



NEWS ROUNDUP

27 JULY 2023 [08:00 am]

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BENAR NEWS

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By: Camille Elemia

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BUSINESS WORLD

[Asia-Pacific needs to spend \\$144B for climate adaptation](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

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MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

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MONGABAY

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By: Jewel S. Cabrera

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By: Allan Macatuno

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By: Katrina Domingo

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on Wednesday said it would relaunch its “Handa Pilipinas” exhibition this week to help market the inventions of local scientists who came up with solutions for disasters and calamities.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Philippine Red Cross, Climate Change Commission Tie-Up](#)

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) have signed a six-year memorandum of agreement to promote public awareness, advocacy campaigns, and programs on climate change adaptation and mitigation at the local level.

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH Red Cross partners with CCC to intensify climate change adaptation](#)

By: Rhowen Del Rosario

To boost public awareness of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the country, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Wednesday, July 26.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH Red Cross, CCC ink climate pact](#)

By: Alexandra J. Furio

THE Philippine Red Cross (PRC), headed by its president and chief executive officer Richard "Dick" Gordon, and the Climate Change Commission, represented by its vice chairman and executive director, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, signed a memorandum of agreement to advance mitigation measures and public awareness on climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

PAGASA lifts signal no. 4 as Typhoon Egay slightly weakens

Tropical cyclone wind signal No. 4 was lifted by state weather bureau PAGASA on Wednesday night as Typhoon Egay slightly weakened while moving over the Luzon Strait.

In its 11 p.m. weather advisory, PAGASA said the eye of Egay was last located 120 kilometers west-northwest of Calayan, Cagayan, packing maximum sustained winds of 155 kilometers per hours near the center with 190 kph gusts.

The agency maintained Signal No. 3, where storm-force winds can occur in 18 hours, over the northwestern portion of Ilocos Norte (Bangui, Pagudpud, Burgos, Pasuquin).

Signal No. 2, where gale-force winds can occur in 24 hours, is hoisted over the following areas:

Cagayan including Babuyan Islands

Kalinga

Abra

Rest of Ilocos Norte

Apayao

Northern and central portion of Ilocos Sur (Gregorio del Pilar, Magsingal, San Esteban, Banayoyo, Burgos, City of Candon, Santa Lucia, Santiago, San Vicente, Santa Catalina, Lidlidda, Nagbukel, Sinait, Suyo, Sigay, San Ildefonso, Galimuyod, Quirino, City of Vigan, San Emilio, Cabugao, Caoayan, San Juan, Santa, Bantay, Santo Domingo, Santa Cruz, Santa Maria, Narvacan, Salcedo, Tagudin, Cervantes)

Western portion of Mountain Province (Besao, Sagada, Bontoc, Sadanga, Tadian, Sabangan, Bauko)

Batanes

Signal No. 1, where strong winds can be experienced in 36 hours, is still raised in:

Isabela

Rest of Mountain Province

Ifugao

Zambales

Pangasinan

Benguet

La Union

Nueva Vizcaya

Rest of Ilocos Sur

Quirino

Aurora

Nueva Ecija

Tarlac

Pampanga

Northern portion of Bataan (Morong, Samal, Orani, Hermosa, Dinalupihan)

Northern portion of Bulacan (Hagonoy, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Paombong, City of Malolos, Plaridel, Guiguinto, Pandi, Bustos, Angat, Calumpit, Pulilan, Baliuag, San Rafael, San Ildefonso, San Miguel)

PAGASA said the southwest monsoon (habagat) enhanced by Egay will continue to bring occasional to monsoon rains over the western portions of Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, and Visayas in the next three days.

"There is a moderate to high risk of storm surge which may cause flooding in the low-lying and exposed coastal areas of Batanes, Cagayan including Babuyan Islands, Ilocos Norte, and extreme northern portion of Ilocos Sur," it noted, adding that maximum surge heights may reach 3 meters in most warning areas.

PAGASA warned against sea travel in coastal areas and advised mariners to remain in port or seek safe harbor until conditions get better.

"Under the influence of Egay and the enhanced southwest monsoon, a Gale Warning is in effect over several coastal waters along the seaboard of Luzon and Visayas," it said. Egay is projected to leave the Philippine area of responsibility by Thursday morning while weakening during its stay in the country's monitoring area.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the typhoon has affected a total of 44,356 families or 180,439 individuals.

