



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### [\[Opinion\] Climate change, waste, and governance](#)

By: Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

The flooding in Metro Manila that happened on July 24 due to Typhoon Carina (Gaemi) can be attributed to several factors. Aside from the intense precipitation and prolonged downpours, the drainage system in many areas was problematic (read: blocked) and inadequate.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[\[Opinion\] Super typhoons and rising sea levels](#)**

By: Rey Ilagan

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### **[Raise public awareness on 'new normal'—climate change impacts, PBBM says](#)**

By: Betheena Unite

The massive flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces calls for a holistic approach to raise public awareness on the effects of climate change in the Philippines, President Marcos said.

## **NEWS5**

### **[Climate change causing more change in rainfall, fiercer typhoons, scientists say](#)**

Climate change is driving changes in rainfall patterns across the world, scientists said in a paper published on Friday, which could also be intensifying typhoons and other tropical storms.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Mayor Binay hopes LGUs can access Loss and Damage Fund](#)**

By: Dianne Sampang

Makati City Mayor Abby Binay on Tuesday expressed hope that local government units can have access to the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), which the Philippines got elected to host its board.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[PBBM: New solutions needed amid worsening climate-related calamities](#)**

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. underscored the need to find “ways forward” and implement a long-term solution amid worsening climate change-related calamities.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **DAILY GUARDIAN**

#### **[Roxas City joins Zero Waste Cities Network, tackles waste crisis](#)**

Roxas City, Capiz, has officially joined the Philippine chapter of the Zero Waste Cities Network (ZWCN), marking a significant step toward sustainable waste management.

### **DAILY TRIBUNE**

#### **[Building friendships and connections: A strong foundation for climate action](#)**

Friendship is a fundamental part of being human. We naturally seek connections and a sense of belonging, reflecting our social nature. This desire for bonds dates back to our early ancestors, where forming relationships helped us survive.

#### **[CCC lauds PBBM's commitment to climate action](#)**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) lauded the actions outlined by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) delivered yesterday, 22 July.

#### **[CCC, foreign partners push women's access to climate decision-making](#)**

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission on Saturday reiterated the need to enhance women's access to climate decision-making.

## [Toward a resilient Philippines: Empowering communities for disaster preparedness](#)

By: Secretary Robert E.A. Borje

Just last week, the Philippines faced yet another super typhoon, “Carina” (international name: “Gaemi”). Although it did not make landfall, “Carina” intensified the southwest monsoon, or habagat, bringing dangerously heavy rains to most parts of Luzon. As a result, floods that reached the second floor of standard Philippine houses ensued. Waterways overflowed and roads got submerged that put the lives and livelihoods of our fellow Filipinos in danger. “Carina,” along with previous weather events, shows how powerful and devastating these disasters can be. This underscores the urgent need to strengthen our resilience to disasters and address climate change.

## [With good urban planning, governance, Phl can be force to reckon with — Palafox](#)

Climate change concerns have been growing amid drastic changes in global temperatures and floods, disrupting economic activities and destroying countries’ resources, including the Philippines.

### **MANILA STANDARD**

## [OCD, UP sign into partnership for DRRM initiatives](#)

By: Rex Espiritu

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the University of the Philippines (UP) on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding that will enhance the country’s disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) capacity-building initiatives, along with science and research-based endeavors.

### **MINDANAO TIMES**

## [CCC urges nature-based solutions in disaster risk prevention, reduction and management](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the importance of nature-based solutions (NbS) in disaster risk prevention, reduction, and management to prepare for extreme weather events brought about by climate change and build a climate-resilient country.

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[Our rays of hope: Youth in climate action](#)**

“Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng Bayan” is among the many wisdom-filled invocations that our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, imparted to the Filipino people. As cliché as it sounds, this statement remains true in many aspects of modern Filipino society. It is especially relevant to the pressing societal challenges that grow beyond generations such as poverty, corruption, and climate change.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Zero waste cities network launches Philippine chapter](#)**

By: Michelle L. Palaubsanon, Caecent No-ot Magsumbol

The Zero Waste Cities Network has formally launched its Philippine chapter for a collaborative effort to advance sustainable waste management nationwide.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Opinion] Climate change, waste, and governance**

By: Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

The flooding in Metro Manila that happened on July 24 due to Typhoon Carina (Gaemi) can be attributed to several factors. Aside from the intense precipitation and prolonged downpours, the drainage system in many areas was problematic (read: blocked) and inadequate.

Climate change and environmental degradation are most definitely a part of the list of causes. Another big factor is improper waste disposal practices that lead to the clogging of drains and waterways.

As I see it, unless we change our ways and little habits, it will only get worse. Climate scientists have been saying it for years—there will be more intense and frequent storms, heavier rainfall, and a higher risk of flooding. This is made worse by rising sea levels, especially in low-lying coastal areas. All of us know this already.

It's a wonder then why we—from the government to the family unit— act as if it's a surprise, and why we are not doing our very best to minimize the extreme effects of weather events. The public and private sectors have crucial roles in mitigating future flooding risks.

In terms of policy and governance, we need to adopt a holistic approach to water management that takes into consideration the welfare of various stakeholders and sectors. Strict enforcement of environmental regulations is needed to ensure compliance with flood prevention measures. This is easier said than done, and it takes a healthy dose of political will to enforce.

Huge benefits will come from increasing green spaces in every community and enforcing zoning laws that prevent construction in flood-prone areas. There are also permeable materials that may be used for pavements and roads to allow water to seep into the ground. Adequate funding must be sourced so communities will be able to afford it.

The people can start by practicing proper waste disposal and participating in local flood control initiatives, like disaster preparedness drills and emergency response sessions. Reforestation is another activity that we can all take part in. Preserving our natural forests will improve water absorption and reduce runoff.

