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28 JULY 2023 [08:00 am]

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By: Ryan Evangelista

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By: Cai Ordinario

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MANILA STANDARD

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PHILIPPINE CANADIAN INQUIRER

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By: Ed Atkins, University of Bristol and 'The Conversation

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By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

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By: Zaldy De Layola

Pinuno Party-list Rep. Howard Guintu on Thursday pushed for the use of “crop climate calendars” throughout the country to boost the climate change agenda of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Opinion] Water security, a special focus

By: Pia Roces Morato

It is really very simple – the aim of water security is to make the most of it for all living beings and our ecosystems through its benefits and, on the other hand, limit the risks and destruction caused by it in order to protect our communities. There is such a thing, after all, as too much water or too little water and not to mention, good and bad quality of water.

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CCC, PRC boost alliance for climate resilience, disaster response

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to further strengthen collaborative efforts in building climate resilience and enhancing disaster response throughout the country.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

DRONE SHOT: Landslide sa Baguio City

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Nakuhanan ng drone shot ng ABS-CBN News, Huwebes, ang isang landslide sa Parisas Compound sa Baguio City, kasunod ng mga pag-ulan na dala ng bagyong Egay. Makikita sa video ang isang malaking bahagi ng bahay na bumigay at bumagsak sa 3 pang bahay sa baba nito.

Walang naiulat na nasaktan sa insidente.

Lumabas ng Philippine area of responsibility ang bagyong Egay nitong Huwebes ng umaga, matapos manalasa sa hilagang Luzon. Pero babala ng state weather bureau PAGASA, isa pang bagyo sa labas ng bansa ang maaaring magpalakas sa habagat at magdala rin ng mga pag-ulan sa mga susunod na araw.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[PHL must address pricing issues in climate insurance–Unescap](#)

By: Cai Ordinario

AS the Philippines continue to address climate change through climate insurance, government-mandated minimum insurance premiums remain low while prices remain high, according to a United Nations agency.

These are some of the issues that the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Unescap) noted in a report that also noted the growing risk insurance market in the Philippines, which is supported by the government as well.

The Unescap said this market provides an opportunity for stakeholders to try different risk-pooling instruments. It is estimated that 95 percent of all industrial property policies in the Philippines include coverage for natural catastrophes.

“The challenge, however, is that government-mandated minimum insurance premiums can be priced as low as 0.05 percent of asset value for flood and typhoon coverage. This makes the market very competitive as the premium prices are set at the bare minimum,” the Unescap said.

“For ecosystem approaches to risk management, as for mangrove conservation, the estimates of benefits are not precisely known. They are, therefore, not incorporated into market prices of premiums. The premium prices, therefore, tend to be high,” it added.

The Unescap said climate change-induced disasters pose serious threats to the Asia-Pacific region, including the Philippines. The country that wrestled with the tempest from Egay (international name: Doksuri) is considered as one of the nations most vulnerable to these disasters.

The UN agency said these threats must be met with transformative adaptation measures that enable vulnerable households to protect their assets and livelihoods in hazard risk hotspots. A regional strategy to achieve early warning for all is expected by 2027.

The proposed regional strategy builds on the global “Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All (2023–2027). Launched by the UN Secretary General last year, this plan aims to foster transboundary synergies between countries in Asia and the Pacific, the world’s most disaster-prone region.

Meanwhile, the Unescap said disasters like earthquakes also caused significant damage, with losses estimated at \$12 billion, occurring primarily in Japan, China, Philippines, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Philippines is one of the countries expected to suffer significantly due to climate change. A 1.5-degree increase in global temperatures could lead to a reduction of over 5 percent of gross domestic product in the archipelago.

“As temperatures continue to rise, new disaster hotspots are emerging, and existing ones are intensifying,” UN Undersecretary-General and Unescap Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana said. “A disaster emergency is underway, and we must fundamentally transform our approach to building resilience.”

Increased investments in multi-hazard early warning systems as well as expanding coverage, particularly in least developed countries, is essential in reducing fatalities. Early warning systems can also decrease disaster losses by up to 60 percent, offering a remarkable tenfold return on investment.