The NDRRMC said Egay killed an individual in Cardona, Rizal while injuring two people in Cardona and Nabas, Aklan.

"All casualty reports are still subject to validation," it clarified.

The NDRRMC also said Egay triggered 16 landslide incidents, inundated 108 areas, and damaged 57 houses.

BENAR NEWS

[In Philippines, researchers engineer rice varieties to adapt to changing climate](#)

By: Camille Elemia

A top rice research center headquartered in the Philippines, a country vulnerable to climate change, says it is developing varieties of this grain and staple of Asian diets that can survive droughts, temperature extremes and flooding.

Scientists at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), in the university town of Los Baños, south of Manila, say they are working around the clock because they believe that “no crop is as vulnerable to global warming as rice.”

The institute and its partners in recent years have come up with rice varieties that can grow amid adverse weather conditions and in soil exposed to high levels of salt – a trend expected to become more frequent and extreme with climate change, experts said.

“We do expect in the coming years, with climate change and with frequencies of typhoons and droughts, that we may be needing more of these varieties,” Alice Laborte, senior scientist at IRRI, told a small group of visiting reporters invited to the institute earlier this month.

Rice is a main source of food for many people in Asia, which is home to five of the world’s 10 most populous countries: India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

“So at IRRI, what we’re doing is looking at where these varieties are needed the most,” Laborte said.

Once these varieties are made available, farmers can do their planting in any “stress environment,” Philippine Agriculture Undersecretary Mercedita Sombilla said during the same briefing.

“They can continue to harvest rice under different conditions and if rice is available, of course that will stabilize local production and local supply and that would sort of stabilize rice prices,” she said.

Earlier this month, the United Nations’ World Meteorological Organization issued a warning about soaring temperatures as it reported that the El Niño weather phenomenon had emerged in the tropical Pacific for the first time in seven years.

At the same time, the Philippines’ state weather bureau declared the onset of El Niño and warned Filipinos that its effects could be felt toward the end of the year.

Drought, considered the most widespread and damaging of all environmental stresses, affects 88,800 square miles of rice in South and Southeast Asia, where most rice farmers live, according to scientists. With little rain, farmers who rely on rain-fed fields or do not have irrigation facilities would fail to accumulate enough water to prepare their lands for transplanting rice.

IRRI said drought-tolerant varieties have been released in several countries in recent years, including India (the Sahbhagi Dhan variety), the Philippines (the Sahod Ulan variety), and Nepal (the Sookha Dhan variety).

Another variety developed to withstand extreme weather conditions is the flood-tolerant rice being planted in the Philippines, which experiences an average of 20 typhoons per year, and elsewhere in Asia.

Floods – whether from flash floods or stagnant flooding – affect rice crops at any stage of growth. When crops are totally submerged, their chances of survival are “extremely low,” according to IRRI.

Flooding leads to farmers in Bangladesh and India losing about 4 million tons of rice annually, a volume that could feed 30 million people, scientists said.

When Super Typhoon Rai struck the Philippines in December 2021, the country lost crops and farmlands estimated at U.S. \$215 million (11.7 billion pesos), with rice crops wiped out across some regions.

Citing an IRRI experiment, Laborte said regular rice varieties were completely obliterated during flooding but the submergence-resistant varieties were “still standing up.”

“It’s not as high yielding as hybrid rice, but in a situation where there is flooding, it’s the best bet for farmers to be able to still get income from rice production,” Laborte said.

In low-lying Bangladesh, which is vulnerable to flooding, it was found that farmers earn an additional \$92 (10,000 Bangladesh takas) per hectare by planting flood-resistant rice varieties.

“There is immense advantage to the common man,” said Ajay Kohli, IRRI deputy director general for research.

“For me and for IRRI, what is very interesting is to see part of the money going to child education, that’s where we actually experience transformative change. Imagine in a typical household in India and Bangladesh, where the study was conducted, if the

parents are not educated but the child gets educated, within a few years the entire atmosphere of the household changes,” Kohli said.

Temperature, salt resistance

Global warming has a significant effect on rice.

IRRI said it had discovered more rice varieties that were tolerant to the heat, cold and soil salinity.

While rice originates from the tropics, extreme heat can damage yield, plant processes and grain quality. At the same time, frequently occurring low temperatures can lead to heavy losses for farmers.

China alone has recorded rice crop losses of 3 million to 5 million tons caused by low temperatures, IRRI reported.