There's a lot more that we can do; these are just a few ideas. At the moment, everyone is being encouraged to take part in donation drives and community outreach programs to benefit the victims of the recent flooding. Donating cash or non-cash items to organizations, helping out in soup kitchens, and spreading the word are just a few of the easy steps we can take immediately as part of the community. One can find the details on this on the Internet. Just make sure you are donating to legitimate organizations that have a proven track record of helping the needy.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Opinion] Super typhoons and rising sea levels

By: Rey Ilagan

With the onslaught of Super Typhoon Carina on July 24, we witnessed enormous floods, persistent downpours, and challenging rescue operations on news channels and social media. We saw people stranded on top of a bus along Araneta Avenue, several barges colliding with the Caruncho Bridge due to strong currents, and people being swept away by the flood in Montalban Heights, San Jose in Rizal. Carina halted work and classes and even led to the suspension of stock market trading.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) declared Carina (international name: Gaemi) a super typhoon on July 24. In response, the Metro Manila Council placed the National Capital Region in a state of calamity. Carina packed maximum sustained winds of 185 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gusts up to 230 kph. In 24 hours, the state weather bureau recorded 323.9 millimeters of rainfall brought by Carina. In 2009, Ondoy brought 455 millimeters of rainfall.

According to PAGASA, Carina did not make landfall in the Philippines. However, even without landfall, the super typhoon caused significant damage to parts of the country. Alongside tropical cyclone Butchoy and the southwest monsoon or “habagat,” Carina affected over 880,000 people and caused ₱203.38 million in agricultural damage, as reported by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Department of Agriculture.

In December 2023, the University of the Philippines (UP) issued a stern warning that the country should “brace for potentially stronger and more destructive typhoons due to climate change.” This conclusion came from research conducted by the UP Diliman College of Science’s Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, led by Dr. Rafaela Jane Delfino, Dr. Gerry Bagtasa, and their colleagues from the United Kingdom.

The study examined three significant super typhoons in recent history: Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013, Pablo (Bopha) in 2012, and Ompong (Mangkut) in 2018. Researchers considered several factors, including atmospheric temperature, sea surface temperature, pressure, and relative humidity. They conclusively linked climate change to the intensification of these typhoons.

“Based on our simulations, it is found that the most damaging tropical cyclones like Haiyan, Bopha, and Mangkut will have higher wind-related damage potential in the future. Tropical cyclones of such intensity and damage potential in the future will have



serious implications given the increasing exposure and vulnerability in the Philippines,” the study stated.

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) found that Metro Manila’s sea level rise is three to four times the global average of 3.4 mm/year, resulting in an average rise of 8.4 mm/year from 1901 to 2022. Excessive groundwater extraction, deforestation, and land reclamation have greatly contributed to this sea level rise.

The Climate Change Commission warned, “These projections will result in increased frequency and severity of storm surges, floods, landslides, and droughts, among others.” These changes will significantly impact agriculture, energy, water, infrastructure, and more.

Greenpeace East Asia’s 2021 study projected that the city of Manila could be submerged by 2030 due to sea level rise and coastal flooding. The study noted that Manila Bay’s sea level is rising at 13.24 mm per year, potentially affecting historical landmarks such as Luneta Park, Malacanang Palace, Intramuros, and Binondo.

In addition to government efforts to address these urgent issues, we all must educate ourselves on climate-related issues affecting our daily lives. Rising sea levels and intensified typhoons will continue to impact millions of Filipinos in the future. To know more information on hazard levels in your area, Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards) of the Department of Science and Technology provides comprehensive data on flood, landslide, and storm surge levels. This platform provides predictive tools to help communities prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

## [Raise public awareness on 'new normal'—climate change impacts, PBBM says](#)

By: Betheena Unite

The massive flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces calls for a holistic approach to raise public awareness on the effects of climate change in the Philippines, President Marcos said.

Emphasizing that the impacts of super typhoon Carina and enhanced southwest monsoon or habagat is the "new normal" due to climate change, Marcos ordered the government to intensify efforts to raise awareness on climate change.

“That’s climate change. That’s why we keep talking about it. People have to be conscious about it, especially us who are trying to find ways to mitigate the problem,” Marcos said during a situation briefing in Mauban, Quezon on Friday, July 27.

“We have no choice; we have to do something. We have to learn how to handle the new weather, the new normal,” the President added, referring to how the government should respond to the effects of climate change.

Marcos led the inspection of the Mauban Seawall and Mauban Port in Quezon Province to assess the typhoon's impacts. Officials reported that 986 families or 4,324 individuals were affected by the super typhoon in the province.

During the briefing, the President lauded both the local and national governments for quickly responding to the calamity.

“At the very least, we can say that the provision of relief, shelter and healthcare are ok. We’ve been able to provide that,” he said.

He also recognized the efforts of the national and local governments as they were able to reach isolated areas to deliver help to typhoon victims.

## NEWS5

### [Climate change causing more change in rainfall, fiercer typhoons, scientists say](#)

Climate change is driving changes in rainfall patterns across the world, scientists said in a paper published on Friday, which could also be intensifying typhoons and other tropical storms.

Taiwan, the Philippines, and China were lashed by the year's most powerful typhoon this week, with schools, businesses, and financial markets shut as wind speeds surged up to 227 kph (141 mph). On China's eastern coast, hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated ahead of landfall on Thursday.

Stronger tropical storms are part of a wider phenomenon of weather extremes driven by higher temperatures, scientists say.

Researchers led by Zhang Wenxia at the China Academy of Sciences studied historical meteorological data and found about 75% of the world's land area had seen a rise in "precipitation variability" or wider swings between wet and dry weather.

Warming temperatures have enhanced the ability of the atmosphere to hold moisture, which is causing wider fluctuations in rainfall, the researchers said in a paper published by the Science journal.

"(Variability) has increased in most places, including Australia, which means rainier rain periods and drier dry periods," said Steven Sherwood, a scientist at the Climate Change Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, who was not involved in the study.

"This is going to increase as global warming continues, enhancing the chances of droughts and/or floods."

