, the scale of the potential impacts underscores the urgency of addressing and mitigating the risks associated with rising sea levels.

"Human-induced factors, such as climate change and the subsequent warming of the oceans and melting of ice sheets, are primarily responsible for this phenomenon," the NAP report said in its conclusion.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has said that around 13.6 million Filipinos would need to relocate amid the impact of climate change.

"It is projected that almost 17 percent of the Philippines' islands will be submerged due to sea level rising by 2100, putting at risk 64 provinces... and (an) estimated 13.6 million Filipinos would need relocation," DENR Undersecretary for finance, information systems and climate change Analiza Rebuelta-Teh said.

The country's hosting of the Loss and Damage Fund Board gives vulnerable and developing countries representation, she said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

Schneider Electric unveils scalable decarbonization roadmap for local manufacturing sector

By: Vivienne Angeles

To achieve the goal of carbon neutrality, French digital automation and energy management firm Schneider Electric recently laid out a scalable decarbonization roadmap for the local manufacturing industry.

The blueprint outlines four key strategies that the sector can gradually implement to reduce its carbon footprint. These are electrifying operations through microgrid optimization, reducing energy consumption through digitalization and automation, replacing energy sources with renewable energy such as solar energy, wind power, and hydropower, engaging the entire value chain to design and build for sustainability and offset carbon emissions, and enabling a circular economy.

According to Dr. Song Pei Chua, Business Development Manager for Chemicals at Schneider Electric East Asia, the company's approach to decarbonization involves not only changing energy supply but also optimizing processes through electrification.

"Strategic planning, digitization, and a steadfast commitment to efficiency and sustainability are at the core of manufacturing and industrial operations," she added.

The road map was unveiled during the recent Go Industry 2024: Driving Towards a Net Zero Industry event held in Laguna.

Moreover, Schneider Electric donated P5 million worth of assistance for the modernization of training and facilities at the Dualtech Training Center Foundation, a TESDA-accredited not-for-profit technical-vocational school offering a two-year Electromechanics Technology course combining electrical, mechanical, and electronics disciplines.

PUNTO CENTRAL LUZON

Schneider Electric introduces scalable decarbonization roadmap for PH manufacturing, donates P5M worth of equipment to Dualtech

Schneider Electric, a global leader in energy management and digital automation, announced a scalable decarbonization roadmap for the manufacturing sector in the Philippines during the recent Go Industry 2024: Driving towards a Net Zero Industry event held at The Mills Country Club, Laguna co-hosted with Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc.

The event was attended by leaders from the Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Climate Change Commission (CCC) Philippines, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The decarbonization roadmap outlines four key strategies that the sector can implement gradually to reduce carbon footprint:

- Electrifying operations through microgrid optimization
- Reducing energy consumption through digitalization and automation
- Replacing energy sources with renewable energy such as solar energy, wind power, and hydropower
- Engaging the entire value chain to design and build for sustainability and to offset carbon emissions, enabling a circular economy

"Our approach to decarbonization involves not just transforming our energy supply but also optimizing our processes through electrification," said Dr. Song Pei Chua, Business Development Manager for Chemicals, Schneider Electric East Asia. "Strategic planning, digitization, and a steadfast commitment to efficiency and sustainability are at the core of manufacturing and industrial operations."

Schneider Electric's Sustainability Business Team helps industries achieve their carbon neutrality targets by developing customized digital-centric strategies. They provide advisory services to establish a baseline, understand current energy use, and create a comprehensive roadmap towards carbon neutrality.

Deployment of Schneider Electric's proprietary and award-winning cloud-based platform EcoStruxure Resource Advisor helps collect and analyze energy consumption data. With this, businesses can develop better energy and sustainability strategies. Software trainings are conducted by Schneider Electric to help educate partners on how to maximize the software to enable effective application into their operations. During the event, CCC and UNDP both emphasized the significant role the private sector plays in achieving the country's climate goals. "Shifting to digital operations is crucial for sectors aiming to reduce carbon emissions and meet the targets established by the nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation plan," CCC Executive Assistant Raul Villegas stated.

Schneider Electric Empowering Youth to Drive Digital Transformation

Schneider Electric's commitment to sustainability extends beyond environmental initiatives. This is demonstrated by the company's 5-year partnership with Dualtech where Schneider Electric has committed to provide PHP5 million worth of equipment and instructor training.

Dualtech, accredited by Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), offers a 2-year Electromechanics Technology course combining electrical, mechanical, and electronics disciplines. In response to the global demand for skilled workers, the institution is modernizing its training programs and facilities to accommodate more scholars and to address shortages of training equipment and tools.

The company aims to be carbon neutral in operations by 2025, save 800 million tons of carbon annually by 2030, achieve full value chain carbon neutrality by 2040, and reach net zero across all scopes by 2050—urging the manufacturing sector and other industries to follow suit. Recently, TIME Magazine has hailed Schneider Electric as the "Most Sustainable Company in the World".

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