In addition to extreme temperatures, rising sea levels threaten rice production as salt water moves inland. This contributes to high salinity in soil, which regular rice varieties cannot withstand.

IRRI scientists have found ways to increase rice’s resistance to salt. They also found characteristics of salt-tolerant and flood-tolerant rice varieties that could be combined to create another variety capable of tolerating floodwaters and high salinity.

But the challenge is for governments to convince farmers to plant new rice varieties. As Sombilla, the Philippine agriculture undersecretary, noted, many local farmers are reluctant to try new ways until they see the effect on others or after they experience a calamity.

“It’s usually wait-and-see for them,” Sombilla said. “Sometimes there is hesitancy by them adopting immediately especially if they see what they’re using now is doing well, so why do they have to change?”

BUSINESS WORLD

Asia-Pacific needs to spend \$144B for climate adaptation

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

THE Asia-Pacific region will need to spend as much as \$144.74 billion or 0.49% of regional gross domestic product (GDP) for climate adaptation, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) said.

In its latest Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, UNESCAP said that Southeast Asia alone accounts for almost a quarter of the total adaptation costs.

“The East and North-East Asia subregion accounts for 48% of the total absolute adaptation costs, followed by South and South-West Asia (28%), and Southeast Asia (24%). These numbers increase to \$150.5 billion and \$155 billion under 1.5°C and 2°C climate scenarios, respectively,” it said.

UNESCAP said Asia and the Pacific remains the “most disaster-prone” region in the world. Since 1970, disasters in the region have resulted in more than two million fatalities or around 60% of the global disaster death toll, it added.

Last year, over 140 disasters hit the region and amounted to economic damage worth an estimated \$57 billion.

Earthquakes, which occurred primarily in the Philippines, Japan, China and Iran, have caused damage worth \$12 billion in 2022 alone.

UNESCAP said climate-induced disasters are outpacing the region’s resilience. Citing a 2019 study, it noted the Philippines may experience a 20-45% loss in biodiversity conservation areas due to climate pressures by 2030.

The country may also experience a 100% endemic plant loss due to climate and agro-economic pressures by the same year.

“Drought, intense rainfall, and floods are already contributing to decreasing agricultural produce and surging food prices,” it added.

One of the key risks to the inflation outlook this year is the El Niño phenomenon, a weather pattern that causes dry spells and droughts in some areas of the country. El Niño is seen to persist until the first quarter of 2024 and is showing signs of strengthening in the coming months.

UNESCAP said adaptation and risk-reduction investments are far more cost-effective than post-disaster response and recovery.

It recommended implementing early warning systems, which can reduce disaster losses by up to 60%.

“Countries with low multi-hazard early warning system coverage and high agricultural economic value exposure are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and require the establishment of sector-specific early warning systems to protect agricultural assets,” the report said.

Early warning systems should be incorporated in the risk management policies of key sectors, such as agriculture.

In developing countries like the Philippines, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, the agriculture sector accounts for over 30% of the labor force, UNESCAP said.

“Countries with limited to moderate multi-hazard early warning system coverage have nearly eight times the mortality rate of countries with substantial to comprehensive coverage,” it added.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

[Climate change role in July heatwaves 'overwhelming,' scientists say](#)

Human-induced climate change has played an “absolutely overwhelming” role in the extreme heatwaves that have swept across North America, Europe, and China this month, according to an assessment by scientists published on Tuesday.

Throughout July, extreme weather has caused havoc across the planet, with temperatures breaking records in China, the United States, and southern Europe, sparking forest fires, water shortages, and a rise in heat-related hospital admissions.

Over the weekend, thousands of tourists were evacuated from the Greek island of Rhodes to escape wildfires caused by a record-breaking heatwave.

Without human-induced climate change, the events this month would have been “extremely rare”, according to a study by World Weather Attribution, a global team of scientists that examines the role played by climate change in extreme weather.

“European and North American temperatures would have been virtually impossible without the effects of climate change,” said Izidine Pinto of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, one of the study’s authors, during a briefing with journalists. “In China, it was around 50 times more likely to happen compared to the past.”

The World Weather Attribution team estimated that rising greenhouse gas concentrations made the European heatwave 2.5 Celsius (4.5 Fahrenheit) hotter than it would otherwise have been. They also drove up the North American heatwave by 2C and the one in China by 1C.