### FEWER, BUT MORE INTENSE, STORMS

Scientists believe that climate change is also reshaping the behavior of tropical storms, including typhoons, making them less frequent but more powerful.

"I believe higher water vapor in the atmosphere is the ultimate cause of all of these tendencies toward more extreme hydrologic phenomena," Sherwood told Reuters.

Typhoon Gaemi, which first made landfall in Taiwan on Wednesday, was the strongest to hit the island in eight years.

While it is difficult to attribute individual weather events to climate change, models predict that global warming makes typhoons stronger, said Sachie Kanada, a researcher at Japan's Nagoya University.

"In general, warmer sea surface temperature is a favorable condition for tropical cyclone development," she said.

In its "blue paper" on climate change published this month, China said the number of typhoons in the Northwest Pacific and South China Sea had declined significantly since the 1990s, but they were getting stronger.

Taiwan also said in its climate change report published in May that climate change was likely to reduce the overall number of typhoons in the region while making each one more intense.

The decrease in the number of typhoons is due to the uneven pattern of ocean warming, with temperatures rising faster in the western Pacific than the east, said Feng Xiangbo, a tropical cyclone research scientist at the University of Reading.

Water vapor capacity in the lower atmosphere is expected to rise by 7% for each 1 degree Celsius increase in temperatures, with tropical cyclone rainfall in the United States surging by as much as 40% for each single degree rise, he said.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Mayor Binay hopes LGUs can access Loss and Damage Fund

By: Dianne Sampang

Makati City Mayor Abby Binay on Tuesday expressed hope that local government units can have access to the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), which the Philippines got elected to host its board.

“Umaasa ako na mabibigyan ng access ang ating mga local government sa Loss and Damage Fund na ating isinulong noong tayo ay dumalo sa COP 28 sa Dubai bilang myembro ng advisory council ni COP President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber,” Binay said in a statement.

(I am hoping that our local government units will be given access to the Loss and Damage Fund that we pushed for when we attended COP 28 in Dubai as a member of the advisory council of COP President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber.)

The LDF is a financing facility created by the United Nations to help vulnerable countries cope with the increasingly costly and damaging impact of climate change.

Furthermore, Binay said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “has underscored the need for global solidarity in assisting vulnerable countries rebuild and recover” with the country hosting the LDF Board.

The mayor also commended Marcos for recognizing the vulnerability of the country to climate change and discussing plans to address it.

“Without confronting climate change, our efforts in securing food, and enhancing the productivity of our farmers are in vain,” she said.

Binay was named in September 2023 as a member of the COP 28 or the United Nations Climate Change Conference focusing on Climate Finance and Loss and Damage.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [PBBM: New solutions needed amid worsening climate-related calamities](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. underscored the need to find “ways forward” and implement a long-term solution amid worsening climate change-related calamities.

The Chief Executive made the call Friday during his visits to Quezon and Rizal provinces to check government response efforts on the devastation caused by Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat) in Luzon on Wednesday.

“Na-iba talaga ito. Lahat ng makita ko (This is different. In every site I visited), that’s the conclusion I keep arriving at. This is different from anything we ever had to deal with before,” he said in a situation briefing in San Mateo, Rizal.

“That’s why we have to come up with new ways to mitigate what is essentially a much harder problem than before,” he added.

Marcos ordered a holistic approach to raise public awareness on the effects of climate change in the Philippines.

“That’s climate change. That’s why we keep talking about it. People have to be conscious about it especially us who are trying to find ways to mitigate the problem,” he said in a separate briefing in Mauban, Quezon.

“We have no choice. We have to do something. We have to learn how to handle the new normal,” he added, referring to how the government should respond to the effects of climate change.

In Quezon, President Marcos sought to assess the significant changes in flooding patterns for future flood control projects.

Reports from the Department of the Interior and Local Government showed the municipality of Agdangan was hardest hit by tropical cyclones Aghon in May and Carina, and the southwest monsoon.

At least 986 families, or 4,324 individuals, were affected by Carina while 968 families temporarily stayed with relatives or friends.

The typhoon also rendered the seaports in Real, Infanta, Polillo, Patnanungan, Jomalig and Burdeos non-operational.

In Rizal, Governor Nina Ricci Ynares said the most affected municipalities were San Mateo, Montalban, Cainta and Tanay, where more than 8,000 families evacuated.

She said there are still communities in Tanay that have yet to receive relief items due to damage in roads leading to their areas.

About 1.3 million people were affected, with at least 200,000 still in evacuation centers.

Based on the official reports received by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, 14 died while two are still missing.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DAILY GUARDIAN

#### [Roxas City joins Zero Waste Cities Network, tackles waste crisis](#)

Roxas City, Capiz, has officially joined the Philippine chapter of the Zero Waste Cities Network (ZWCN), marking a significant step toward sustainable waste management.

The initiative unites local government officials and zero waste advocates in a concerted effort to address the nation's growing waste problem.

Supported by GAIA Asia Pacific, Mother Earth Foundation, Urban Movement Innovation (UMI), and the Global Methane Hub (GMH), ZWCN-Ph aims to promote Zero Waste principles nationwide.

ZWCN-Ph includes representatives from various regions, including San Fernando in Pampanga, Malabon and San Juan in Metro Manila, Barangay Tanza in Navotas City, Pilar in Bataan, Siquijor Province, Barangay Apo Island in Dauin, Negros Oriental, and Roxas City.

The collaboration is part of a global campaign to establish Zero Waste practices as the optimal solution to waste management challenges, such as the plastic crisis, while challenging the misconception that incineration effectively eliminates waste.

“The Philippine Zero Waste Cities Network aims to foster a supportive community, share stories, and advocate for sustainable solutions. With emphasis on good governance, we can ensure that the rights of our communities are protected and that our environment is preserved for future generations,” said Mei-Ling Quezon, Vice Governor of Siquijor and elected chair of ZWCN-Ph.