Climate change-induced disasters pose an increasingly serious threat to the Asia-Pacific region and climate disaster-related losses are already enormous. In 2022 alone, over 140 disasters struck the region, leading to over 7,500 deaths, affecting over 64 million people and causing economic damage estimated at \$57 billion.

However, the consequences of inaction are greater. The Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023 projects disaster-related deaths and economic impacts to amount to annual losses nearing \$1 trillion or three percent of regional GDP under a scenario of 2-degrees-Celsius warming.

The report further shows that the most vulnerable subregions, such as the Pacific small island developing States, will experience heightened inequality and devastation in the agriculture and energy sectors, compromising food and energy security.

MANILA STANDARD

[Scientists, Outstanding Women partner bring science and technology to grassroots in climate change battle](#)

TOWNS Foundation (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) partners with NAST (National Academy for Science and Technology), the government's highest S&T advisory body, to hold a seminar workshop called "Klima" for local government officials in the Visayas, the epicenter of the climate crisis in the world.

Speakers at the seminar workshop to be held on August 1 at the Summit Hotel in Tacloban include experts from the NAST Task Force on Climate Change headed by Dr. Rex Victor Cruz, a renowned scientist in watershed management and climate change adaptation. He will discuss a comprehensive land use plan as an imperative in responding to climate change.

Other scientist-speakers are Dr. Cesar Villanoy who will discuss nature-based climate change adaptation, Dr. Glenn Gregorio who will unveil S&T for resilient farming in saline conditions and for resilient fishery, and Dr. Marie Antoinette Junio-Meñez who will share livelihood opportunities.

The seminar workshop, to be participated in by mayors, planning officers and disaster risk reduction specialists from all over the Visayas, is a venue for engaging local stakeholders in the exploration and sharing of experiences on S&T-based responses to typhoons, coastal erosions, coastal and riverine flooding, landslides, and other climate change-related hazards.

Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla will also share local initiatives in climate change adaptation.

The Visayas event will also be participated in by the private sector for a whole of society approach in climate change mitigation. Among the speakers from the private sector panel are representatives of the Oscar M. Lopez Center, SGV, the Gokongwei Group, BPI and Victoria's Milling.

Dr. Laura David of the UP Marine Science Institute, also a TOWNS member, will conduct a workshop to help LGUs craft their action plans with integrated approaches to climate change adaptation.

TOWNS President Ces Oreña-Drilon will moderate the program and TOWNS member and sustainability advocate Alicia Morales will deliver the closing remarks.

Sponsors of KLIMA are First Gen Corporation, Energy Development Corporation, the Oscar M. Lopez Center, SGV and Co, Cebu Pacific, GO Hotels, Summit Hotels, JG Summit Holdings, Victorias Milling Company and BPI.

KLIMA aims to go to Mindanao and Luzon also this year in its quest to bring science, technology and innovation to local government units who are at the heart of the battle against climate change.

PHILIPPINE CANADIAN INQUIRER

[Britain's next election could be a climate change culture war](#)

By: Ed Atkins, University of Bristol and 'The Conversation

A byelection in a London suburb has placed environmental policy at the centre of political debate in the UK, and could make it a key battleground in the next general election.

The Conservative party narrowly held former prime minister Boris Johnson's seat in Uxbridge and South Ruislip, vacated after his resignation from parliament. The win has been cast as a victory driven by popular anger against climate policy, particularly London's ultra-low emissions zone (Ulez) – an area where drivers of the highest-polluting vehicles must pay a fee.

The winning candidate positioned himself as the anti-Ulez choice, tapping into local anger at the policy. But as comments from media and politicians show, the Uxbridge story signals a new stage of national politics that demonises environmental policies. And my research suggests this could develop into an important new front in the culture war, with the power to help determine the next election.

The Ulez, created by Boris Johnson as mayor of London in 2015, is a restricted area covering central London, where vehicles must meet emissions standards or pay £12.50 to enter. Most petrol cars registered after 2005 and diesel cars registered after 2015 meet the standards. It's primarily a public health policy, with the goal to reduce air pollution and encourage the use of low-emission vehicles.

It is due to expand into London's outer boroughs in August 2023 – an area 18 times larger than the original zone. Legal battles and public protests have blamed London's Labour mayor, Sadiq Khan, for the expansion of the policy.