As well as directly impacting human health, the heat has caused large-scale crop damage and livestock losses, the scientists said, with US corn and soybean crops, Mexican cattle, southern European olives as well as Chinese cotton all severely affected.

El Nino probably contributed to the additional heat in some regions, but rising greenhouse gases were the major factor, the scientists said, and heatwaves will become increasingly likely if emissions are not slashed.

They estimated that prolonged periods of extreme heat were likely to hit every two to five years if average global temperatures rise 2C above pre-industrial levels. Average temperatures are currently estimated to have risen more than 1.1C.

“The events we have looked at are not rare in today’s climate,” said Friederike Otto, a scientist with the Grantham Institute for Climate Change in London, speaking at the briefing. “It’s not surprising from a climatological point of view, that these events are happening at the same time.”

“As long as we keep burning fossil fuels we will see more and more of these extremes,” she said. “I don’t think there’s any stronger evidence that any science has ever presented for a scientific question.”

MONGABAY

[Philippines' largest freshwater wetland and Indigenous livelihoods face multiple threats](#)

By: Jewel S. Cabrera

Built on wooden stilts and tied to endemic bangkal trees (*Nauclea orientalis*) are the homes of the Manobo Indigenous tribe, seemingly floating on the waters of the largest freshwater wetland in the Philippines: the Agusan Marsh.

The floating village and community depend on the rise and fall of water, being well-adapted to the seemingly never-ending wet season. When the large bay of the marsh fills with water, they use canoes to maneuver from place to place. Their schools, churches and offices are also built on stilts to evade the high water levels. The province where the marsh is located, Agusan del Sur, is a region where there is not truly a “dry season” but a very pronounced wet season with heavy rainfall. Between December and March, the flood waters can go as high as 10 meters (33 feet).

“They are able to commune with the wetlands, they are able to see the wetlands as this being, this deep connection, this deep reverence — even with these [saltwater] crocodiles,” says Gab Meija, a Filipino conservation photographer who has spent years covering the marsh and working in local youth programs.

However, the ecosystems in the marsh face many threats. Community members, large-scale development projects and an increasing outside population lured by the marsh’s fertile soils are burning and draining the peatlands and swamp forests for conversion into farmland. Corn, rice and palm oil plantations are sprouting in their place, as well as infrastructure to irrigate the fields.

The continued expansion of agricultural areas has changed the habitats in the basin and, with land use conversion, interconnectivity is reduced, which is detrimental to biodiversity, says a study published in the *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*. At the center of this particular threat, state the authors, is the imbalance between food production and biodiversity conservation.

Other pressures arise at the marsh. Electrofishing, which involves placing an electric field in the water to incapacitate fish, is also on the rise and could reduce fish stocks, says Omnia Olama, the regional director of the bureau of fisheries and aquatic resources.

Located in the Philippines, one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change, Agusan Marsh also experiences extreme weather events such as severe

typhoons and prolonged droughts that have continuously altered the marsh. The impacts are already being felt today by members of the Manobo community, Meija tells Mongabay.

The Agusan Marsh is not alone. A recent study published in the journal *Nature* found extensive global wetland loss over the past three centuries caused by similar markers of stress seen in the Philippines' largest freshwater wetland. The common causes of wetland loss, the study notes, include drainage for upland croplands, conversion to flooded rice fields and peat extraction.

Researchers from Stanford University found that 21% of the 15.8 million square kilometers (6.1 million square miles) of wetlands existing in 1700 are now lost. This is less than the previously reported natural wetland loss of 54-57% since 1700. According to Etienne Fluet-Chouinard, the lead *Nature* study author, the large gap between the two data estimates primarily comes from differences in methodology.

So far, the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary is still the Philippines' least-disturbed freshwater wetland with a complex network of lakes, rivers, marshes and ponds that hold it all together. It covers an area almost five times the size of Manila at 19,196 hectares (47,434 acres) spanning six municipalities and 38 barangays (a local territorial unit) in the province of Agusan del Sur in northeastern Mindanao. It is home to a vibrantly rich biodiversity that hosts, more or less, 1,100 species of flora and fauna with 314 endemic species recorded.

Wetlands are productive ecosystems that deliver a whole list of functions that are valuable to biodiversity, adaptation and mitigation to climate change, nutrient cycling, erosion control, people's livelihoods, water and food security and agriculture, among others, says Clarissa Arida, senior director of the programs department of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

"In the ASEAN region, wetland ecosystems are critical habitats for species of birds and mammals, fish, amphibians, shellfish and insects and are rich food sources and breeding grounds for fish," she says.