This network's launch is timely as the Philippines faces a daunting waste crisis, generating at least 61,000 metric tons of waste daily, with only a fraction properly disposed of.

Despite the incineration ban, waste-to-energy (WtE) solutions are being proposed, posing health, social, and economic risks.

Success stories from ZWCN-Ph communities illustrate the potential of Zero Waste strategies.



Siquijor, the Philippines' first Zero Waste province, has banned small plastic bottles and introduced a glass bottle-refill system. San Fernando, Pampanga, boasts a 90% waste diversion rate, conserving valuable resources.

ZWCN-Ph has embraced Environmental Justice principles, reflecting its commitment to sustainable practices and community rights.

The network prioritizes efficient waste management, reintegrating resources into productive cycles, and avoiding landfilling or incineration, yielding long-term environmental and economic benefits.

At their inaugural Board meeting, ZWCN-Ph resolved to urge the Philippines Climate Change Commission (CCC) to integrate Zero Waste into national climate strategies, support the Magna Carta for Waste Workers, institutionalize environment and natural resources offices (ENROs) in every local government, and develop training programs for zero waste strategies.

Hon. Benedict Jasper Lagman, President of ZWCN-Ph and Vice Mayor of San Fernando, Pampanga, invites cities and local governments to join.

“Together, we will work to enhance national policies for practical, equitable implementation and advocate for statutory funding to ensure all regions are on equal footing. We will share best practices and experiences to tackle environmental issues collectively, empowering communities to overcome challenges,” he said.

Sonia Mendoza, Chair of Mother Earth Foundation, praised the initiative.

“Leaders from Zero Waste model communities across the country are coming together to emphasize that beyond waste management – they are building a movement. The collective effort of cities and champions gives us hope. Through their example and experience, we can mitigate the climate crisis, reduce methane emissions, and empower Philippine cities and municipalities to address environmental challenges. Embracing Zero Waste principles contributes to global sustainability goals, paving the way for resilient and thriving communities nationwide,” she said.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Building friendships and connections: A strong foundation for climate action](#)

Friendship is a fundamental part of being human. We naturally seek connections and a sense of belonging, reflecting our social nature. This desire for bonds dates back to our early ancestors, where forming relationships helped us survive.

From an anthropological perspective, friendships have always been vital for building communities. In early societies, these social ties were essential for sharing resources, protecting each other and solving common problems — playing a crucial role in the survival and advancement of human groups.

In modern societies, friendships are equally crucial for promoting collaboration, building social capital, exchanging knowledge and sharing resources. They enhance personal fulfillment and strengthen community resilience and adaptability through these enduring connections.

The essence of friendship mirrors the interconnectedness found in nature. Just as natural ecosystems thrive on intricate relationships and mutual support, human communities also rely on these principles. This similarity underscores how collaboration and cooperation are vital to both nature and society, especially when addressing challenges like climate change.

In the context of climate action, building friendships — or “partnerships” in government jargon — is a cornerstone of a robust strategy. Friendships foster trust, collaboration and shared vision, all of which are essential for mobilizing collective efforts toward climate adaptation and mitigation goals.

By building strong relationships within communities and with stakeholders, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) is creating a united front to address climate challenges. This unity and mutual support can drive more effective and inclusive climate action that leads to sustainable and impactful outcomes.

To illustrate the power of coalition-building, the CCC has organized the Active Climate Change Engagement Leading to Resilient, Adaptive and Transformative Empowerment (ACCELERATE) platform to unite major actors in climate action.

ACCELERATE acts as a central hub that encompasses several dynamic sub-groups, each targeting specific stakeholders to foster a comprehensive and collaborative approach to transformative climate action.

One of these sub-groups, the Accelerating Climate action and Transformation for Local Communities (ACT Local), focuses on engaging local government units to accelerate climate action at the community level.

Another sub-group, the Empowering Nurtured Alliance for Climate action and Transformation (ENACT), brings together development partners to leverage their resources and expertise for impactful climate action.

The Working to Empower Climate Action Network (WE CAN) collaborates with civil society organizations, using their grassroots presence and advocacy, to drive community-based climate initiatives.

Meanwhile, the Communicating Opportunities to Network, Navigate, and Explore Climate Transformation (CONNECT) engages the business sector, encouraging them to explore opportunities and manage the complexities of climate transformation.

These CCC contact groups embody the spirit of friendship and partnership to enhance climate action initiatives and develop innovative strategies to address the climate crisis.

As we celebrate International Day of Friendship, let us remember that our connections and networks are powerful tools in addressing climate-related issues. This day underscores the importance of working together to address the urgent concerns facing our planet. Through our unique skills and perspectives, we can make meaningful progress toward a more sustainable future.

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed by the resolution A/65/L.72 in 2011 by the United Nations General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

## [CCC lauds PBBM's commitment to climate action](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) lauded the actions outlined by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) delivered yesterday, 22 July.

President Marcos highlighted the pressing need for enhanced climate action and underscored the Philippines' proactive stance in advocating for climate responsibility and justice on a global scale.

"As we can see in all the world, weather events are, as have been predicted, getting more extreme, such as torrential rains that instantly shift to scorching heat waves or vice versa," he stated.

"Our country's geographical location makes us highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Precisely because of our inherent vulnerability, we are proactive advocates for heightened climate responsibility and justice on the global stage."

President Marcos announced a significant achievement for the country on the global climate arena: securing a seat on the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board and being selected as host country to that fund.

The LDF is an international financial mechanism designed to provide support to climate-vulnerable countries in their recovery efforts from climate change-related economic and non-economic loss and damage. The support is provided in the form of grants and concessional financing which can be accessed by eligible countries.

"This welcome development shall complement all our other climate adaptation and mitigation measures and give us a strong voice to access the needed financial assistance for climate-related initiatives and impacts," the President added.

The LDF Board is responsible for establishing the Fund's direction, managing its operations, and developing its work program. It consists of 26 members representing parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, which includes the Philippines, 12 developed, and 13 other developing countries.