The opposition to Ulez is highly partisan. Nationally, 59% of Conservatives oppose Ulez schemes compared to 23% of Labour voters. In London, 72% of those who voted Leave in the 2016 Brexit referendum opposed the Ulez expansion. Former Remain voters are evenly split, with 44% in support and 44% against the policy.

The Conservative prime minister, Rishi Sunak, has now distanced the government from green policies that could contribute to household expenses. Labour leader Keir Starmer acknowledged the role that Ulez played in the loss, saying that “policy matters” in elections. He also called on Khan to “reflect” on the Ulez expansion.

Climate change culture wars

My research shows net-zero policies are the next target of right-wing populism and culture wars in the UK. Narratives are emerging that tie complaints about climate policies being undemocratic or expensive to issues of Brexit, energy security and a “green elite”.

Last year, Nigel Farage called for a referendum on net-zero, policies that, in his words, had “been imposed upon people without any public discussion.”

This narrative is evident in the opposition to Ulez, despite evidence for the scheme. Air pollution has dropped dramatically one year into the Ulez expansion across inner London, and most cars in London’s outer boroughs fulfil the Ulez standards and would be unaffected by the expansion.

Yet videos of anti-Ulez protests show placards reading “Stop the toxic air lie”, a cardboard coffin with “democracy” written across it and protesters complaining about a lack of fairness and transparency in the policy.

Climate and public health measures are now linked in broader ideological battles about political and economic priorities. These policies have become fertile ground for anybody seeking to rally new supporters. Those supporters will come from groups whose day-to-day lives are impacted by these policies.

Green policies

The Ulez is not the first environmental policy to face public opposition. In 2009, the UK saw a popular campaign against the replacement of incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs.

More recently, bollards that designate low-traffic neighbourhoods have been set on fire. Opposition to these schemes has also been co-opted by conspiracy theorists arguing that climate policies are an attempt to take away personal freedoms.

We have seen the consequences of such debates before. A decade before Sunak, Conservative prime minister David Cameron stepped back from environmental policies, calling for ministers to “ditch the green crap”. This arguably led to a “lost decade” in climate policy, as well as the slowing of policies that would have reduced vulnerability in the recent energy crisis.

There is reason to hope that the coming election will be different. Public concern about the climate remains high: 67% of British people surveyed worried about climate breakdown.

And people are more likely to think that the government should do more, not less, in climate policy. New polling shows that climate concern is likely to pay off for Labour.

As I've argued, green policies can transform neighbourhoods. But governments must also recognise how such policies affect people's everyday struggles, like cost of living, which are likely to dominate the next electoral cycle.

Policies must minimise impacts that disproportionately impact some groups over others. People living in London's outer suburbs, without wide access to public transport, are more likely to own a car – driving local opposition to the Ulez in places like Uxbridge.

Ways to address this include paying people to scrap older vehicles. This is something Khan has put in place for Londoners, but has not had the government support to expand it to people living around London who would be affected when they drive into the capital.

Khan has spoken about opposition to the Ulez expansion as an “orchestrated campaign” that has moved beyond many Londoners' “genuine concerns”. But concerns about Ulez aren't limited to those engaging in conspiracy theories. They include residents worried about the getting to work, the school run, or caring for elderly relatives. These are problems that should be ironed out by comprehensive and sensitive policies that maximise the benefits of any change.

The coming election

The fact that a candidate can win on an anti-Ulez platform shows the effectiveness of simplifying climate action and its outcomes into what people can lose, and failing to emphasise the benefits.

The current debates miss a key point of climate action: it is never just about emissions. Opposition to the Ulez is not exclusively resistance to climate policy. It is dissent over who it impacts, and how.

The Labour party must decide whether to retreat from or double down on climate action. If the latter, the next general election will be fought as a climate change culture war.

On one side will be a group seeking to portray climate action as a costly, undemocratic and unfair exercise. On the other must be a call for climate policy that is about cleaner air, warmer homes and healthier neighbourhoods, without disproportionately impacting certain groups of people.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[TD outside PAR maintains strength; may enter PH late Saturday as typhoon](#)

By: Charie Abarca

The state weather bureau said the tropical depression being monitored outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) has maintained strength while moving west northwestward, adding that it may enter the country's boundary as a typhoon.