Recognizing the importance of the Agusan Marsh, it was declared a Philippine Protected Area in October 1996, has been listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention since November 1999 and was declared an ASEAN Heritage Park by the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity in November 2018.

Pressures on the 'least-disturbed freshwater wetland'

However, these steps have not prevented the threats the marsh currently faces, such as the palm oil plantation developments or putting in place development projects.

According to the SEApeat Project, 4,000 hectares (9,884 acres) of the Agusan Marsh may be declared as “alienable and disposable” for the purposes of irrigation. In the Philippines, alienable and disposable lands are lands in the public domain classified through mapping by the country’s environment department and declared as not needed for forest, mineral purposes or national parks. Agricultural lands that are classified as alienable and disposable may be subject to private ownership.

Contract growing of oil palm has been the trend in Agusan del Sur, particularly in Trento, where palm oil company Agumil Philippines is the major market for the produce. This strategy lures many farmers to convert their underutilized farmlands into oil palm plantations as a get-rich-quick method.

In his years of immersion in the community, Mejia says the other challenges community members have said they face in the Agusan Marsh are droughts and prolonged heat that increase the growth of invasive water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) and overtake waterways.

Water hyacinths are free-floating perennial aquatic plants that are native to tropical South America and introduced into the Philippines as an ornamental garden pond plant. Mats of these water hyacinths block waterways and make moving boats around difficult for the floating community as they have to go around the maze of water hyacinths.

“Because of the erratic shifts in weather, everything is changing — their culture, when they need to use their barotos [dugout boats]. There’s these certain influences in their workings that are really changing how the Manobo Indigenous community live,” says Mejia.

According to a 2011 study on the adaptation pathways of the Agusan community, catastrophic floods that bring too much water and too little water or drought are extreme events that undermine the livelihood, health and well-being of the communities.

“They’re very well adapted to even high-level floods. ... In floods, they’re capable. They’re really resilient in that sense. But unfortunately, it’s drying up. So that’s the whole takeaway, the difference — the scarcity of water,” Mejia tells Mongabay.

The Nature study notes that even though most previous studies overestimated global wetland conversion by relying on data concentrated in high-loss regions, the study emphasizes the need to urgently restore wetland ecosystems particularly in regions with ongoing rapid drainage.

“The number of benefits provided by wetlands make them among the most economically valuable ecosystems on Earth, from flood protection to biodiversity. Some

benefits are local per river basins, like enhanced water quality, while others are global such as carbon sequestration and storage,” Fluet-Chouinard says. “An effective prioritization of wetland conservation and restoration should consider these multiple co-benefits operating at different scales.”

Actions to be taken differ across settings; protection of wetland remnants should be prioritized in regions with large historical losses, then followed by restoration, Fluet-Chouinard tells Mongabay via email. “Regions at the edge of current wetland conversion should find policy mechanisms to halt the drainage and conversion while preserving people’s livelihoods. In regions not directly threatened, preemptive protection would help ensure that wetland soils can continue storing large quantities of carbon for several more millennia.”

Additionally, Meija calls for people to look at these ecosystems in a deeper perspective — that the wetlands aren’t just places you can farm. It’s a source of food, spirituality, love and relational care and livelihood for millions of Filipinos.

“Put [your] eyes in a different gaze to look into the peripheries on what wetlands are and overall, even forests and oceans,” he said. “They are not just ecosystems or places. They’re sources of energy. They’re sources of life.”

PAGE ONE

PH Businesses Pushed To Improve Sustainability Practices In Combating Climate Change

In part as a move to address environmental issues, Southeast Asian companies discussed sustainability and its long-term global impact in a webinar.

On July 25, software company Meltwater organized a webinar titled “ESG 2.0: Enhancing Sustainability through Social Media,” tackling the essence of promoting sustainability in businesses.

In the said webinar, RIMM (Real Impact Matters Most) Sustainability Chief Executive Officer and Founder Ravi Chidambaram and Nickel Asia Corporation Chief Sustainability Officer Jose Bayani “JB” Baylon were present to give discussions regarding the presence of sustainability in the corporate world.

Chidambaram talked about the evolving landscape of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) efforts that companies undertake and how the ESG score would help improve companies’ sustainability and ethical practices.