The CCC welcomed the President's actions to enhance the country's climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

“The CCC will ensure that the Philippines will remain at the forefront of global climate action. The President's support for climate-related initiatives is crucial to ensure a sustainable future for the Philippines and the rest of the world,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

The CCC expresses its full support for the President’s climate agenda and is dedicated to work closely with government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, and the private sector to implement the strategies outlined in the SONA.

## [CCC, foreign partners push women's access to climate decision-making](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission on Saturday reiterated the need to enhance women's access to climate decision-making.

"Mainstreaming women is not just to reduce the impacts of climate change in their lives, but to include them in crafting solutions to this global crisis," it said in a statement.

The CCC's remarks came after it recently concluded a two-day consultation with its partners from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

The commission lamented that women are "bearing the brunt of the impacts of climate change."

Hence, it said: "The CCC is committed to promoting women's empowerment, particularly in ecological decision-making, to pursue climate-resilient communities."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change earlier cited the disproportionate and differentiated impacts of climate change on women—highlighting the need for gender-responsive strategies in climate action.

"For instance, women often face higher risks and burdens from climate impacts, as they make up a large percentage of the world's poor and are more dependent on threatened natural resources," it said.

"They also have less access than men to resources, decision-making structures, technology, training, and extension services that would enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change," it added.

According to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, 80 percent of people displaced by climate change are women.

Thus, the urgency of integrating gender considerations into climate policies is a must.

During the consultations, attendees had an overview of national policies and plans that include climate-related content and identified relevant gender and climate change indicators to support the monitoring of national priorities.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC's Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, said the consultation also paved the way to advance an inclusive approach in soliciting women's perspectives and leveraging their unique skills as well as capability in decision-making.

“This consultation has been a starting point for a comprehensive effort to fill the data gaps, provide technical-level elaboration, and pre-ground for possible indicators for the gender and climate nexus,” he said.

Borje believes the government, in strong partnership with civil society organizations, can achieve a gender-centered and inclusive approach to climate action.

For her part, Philippine Commission on Women executive director Khay Ann Magundayao-Borlado underscored the importance of gender considerations in climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts.

“This allows us to develop targeted strategies that address the specific needs and capitalize on the strengths of different genders, thereby ensuring a more effective and equitable climate,” she said.

Meanwhile, CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said such national consultation establishes a clear roadmap for strengthening the gender-environment data ecosystem in the country.

“This will prove to be invaluable in refining our existing plans and strategies, ensuring they are grounded in robust, gender-responsive data,” she added.

She further underscored the critical role of gender in policymaking, monitoring progress, and creating climate solutions.

“This move will benefit all Filipinos — women, men, girls, and boys — helping them to have resilient communities and a sustainable future,” she said.

## Toward a resilient Philippines: Empowering communities for disaster preparedness

By: Secretary Robert E.A. Borje

Just last week, the Philippines faced yet another super typhoon, “Carina” (international name: “Gaemi”). Although it did not make landfall, “Carina” intensified the southwest monsoon, or habagat, bringing dangerously heavy rains to most parts of Luzon. As a result, floods that reached the second floor of standard Philippine houses ensued. Waterways overflowed and roads got submerged that put the lives and livelihoods of our fellow Filipinos in danger. “Carina,” along with previous weather events, shows how powerful and devastating these disasters can be. This underscores the urgent need to strengthen our resilience to disasters and address climate change.

Coupled with years of ecosystem mismanagement and poor implementation of environmental policies, disasters have presented the country with compounding and complicating problems. Due to the lack of accountability and ineffective protection of our resources, Philippine ecosystems continue to suffer from degradation. This, in turn, costs us many of our forests, wetlands, mountains and marine resources — our nature-based solutions for fighting climate change.

Disaster events are heavily influenced by climate change. The rise in greenhouse gas emissions led to global warming, which consequently causes changes in weather and climate patterns. These changes often manifest as more intense natural hazards that affect our lives, agriculture, water resources and ecosystems.

The impacts of living in a world where the temperature is 1.1 degrees Celsius higher than in preindustrial times are very evident. The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including heat waves, droughts, flooding, hurricanes and wildfires, continue to rise as global temperatures fail to decrease. With no concrete action to reduce the impacts of climate change, the world as we know it is in danger of facing even more catastrophic disasters.

According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 7,348 disaster events were recorded worldwide over the past 20 years. These disasters have claimed over 1.23 million lives and greatly affected more than 4 billion people — half of the world’s population. Additionally, these disasters have resulted in a total of US\$2.97 trillion in economic losses worldwide.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that if climate change is addressed as business as usual, its devastating impacts will further worsen. Changes in the water cycle, rainfall patterns, sea level and global warming will become pronounced,



amplifying most, if not all, climate change impacts. Given the geographic and economic vulnerabilities of our country, we stand to suffer even greater loss and damage if current climate trends continue.

Between 2011 and 2021, the Philippines incurred a total of P673.30 billion worth of losses and damage due to tropical cyclones alone. This is expected to rise in the near future — equivalent to 7.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product by 2030 and 13 percent by 2050 — unless climate change is addressed aggressively and intensively. Unfortunately, despite ongoing efforts to respond to climate change, current science available suggests that immediate improvement is yet to be felt. To make things worse, projections indicate that we may not see any improvement soon.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration asserts that climate change trends in the country will get worse, with mean temperatures expected to rise by 1.8 degrees Celsius to 2.2 degrees Celsius by 2050. And in turn, wet seasons in the country will become wetter and dry seasons will become drier, resulting in longer and more severe floods and droughts. Likewise, hot temperatures that exceed 35 degrees Celsius will become the norm in the immediate future. In alignment with the 2022 World Risk Index Report, these projections underscore the need for the country to take proactive action against climate change, as it is one of the most vulnerable countries to its impacts.