In its bulletin issued 11 p.m. on Thursday, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the tropical cyclone may enter PAR between Saturday evening, July 29 and Sunday morning, July 30.

Once inside the PAR, it will be given the domestic name Falcon — the country's 6th tropical cyclone in 2023.

"This tropical depression is forecast to reach tropical storm category by tomorrow, July 28 and is forecast to continuously intensify within the next five days. It may enter the PAR region as a typhoon by late Saturday or early Sunday," said Pagasa.

Despite this, state meteorologists said that the hoisting of wind signals over any portion of the country due to this weather disturbance remained less likely.

It, however, may enhance the southwest monsoon, locally called "habagat," and trigger intermittent monsoon rains over the western portions of Luzon and Visayas beginning Saturday.

Pagasa said the tropical depression was last seen 1,335 kilometers east of Eastern Visayas sustaining winds of 55 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 70 kph.

It is moving west northwestward at 25 kph.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

'Digital agriculture' to boost food production, says DA exec

By: Ferdinand Patinio

An official of the Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday pushed for the strengthening of digital agriculture in the country to further develop the sector.

Gerald Glenn Panganiban, director of the DA-Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), said the measure is aimed at increasing food production.

"Digital agriculture is important because we can have information about weather forecast, weather prediction, our yield mapping, our water applications, we can also see what nutrients our plants need using Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools and this will help our farmers," he said at the Laging Handa briefing.

Digital agriculture, he said, involves the use of digital tools like smartphones, computers, physical infrastructure, internet and other communications equipment to collect and analyze relevant data that can help improve the sector.

"We can collect and analyze our data in agriculture and use our technology across the value chain - so from production to test management. Even in marketing, our marketing platforms are also included in digital agriculture," the BPI official added.

Asked about the role of the bureau on digital agriculture, Panganiban said they "have research centers where our smart farms are located".

"We have greenhouses where it is controlled by digital technologies, computers that control watering, providing nutrition to the plant and monitoring pests and disease. We have it in Baguio, we also have it in our regional offices in our DA offices nationwide, in our select offices nationwide...because of climate change we see that controlled environment farming, which is also a digital agriculture project we can practice or we become more prepared for climate change or disturbances and of course, pest and disease outbreaks," the BPI official added.

Panganiban explained that farmers and stakeholders will have access once digital agriculture has been developed.

"Our centers, as I mentioned, are open to our farmers. In fact, here in Baguio, our farmers trained right there at our center and when they know your framework or your system on how to use these advanced technologies," he said.

“They can apply them, and with the help of interventions from other agencies of the Department of Agriculture, they can propose or they can be given interventions that they can distribute to their communities or their organizations,” the BPI director added.

He also lauded the support of the government to this endeavor.

“We are fortunate to have been given the support of our President and the Department of Agriculture and we have been given an increase budget – to strengthen our research centers, smart agriculture greenhouses and to train our farmers and stakeholders that’s a tool, that’s digital agriculture. Secondly, we will continue to collaborate with our private sector partners so that they themselves can provide us with information on what they need in the market, what they need or demand is what we will provide,” he added.

The BPI director also mentioned some major programs of the bureau such as the Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program.

“This program involves planting in backyards of individual families and in our communities, they can supply farmers or organizations, if they have volumes (produced) they can sell in the market,” he explained.

Panganiban also noted their collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government in support of the latter’s Halina’t Magtanim ng Prutas at Gulay (HAPAG) program.

“We are lucky, the Department of Interior and Local Government supports us so that our barangays have a food production system, so that there is an alternative and closer source of their vegetables and fruits and other agricultural needs,” he said.

Signal no. 1 still hoisted over parts of N. Luzon

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

Some areas in Northern Luzon remain under Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 even if Typhoon Egay (international name Doksuri) is already outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility, the weather bureau said Thursday afternoon.

Batanes, northern portion of Apayao (Calanasan, Luna, Santa Marcela), Ilocos Norte, and the northwestern portion of Cagayan (Santa Praxedes, Claveria, Sanchez-Mira, Pamplona, Abulug, Ballesteros) including Babuyan Islands are under Signal No. 1 and may experience minimal to minor impacts of strong winds.

In its 5 p.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Doksuri was last tracked 280 km. west northwest of Itbayat, Batanes.