During his talk, he emphasized that big and small companies should actually participate in sustainability practices, as he noticed that most businesses just implement sustainability projects but do not act on them.

Pointing this out, Chidambaram sees the need to highlight more often the need to put life into every sustainability project or movement that is implemented to really provide change.

Supporting what Chidambaram said, Baylon then spotlighted the initiative that Nickel Asia has taken for the past few years. Upon sharing, Baylon expressed that sustainability is not an easy goal for them, given that they are a mining company.

However, Baylon reminded everyone that although sustainability cannot be achieved by companies like them immediately, they should still continue to work for it since sustainability is a long journey.

Promoting sustainability in the corporate world, RIMM Sustainability creates and provides sustainability solutions to help companies with their sustainability needs, while Nickel Asia Corporation is a Philippine mining company and one of the largest producers of lateritic nickel ore in the world.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

2 rescued as landslide hits shanty in Baguio

By: Allan Macatuno

A taxi driver and a carwash attendant were rescued at 8 a.m Wednesday, July 26, from a landslide that buried a shanty within the compound of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center at the height of Typhoon Egay (international name: Doksuri).

Citing Baguio police director Colonel Francis Bulwayan, the Baguio City Public Information Office said the two men had been treated for injuries they suffered due to the erosion.

Baguio continued to experience strong winds and heavy rainfall due to Egay, causing widespread power interruptions.

Melchor Licoben, assistant general manager of the Benguet Electric Cooperative, said all lines were down in their service areas, which include Baguio City, as howling winds continued to rip through northern Luzon.

He said only the Mankayan substation remained energized.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

[DOST to revive exhibit featuring local inventions addressing disasters](#)

By: Katrina Domingo

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on Wednesday said it would relaunch its “Handa Pilipinas” exhibition this week to help market the inventions of local scientists who came up with solutions for disasters and calamities.

The exhibit makes its comeback after a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, DOST Secretary Renato Solidum told reporters on the sidelines of the Post-SONA 2023 forum.

“Dalawang mensahe ang gusto nating iparating: to help prepare our communities, ihanda natin ang bawat komunidad at barangay sa pamamagitan ng siyensya at teknolohiya... ‘Handa Pilipinas’ is also a showcase to engage local government units, mga private businesses, other agencies na mayroon nang technologies na available na gawang Pinoy,” he said.

(We want to send 2 messages here: to help prepare our communities, let us prepare every barangay through science and technology. ‘Handa Pilipinas’ is also a showcase to engage local government units, mga private businesses, other agencies that there are Filipino-made technologies available.)

“Gamitin natin ito para mas mapababa pa natin ang epekto ng mga posibleng panganib na dumadating dito sa ating bansa,” he added.

(We want to minimize the effects of the calamities in the country.)

The inventions expected to be showcased included hazard maps available on mobile apps, unsinkable boats, mobile homes and biomedical devices.

The first leg of the Handa Pilipinas exhibition will be held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from July 27 to 29, Solidum said.

“Ang focus po natin ay ang urban risk o ang panganib na puwede pang magpalala sa mga panganib dito sa urban areas tulad ng Metro Manila at malalaking siyudad,” he said.

(Our focus is urban risk or potential dangers in urban areas like Metro Manila and big cities.)

A separate event will be mounted in Cagayan de Oro in the coming months, while the culmination will be held in Tacloban City in November in time for the anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda, the DOST chief said.

Solidum said that the key for the Philippines to prepare for the impact of climate change was “sharing information and data across agencies.”

“We need to assist all other agencies by providing them science technologies and solutions,” he said.

Climate Change Commission vice chairperson Robert Borje said his agency acknowledged that there is a “challenge of communication” between government agencies and the public when it comes to climate change issues.

“What we’re working on is simple messaging para sa mga tao. We’re working with several partners para ang ating mga LGUs at partner sa academe at tutulong para mas maintindihan pa ng mga tao,” Borje said.

“It’s not enough that you know what is important... It’s vital that you make the important interesting and that you make the interesting urgent,” he said.

In his second State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. said that “climate change is now an important criterion in our integral national policies, in planning, decision-making, up to the implementation of programs.”

“We are reorganizing our response teams to make them more adaptable, agile and effective in times of calamities and crises, with a clear unity of command,” the President said.

“We remain committed to global decarbonization goals, and the reduction of our carbon footprint. We preserve and protect the treasure that is our forests. Their value to the environment, to the ecology, and the economy is incalculable,” he said.