As part of our efforts to help the nation face and cope with the disastrous impacts of climate change, several legislative and strategic measures have been put in place, including the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, Philippine Development Plan, and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the Philippines submitted its first NAP, the third in ASEAN and 56th in the world to have a NAP. These national base documents provide roadmaps for sustainable development while taking into consideration the special vulnerability of the Philippines to climate and disaster risks. The NAP, in particular, aims to strengthen national resilience by integrating adaptation measures into national and local development policies and strategies. Meanwhile, the NCCAP outlines the country's strategy to address climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures.

In support of these plans, the country is also actively strengthening its climate finance capacities through various means. Internationally, the Philippines accesses the Green Climate Fund, a global fund that aims to support the climate action efforts of developing countries. Locally, the nation utilizes the People's Survival Fund, which provides financing for climate adaptation programs. The country also prioritizes building steady

partnerships with both international and local private entities, leveraging private sector investment to support public initiatives aimed at enhancing climate resilience and promoting sustainable development.

While the country is already equipped with plans, realizing these plans is another thing. There's still much to be done, but with climate change-induced disasters continuously affecting the Philippines, building the capacity of Filipino communities to withstand and recover from these disasters is crucial. At the same time, however, we cannot afford to neglect development. Therefore, there is a need to balance sustainable development with disaster risk reduction to ensure that progress does not come at the expense of resilience. This endeavor requires the active participation of all sectors, particularly our communities, as they are on the frontlines of both climate action and disaster response.

Communities, with their local knowledge, are best positioned to identify risks, vulnerabilities, and the most effective adaptive measures for their localities. Harnessing this knowledge can greatly enhance the quality of their Local Climate Change Action Plans, Barangay Risk Reduction and Management Plans, and Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans, thereby boosting their adaptive capacities.

Communities are also at the center of ecosystem-based adaptation and sustainable living. As locals, they have the most right to be involved in protecting, monitoring and revitalizing nature-based solutions found in their areas, such as forests, mangroves, watersheds, wetlands and marine bodies. They also have the authority to engage in climate-resilient and sustainable economic activities, like green agriculture, aquaculture and other livelihood practices, moving away from carbon-intensive livelihood activities. Most importantly, community members serve as first responders to disaster events, making them crucial in building the nation's disaster and climate resilience.

The Philippines is highly susceptible to climate change-induced disasters, frequently experiencing tropical cyclones, flooding, and other extreme weather events. This underscores the urgent need to capacitate communities and equip them with the resources necessary to help them overcome the worsening impacts of climate change through all means possible. Recognizing and empowering our communities' roles in disaster risk reduction and climate action is essential if we want to build a climate- and disaster-resilient Philippines.

## With good urban planning, governance, Phl can be force to reckon with — Palafox

Climate change concerns have been growing amid drastic changes in global temperatures and floods, disrupting economic activities and destroying countries' resources, including the Philippines.

Despite these, renowned architect Jun Palafox Jr. of Palafox & Associates and Palafox Architecture Design Group, is hopeful that the Philippines could develop into the 16th largest economy in the world by 2050 through good urban planning and governance.

The global ranking is based on analyses by leading global investment bank, Goldman Sachs.

"We have more blessings than challenges. There are no problems if reclamation is done right in a metropolitan context," he said, speaking as guest speaker during a meeting by the Rotary Club of Makati last 23 July 2024 at The Peninsula Manila, in Makati City.

"We can justify six international airports and six international seaports for the Manila Bay metropolis," Palafox continued.

The architect, who was senior architect and planner for the government of Dubai from 1977 to 1981, said the country has abundant resources the people can use sustainably to run smart cities and attract foreign investments.

Philippines' vast resources

Based on global data, he shared that the Philippines is third in geothermal energy, fifth in longest coastlines and nickel reserves and other mineral resources, fourth in ship building, third in gold reserves, fourth in copper, and 12th in human resources.

To ensure smart and green cities, Palafox proposes urban plans that feature parks and enable people to reach essential areas in 15 minutes by walking and five minutes for neighborhoods like Rockwell in Makati City.

"Those who have less in wheels should have more in roads," he said.

"It takes 10 trees to take out carbon emissions per car. If we have 5,000 vehicles in EDSA, we should have 5 million trees along EDSA," Palafox continued.

Climate change hero

The architect, who is the first Southeast Asian that helped plan Dubai and was awarded as a climate change hero by the Climate Change Commission, has drawn over 3,000 sketches with linear parks for Pasig River.

“Waterfront real estate is prime real estate elsewhere in the world. Here, it is our backyard where trash is dumped,” he said.

He is also working with the Asian Development Bank to design compact cities in the Philippines that will feature less than 10 modes of transport, including walking, and sustainable infrastructure that maximizes renewable energy.

By 2050, Palafox said the country’s population could grow to 150 million which would require 100 new healthy cities where 70 percent of the people would live.

Without proper urban planning and its implementation, he said Metro Manila could be submerged by four-meter floods. Palafox added that healthy cities help extend people’s lives by three years.

#### Aerotropolis in Bulacan

Over in Bulacan, Palafox is helping create The Aerotropolis with new cities as the Luzon province has increasingly become urbanized and is being prepared for the Bulacan International Airport to be developed by San Miguel Corp.

The plan for the new Bulacan cities will have spaces for vehicles, pedestrians, and landscaping with one-third of the area each.

“When we take projects, we consider social equity, job creation, and the planet. Next is economic growth and profits without forgetting culture and heritage,” Palafox said.

Palafox, who was educated at Christ the King Seminary, stressed that corruption should be eradicated to implement good urban designs and prevent widespread flooding.

“We take pictures of the uglification of our cities and make architectural perspectives. We send them to the mayors and we call them coast guards of the future, hoping somebody will implement them,” he said.

Palafox shared that the government stopped a massive dredging by a foreign firm in Laguna Lake as it would cause destructive floods in Metro Manila.

Guided by his own conscience, Palafox, who was educated at Christ the King Seminary, refused to earn a huge amount of money at the expense of the communities in Subic where his client wanted to build a hotel.