The typhoon packs maximum sustained winds of 150 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 185 kph.

Areas in Luzon and Western Visayas where wind signals were not hoisted may still experience gusty conditions due to the enhanced southwest monsoon.

The southwest monsoon will also continue to bring occasional monsoon rains over the western portions of Northern and Central Luzon and Southern Luzon in the next three days.

Doksuri and the southwest monsoon continue to cause rough to very high seas over several coastal waters along the seaboard of Luzon and the eastern and western seaboard of the Visayas.

All mariners are advised to remain in port or seek safe harbor until winds and waves subside, PAGASA said.

Air transport operations

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on Thursday said that except for the Laoag International Airport, operations in all the other airports in Northern Luzon that were affected by the typhoon are now back to normal.

CAAP reported minor damage and power outage in some airports on Wednesday as the typhoon hit Northern Luzon.

Laoag International Airport temporarily halted operations due to the weather situation. The airport's ceiling and doors were partially damaged and required repairs.

"These are still being repaired. If weather permits, the airport might be operational tomorrow," CAAP spokesperson Eric Apolonio told reporters on Thursday.

In a public briefing, he said the airports in Vigan, Baguio, Lingayen, Rosales, San Fernando, Tuguegarao, Basco, Cauayan, Bagabag, Itbayat and Palanan are now operational.

Electricity and internet connectivity have been restored in Tuguegarao Airport, he said.

Apolonio said the runway and facilities of airports affected by the typhoon are being cleared of debris.

"What's important is to remove foreign objects, debris because it poses a risk to aircraft engines," he said.

He said even if the airports are open, it is still up to the airline companies if they would want to operate.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) has, so far, logged 22 cancelled domestic flights due to bad weather on Thursday. These included flights to and from Basco, Laoag, Masbate, El Nido, and Romblon.

"We advise passengers to coordinate with airlines, so they could at least know the status of their flights prior to going to the airports," Apolonio added.

Use crop climate calendars to boost PBBM's climate change agenda

By: Zaldy De Layola

Pinuno Party-list Rep. Howard Guintu on Thursday pushed for the use of “crop climate calendars” throughout the country to boost the climate change agenda of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

“Tulad ni Pangulong Marcos, naniniwala tayo na ang economic agenda ay kailangang mag-conform sa ating climate change agenda. Kaya naman upang matugunan ang epekto ng climate change sa ating agrikultura ay nanawagan tayo agarang pagpasa ng ating Climate-Resilient Agriculture Act (Like President Marcos, we believe that our economic agenda needs to conform with the climate change agenda. That’s why to address its effects to our agriculture, we are calling for the immediate passage of [our proposed] Climate-Resilient Agriculture Act,” he said.

The proposed measure, House Bill No. 4418 filed by Guintu, seeks to establish the use of crop climate calendars tailor-made for each specific locality or community.

It also seeks to provide regular training and capacity-building for farmers in the practice of climate-sensitive decision-making.

“The crop climate calendars are visual tools that present the phenology or cycle and cultivation practices of a crop against the timeline of the cropping season. It also contains information on weather and climate states that occur in the locality, along with the risks faced by the crop per growing stage,” he said.

In coordination with municipal, city, and provincial agriculturists, the bill mandates the Department of Agriculture (DA) to implement a continuing program to formulate, use and interpret crop climate calendars to be distributed for free to all farmers and farmer’s organizations.

The DA, through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), is also mandated to provide regular appropriate training and capacity-building for farmer’s organizations in the practice of climate-sensitive decision-making and the use of relevant tools and applications.

Climate-sensitive decision-making refers to decisions that hinge on weather and climate states with outcomes and decisions that vary depending on prevailing weather phenomena.

Under the bill, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) is tasked to provide regular and up-to-date localized weather and climate information to municipal, city, and provincial agriculturist's offices and directly to the farmers themselves through all available means of communication and information dissemination, including the internet, social media, television, and radio.

"The severe impacts of climate change in the country pose a huge threat to the agriculture sector, and consequently, food security if not addressed urgently," Guintu said.

He added that to address the effects of climate change in the agriculture sector, the government through the DA must capitalize on the fast-paced development of new and modern technology to come up with practices and innovations adaptive to climate change.