A 2019 study from the Institute for Economics and Peace cited the Philippines as the country most at risk from the climate crisis as the archipelago is hit by an average of 20 typhoons annually.

BUSINESS MIRROR

Philippine Red Cross, Climate Change Commission Tie-Up

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) have signed a six-year memorandum of agreement to promote public awareness, advocacy campaigns, and programs on climate change adaptation and mitigation at the local level.

The signing at the Philippine Red Cross Tower on EDSA involved key representatives, including Atty. Rachel Anne Herrera, CCC Commissioner; Robert E.A. Borje, CCC Chairman and Executive Director; PRC Chairman and CEO Richard Gordon; and PRC Secretary General Dr. Gwen Pang.

The event was witnessed by officials from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH Red Cross partners with CCC to intensify climate change adaptation](#)

By: Rhowen Del Rosario

To boost public awareness of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the country, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Wednesday, July 26.

One of the key focus areas of the six-year partnership is capacity development training.

The collaborative effort also aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of individuals and communities in various areas that will engage in information sharing and provide vital resources and data to support evidence-based decision-making in climate change adaptation.

The PRC and CCC hoped to empower people to better respond to the challenges posed by climate change.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje highlighted the significance of this partnership, noting that it is an essential step in strengthening alliances for the benefit of the Filipino people.

Borje underscored the need for transformative and meaningful climate action and underscored the importance of resourcing action plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

"It is time to reaffirm, and we do our commitment for transformative and meaningful climate action," Borje said. "We want to work closely with the PRC in finding and resourcing action plans for adaptation mitigation," he added.

Meanwhile, PRC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Richard Gordon stressed the urgency of the situation, stating that the Philippines cannot afford to delay its efforts in combating climate change.

"We will still be 'left behind' that is why it is important to catch up real fast in saving our planet Earth," Gordon said.

Gordon said that PRC together with CCC will try to mobilize two million volunteers all over the country.

Rallying this significant workforce, he added, aims to create a widespread climate movement that can drive positive change and prompt action at all levels of society.

The PRC also pledged its support to various programs of the CCC such as the Communities for Resilience (CORE) Program and Carbon-Neutral Program (CNP); engage partners on the Carbon-Zero challenge and other forestation activities, an initiative aimed at reducing the carbon emissions from a product or service.

PRC Secretary General Dr. Gwen Pang, for her part, said that the PRC is committed to the climate change mitigation program by preparing the people to grow and strengthen the climate movement.

Pang added that "we have to work together to advance climate resilience and it requires not just the work of the government [and] PRC but the whole society with nature to mitigate the impact of climate change."

Moreover, CCC Vice Chairperson expressed gratitude to the PRC for the partnership, particularly for its contributions to forestry and natural resources management. He reaffirmed the association can make significant strides in addressing climate change challenges.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH Red Cross, CCC ink climate pact](#)

By: Alexandra J. Furio

THE Philippine Red Cross (PRC), headed by its president and chief executive officer Richard "Dick" Gordon, and the Climate Change Commission, represented by its vice chairman and executive director, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, signed a memorandum of agreement to advance mitigation measures and public awareness on climate change.

The six-year partnership primarily aims to strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation at the local government level.

Gordon said that the world is all "red," pertaining to the progressing hotter temperature across the globe, citing India and other countries affected by climate change.

He added that the Philippines is experiencing El Niño and flooding at the same time.

"Nature is angry. Climate is angry. We have to know what the enemy is, and oftentimes the enemy is not far from us. It is us. It's man. Man has always been the enemy of nature," Gordon said.

He reminded the people to remember the 4Ps: Predict, Plan, Prepare and Practice as well as the 4Fs: Fast, Friendly, Flexible and Forward-looking.

Gordon said the Philippines and even the world are already late when it comes to climate change actions.

"I am not saying this to show off. But to really let you know that a little rain could really create a lot of problems for people," Gordon said, noting PRC activities and projects during calamities and emergencies.

Gordon commended the CCC for its commitment to combat climate change.

"Through our millions of RC143 volunteers in thousands of communities, we can help implement climate action projects and policies effectively at the community level. One of our goals on why we keep pushing to have a group of trained volunteers in each community is to bring our mission closer to every Filipino," he said.

When asked if he thinks the government is doing enough, Gordon answered: "They can do a lot more."

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