## Corruption

“Corruption can be addressed. I already put a Bureau of Internal Revenue examiner in prison for extortion,” he said.

“I returned \$1 million for the architect’s fee for a proposed hotel in Subic when I was instructed by clients to destroy 366 trees. I returned the contract and was sued for P50 billion,” Palafox continued.

He added other cases worth over P100 million have been filed against him for “exposing the truth.”

“Be deeper in your faith so you won’t be afraid. The government should also address red tape and corruption. If we have the best infrastructure in the world but don’t have good institutions, then no good will still happen to us,” Palafox said.

“The government should have policies on reclamation, dredging, and flooding,” he added.

With his efforts to help prevent corruption and protect the environment, Palafox was also named among the 48 Heroes of Philanthropy in Asia by Forbes Asia Magazine in 2013 and the Outstanding Professional of the Year in the field of Environmental Planning by the Professional Regulatory Commission in 2019.

## Bigger visions

Palafox, who has over 50 years of professional experience and over 1,000 projects in 40 countries, drew up in 1989 a plan on a tunnel, bridge, and railway system that will connect provinces across the country.

“The fastest trainmaker in the world came to my office in 2006 and proposed to me a railway between Laoag and Davao for a travel of less than three hours. This is shorter than waiting for delayed flights,” he said.

In 1989, Palafox also proposed 10 circumferential roads across the country. He said he is glad that the government is now building the Bataan-Cavite Bridge and Tunnel to partly achieve his goal for easier travel among the locals and tourists.

Much bigger than these, Palafox presented his global connectivity plan to a peace conference by the United Nations in 2006. It connects six continents through an 89-kilometer tunnel system.

“It’s doable. China has the longest bridge with 164 kilometers. Building it is less expensive than war and conflict as it breeds better international relations, with a connection to the world’s gateway cities,” he said.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [OCD, UP sign into partnership for DRRM initiatives](#)

By: Rex Espiritu

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the University of the Philippines (UP) on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding that will enhance the country's disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) capacity-building initiatives, along with science and research-based endeavors.

Both organizations will collaborate on various areas: from training and educational activities, the establishment of a learning center, peer review of existing frameworks, policies, programs, and platforms on Climate Change Adaptation-Disaster Risk Reduction (CCA-DRR) in the country, science-based development plans, and other collaborative activities.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by OCD Administrator, Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno, and UP President Angelo Azura Jimenez, along with other officials from UP and OCD serving as witnesses.

In his message, Usec. Nepomuceno emphasized that the partnership with UP is a key part of the OCD's strategic direction to boost the agency's and stakeholders' preparedness and response capabilities.

He expressed gratitude to the University for the scientific insights and expert inputs that it will provide for the enhancement and development of DRRM plans and preparedness initiatives.

"We need the help of UP in providing us with scientific bases and inputs from scientists and experts that will be integrated into our plans and preparedness initiatives. We thank the university for helping us advance our mission," Nepomuceno said.

Meanwhile, President Jimenez highlighted UP's commitment to supporting the OCD as a research and expertise provider and described the OCD as the "implementer."

He emphasized the effective collaboration between research and implementation to achieve the goals.

"Both [research and implementer] cannot work effectively without each other," he said.

Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Robert Borje also attended the event and expressed full support for the partnership, highlighting the vital role of science and data in implementing CCC-DRR initiatives.

Additionally, Usec. Nepomuceno raised concerns surrounding the alarming threat of “The Big One,” which could claim thousands of lives.

He pointed out the gaps, limitations, and challenges that must be addressed through collaborative efforts.

The signing took place on Tuesday at the UP Diliman Campus in Quezon City.



## MINDANAO TIMES

### [CCC urges nature-based solutions in disaster risk prevention, reduction and management](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the importance of nature-based solutions (NbS) in disaster risk prevention, reduction, and management to prepare for extreme weather events brought about by climate change and build a climate-resilient country.

The CCC believes in the critical role of NbS and ridge-to-reef approach in managing climate risks and adapting to disasters. These solutions strengthen the livelihood of coastal communities, ensure food security, and enhance the protection of vulnerable communities, leading to a more sustainable and resilient future for the next generations.

These solutions are vital to address ecological challenges such as climate change, disasters, food security, and climate resiliency. The solutions are anchored on the Philippine National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and draft National Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP), aligned with the guidelines set by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Key aspects of NbS and ridge to reef approach include protecting and restoring coral reefs, protecting peatlands, and growing and restoring forests. These actions sustainably manage and restore ecosystems that address planetary concerns.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director, explained, “Nature-based solutions are one of the easiest ways to maximize and utilize the roles of our forests, mangroves, and other natural resources in protecting and sustaining our communities. This step creates long-term benefits for future generations and addresses the urgent concerns of the planet.”

Integrating these solutions helps our natural resources function more effectively in critical ways. Forests and peatlands serve as carbon sinks, storing carbon dioxide, reducing the average global temperature, and lessening the emissions of greenhouse gases. Meanwhile, coral reefs play a vital role in protecting coastal communities by reducing the height and energy of waves during tropical cyclones.

The CCC is committed to the pursuit of different strategies to address disaster risk prevention, reduction and management, by a variety of approaches such as nature-based solutions and ridge to reef approach aimed to enhance resilience and preparedness of the country.

## SUNSTAR

### Our rays of hope: Youth in climate action

“Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng Bayan” is among the many wisdom-filled invocations that our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, imparted to the Filipino people. As cliché as it sounds, this statement remains true in many aspects of modern Filipino society. It is especially relevant to the pressing societal challenges that grow beyond generations such as poverty, corruption, and climate change.

While they are unjustly exposed to the horrifying impacts of climate change and bear the burden of confronting the accumulated effects of reckless and unsustainable practices from past generations, the youth are our hope or “pag-asa” against the changing climate and its devastating effects.