In his second SONA on July 24, Marcos noted that "the building blocks of progressive, livable and sustainable communities will never be complete without appropriate and responsible action to mitigate and to adapt to the effects of climate change."

"We can never lose sight of our responsibility to the future. The economic agenda cannot and will not ever be incompatible with our climate change agenda," Guintu quoted the President as saying, emphasizing that important criterion in the government's integral national policies, in planning, decision-making, up to the implementation of programs.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Opinion] Water security, a special focus

By: Pia Roces Morato

It is really very simple – the aim of water security is to make the most of it for all living beings and our ecosystems through its benefits and, on the other hand, limit the risks and destruction caused by it in order to protect our communities. There is such a thing, after all, as too much water or too little water and not to mention, good and bad quality of water.

Water security is a term that refers to the society's capacity to have enough water of sufficient quality needed for survival, as well as the ability to carry out the many different productive activities required by a person or system. This is why during President PBBM's second SONA, he specifically noted that water security deserves our special focus.

But what exactly is the role of water security and how can we fully achieve this? It is a very important question to ask, as everyone must understand that a society with water security is in a very good position to improve the living standards, especially of the most vulnerable. If we look deeply into the more nature-based solutions that ensure water security such as mangrove conservation or wetland restoration, society can look at how we have been able to address climate changes that affect our environment as well as our communities, where such solutions increase water availability and quality and mitigate risks from water related disasters.

As many of us know by now, PBBM signed an executive order creating an office that will ensure the availability and sustainable management of water resources in the country. The Water Resources Management Office was created to address the challenges affecting the management of water resources in the country seen in the water and sanitation sector, increased demand for water due to population and economic growth, impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of infrastructure and inconsistent government regulations.

Water security by all means is so important as it is key to our food security, as the agricultural sector requires huge amounts of water for irrigation and production. In terms of water safety, it is also necessary for people to have reliable water sources for drinking and basic hygiene to prevent infection and waterborne illnesses.

One important point I would also like to emphasize is on the importance of water security to peace and security. Water diplomacy and cooperation can contribute to

peace, especially when countries come together to strengthen their climate resilience by managing a shared water source and improving other natural resources to prevent the further exploitation of the most vulnerable populations. There's really much ado about water where everyone everywhere has a right to it and in the Philippines, it is important to address the problem for those that do not have access to it so that no one is left behind.

The El Niño phenomenon can certainly have a negative impact on the country and long-term solutions that help drive sustainable development in ensuring water for all is definitely everybody's concern as it drives our most essential industries – agriculture, energy and transportation. This is why President Marcos said in his SONA that our efforts must not be scattershot but rather cohesive, centralized and systematic.

The fundamental importance of water simply means that life as we know it cannot exist without it and all water in the planet is linked in a vast cycle; it also controls and affects our climate. It is therefore our job both as citizens and government officials to put water to work by making good use of it and by doing so, we are making sure that there is enough for all, as safeguarding sustainable access to clean water ensures the preservation of our land.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC, PRC boost alliance for climate resilience, disaster response](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to further strengthen collaborative efforts in building climate resilience and enhancing disaster response throughout the country.

Under the partnership, the CCC will capacitate PRC's partner communities, personnel and volunteers on localized climate risk profiling and climate change adaptation and mitigation planning, and provide technical assistance to access relevant funding for the implementation of local climate change initiatives.

PRC, on the other hand, shall support the CCC in the development of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NIP).

The PRC also will actively participate in the CCC's Net Zero Challenge, reinforcing the shared vision for transformative climate action.

"The CCC welcomes this partnership with the Philippine Red Cross towards ensuring that lives and livelihoods of communities are resilient against disasters and other impacts of climate change," CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said during the MOA signing on Wednesday.

Borje said the collaboration is another window "for us to realize our commitment to transformative and meaningful climate action."

"With CCC, we have made it our ambition to contribute big time to saving our planet. We will be leaders in our own spheres of expertise but carry the load together through our partnership. I can assure our kababayans that the Red Cross and CCC will prioritize climate change adaptation and mitigation of its effects. Join us: Let's carry the load together," PRC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Richard J. Gordon, for his part, said.

Aligned with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in addressing critical issues such as the climate crisis, the CCC works on further strengthening cooperation with civil society, development partners and private sector, such as the PRC.

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