There are currently around 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 in the world, making up 16 percent of the global population. In the Philippines, there are approximately 19.2 million Filipino youth aged 15 to 24, most of whom are either in schools or in the workforce. Even with their diverse background and generational differences, these young people have one thing in common – they are the rays of hope in our continuing effort to pursue and sustain transformative climate action.

Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the importance of equipping the youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve a climate-resilient and sustainable world.

“We need to empower our youth to become stewards and advocates of our planet. Aside from providing them with the necessary skills and resources, we must enhance their critical thinking abilities for them to better examine data, analyze problems and develop innovative strategies. This approach, in turn, will equip and capacitate them and the coming generations to fully grasp and comprehend the science of climate change and implement effective solutions,” he said.

With their intrinsic ability to utilize modern computer technology and a wide set of skills in various fields, including arts, science and communication, the youth hold immeasurable potential to yield good results in our venture toward a climate-resilient Philippines.

“They only need guidance in understanding the complexities of climate change and redirecting the use of their gifts toward climate action. Promoting sustainable practices within educational institutions and community organizations, and providing training

programs in workplaces will make young Filipinos more prepared to combat climate change in their respective fields, specializations, and future careers,” Borje added.

As digital natives, young people have the capacity to maximize technology to its fullest extent. They can use technology to propagate ecological awareness, starting in their own local communities. Likewise, skilled youth are well-positioned to introduce new technologies and systems that reduce our carbon emissions and promote sustainability.

Moreover, young people have a very high affinity for creativity, especially when it comes to digital arts and communication. With support from the authorities and experienced individuals, these advantages become significant assets for the youth in communicating climate change, pollution, and the loss of biodiversity. This shows the great potential of youth in mainstreaming climate change.

Regardless of the presence or absence of technology, however, the raw potential of the youth in contributing to our climate change efforts is as powerful as it can get. With sheer numbers alone, the youth can shake the landscape of climate change action. If every single young individual proactively participated in initiatives to save our beloved planet, the results would be more than impactful.

By doing simple things like reducing, reusing, refusing, repurposing and recycling, and by educating others on climate change, the youth are already helping a lot. With proper knowledge, support, and training, the results will become even more immense.

Beyond being victims, the youth are invaluable assets who will one day serve as leaders in our venture toward a climate-resilient and climate-smart world. Their skills and critical thinking abilities are necessary for our transition to low-carbon and sustainable economies. With this, we should focus on enhancing youth education and training in green technologies, green entrepreneurship, and sustainable practices, creating green jobs and generating more employment where the youth can utilize their skills and maximize their ideas.

Investing in the youth, particularly in empowering and giving them what they need to grow into fine climate warriors and leaders, extends past upholding responsibility. It is a long-term commitment and strategy that will determine how well we fare in the upcoming nightmares brought by climate change.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Zero waste cities network launches Philippine chapter](#)

By: Michelle L. Palaubsanon, Caecent No-ot Magsumbol

The Zero Waste Cities Network has formally launched its Philippine chapter for a collaborative effort to advance sustainable waste management nationwide.

The ZWCN-Ph is comprised of government officials from Zero Waste Cities sites across the Philippines and advocates including the country's first Zero-Waste province, Siquijor, and Barangay Apo Island in Dauin, and Negros Oriental

This group forms part of a global campaign to mainstream Zero Waste practices as the optimal solution to waste management problems such as the plastic crisis, debunking the misconstrued idea that trash incineration helps eliminate waste.

"The Philippine Zero Waste Cities Network aims to foster a supportive community, share stories, and advocate for sustainable solutions. With emphasis on good governance, we can ensure that the rights of our communities are protected and that our environment is preserved for future generations," said Siquijor vice-governor Mei-Ling Quezon.

Quezon was elected chair of ZWCN-Ph while San Fernando, Pampanga vice mayor Benedict Jasper Lagman was elected as the network's president.

"Together, we will work to enhance national policies for practical, equitable implementation and advocate for statutory funding to ensure all regions are on equal footing. We will share best practices and experiences to tackle environmental issues collectively, empowering communities to overcome challenges," Lagman added.

The rest of the founding members of the network also see its formalization as an important step to empowering local communities and strengthening institutional support for a Zero Waste agenda, marking a significant stride toward a sustainable and inclusive future for Philippine cities.

During the inaugural Board meeting, the network also made pivotal decisions, including urging the Philippines Climate Change Commission (CCC) to integrate Zero Waste into the National Climate Action Plan (NCAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), support for the Magna Carta for Waste Workers, the institutionalization of the environment and natural resources offices (ENROs) in every local government, and

calling for collaboration to develop training programs for local governments to integrate zero waste strategies into their local Climate Action Plans (CAP).

The launch of the Philippine network comes at a critical juncture as the country generates at least 61,000 metric tons of waste daily, with only a fraction of it being properly disposed of.

Meanwhile, the Handa Pilipinas 2024: Visayas Leg welcomed over 380 participants from local government units and various stakeholders, paving the way for groundbreaking innovations in climate and disaster resilience.

The three-day event hosted by the Department of Science and Technology-7 aims to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience across the Visayas region.

DOST-7 said that the recent eruption of Mt. Canlaon in Negros Oriental and the disasters experienced in the Visayas has underscored the urgent need for effective disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) strategies.

Handa Pilipinas, conceptualized by DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum and started in 2023, is a national initiative designed to promote GeoriskPH.

Led by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), GeoriskPH provides protocols and platforms to share hazard, exposure, and risk information. This initiative is crucial in helping individuals, communities, local governments, and national agencies prepare and plan to mitigate the risks posed by natural hazards.

GeoriskPH offers a comprehensive range of tools and information, including hazard maps, risk assessments, early warning systems, and decision support tools.

These resources enable stakeholders to identify areas of vulnerability, assess risks, and make informed decisions to reduce the impact of disasters.

Since its inception, Handa Pilipinas has become an annual event celebrated across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

This year, the Visayas Leg in Cebu City featured a series of forums addressing various aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM).

**=END=**