



NEWS ROUNDUP

01 AUGUST 2024 [08:00 am]

- Typhoons forming closer to coast due to climate change: study
- LDF Board gets House nod
- Mega-sports events caught on horns of climate change dilemma
- Thunderstorm advisory up over Metro Manila, 7 Luzon provinces
- Climate change causing more change in rainfall, fiercer typhoons, scientists say
- [Opinion] Water security now for our future
- [Opinion] World should take note of a new trade and climate change deal
- Fair weather, isolated rain showers to prevail across PH

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Villanueva to Marcos: Tackle flooding as seriously as Pogos

ABS CBN

[Typhoons forming closer to coast due to climate change: study](#)

Typhoons in Southeast Asia are forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change, according to a joint scientific study released on Wednesday.

BUSINESS WORLD

[LDF Board gets House nod](#)

By: Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio

A House of Representatives committee on Tuesday approved a bill operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board in the Philippines, authorizing it to negotiate with the World Bank and buy assets.

[Mega-sports events caught on horns of climate change dilemma](#)

A leading sports ecologist believes the climate crisis has left organizers of mega-sporting events like the Olympics facing a truth uncomfortable enough to make them squirm.

GMA NEWS

[Thunderstorm advisory up over Metro Manila, 7 Luzon provinces](#)

Metro Manila and seven Luzon provinces are expected to experience moderate to heavy rains with lightning and strong winds Wednesday afternoon.

INTERAKSYON

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

By: David Stanway

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.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Water security now for our future](#)

By: Anna Mae Lamentillo

As an archipelagic nation with rich natural resources, the Philippines has a large amount of water resources, particularly from rivers, lakes, and groundwater. Ironically, water security remains a challenge for the country.

NIKKEI ASIA

[\[Opinion\] World should take note of a new trade and climate change deal](#)

By: Wendy Cutler and Jane Mellsop

More attention should be paid to a new trade agreement that could better meet the challenge of climate change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Fair weather, isolated rain showers to prevail across PH](#)

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

The entire country will experience fair weather with isolated rain showers Thursday, the weather bureau said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Villanueva to Marcos: Tackle flooding as seriously as Pogos](#)

By: Charie Abarca

Keep an eye on flooding as much as you keep an eye on Philippine offshore gaming operators (Pogos), Sen. Joel Villanueva urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[Typhoons forming closer to coast due to climate change: study](#)

Typhoons in Southeast Asia are forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change, according to a joint scientific study released on Wednesday.

Coastal communities and cities like Hai Phong in Vietnam and the Thai capital Bangkok are "facing unprecedented threats from longer lasting and more intense storms", a statement about the study said.

Researchers from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore and Rowan University and the University of Pennsylvania in the United States analysed "more than 64,000 modelled historic and future storms from the 19th century through the end of the 21st century" to come up with the findings, the statement said.

Published in the peer-reviewed Nature partner journal Climate and Atmospheric Science, the study "highlights significant changes in tropical cyclone behaviours in Southeast Asia".

The changes include "increased formation near coastlines and slower movement over land, which could pose new risks to the region", the statement said.

It added that climate change, which has caused ocean waters to warm, can alter the paths of tropical storms in the region, home to more than 650 million people.

"Our study shows that as the cyclones travel across warmer oceans from climate change, they pull in more water vapour and heat," said Benjamin Horton, director of NTU's Earth Observatory of Singapore and a co-author of the research.

"That means stronger wind, heavier rainfall, and more flooding when the typhoons hit land."

Lead author Andra Garner of Rowan University's School of Earth and Environment said people living along the region's densely populated coastlines were the most vulnerable.

"There were two takeaways: First, we should be acting to reduce emissions, so we can curb the impacts of future storms," Andra said.

"Second, we should be acting now to protect those coastlines for the future, which will likely see some worsened tropical cyclone impacts regardless of future emissions."

Just last week, intense rains from Typhoon Carina caused heavy flooding in the Philippine capital Manila and parts of Kaohsiung city in Taiwan.

It was the strongest typhoon to hit Taiwan in eight years, and left at least five people dead and hundreds injured.

In the Philippines, it exacerbated seasonal rains and triggered flooding and landslides that killed at least 30 people.

BUSINESS WORLD

LDF Board gets House nod

By: Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio

A House of Representatives committee on Tuesday approved a bill operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board in the Philippines, authorizing it to negotiate with the World Bank and buy assets.

The House committees on climate change and foreign affairs in a joint session approved the measure providing “juridical personality and legal capacity” to the LDF Board, letting it perform its duties.

The measure allows the board to enter into contracts, acquire property, institute legal proceedings and negotiate with the World Bank on matters concerning the fund and perform its mandate.

“The bill specifically provides juridical personality to the fund board that we are hosting in the country,” Bohol Rep. Edgar M. Chatto, House climate change committee chairman, told BusinessWorld in an interview. “It gives the entity all the required elements so they can enter into agreements and contracts.”

The Philippines won the bid to host the LDF in July, which Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. said reinforced the country’s dedication to become a leader in shaping international climate policies.

Mega-sports events caught on horns of climate change dilemma

A leading sports ecologist believes the climate crisis has left organizers of mega-sporting events like the Olympics facing a truth uncomfortable enough to make them squirm.

Golf courses are sliding into the sea, snow is vanishing from alpine resorts, football grounds have flooded and wildfire smoke is choking athletes as rising temperatures disrupt events.

Some sports at the Paris Games have enacted extreme heat protocols as temperatures climb, while unseasonal high rains have led to the high pollution levels in the river Seine that forced a rescheduling of Tuesday's men's triathlon.

"(Climate change) is clearly having an effect," IOC spokesperson Mark Adams said on Tuesday.

"We have to live in the world that we have. As they say in sport, you have to play with what you have in front of you."

Critics say extravaganzas like the Olympics, which will welcome an estimated 14 million visitors to Paris, contribute to climate change through a massive carbon footprint.

"These competitions need to be smaller," said author and sports ecologist Madeleine Orr. "It's not athlete travel that's doing the damage, it's all the fans."

"These are conversations I've had with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), focusing on the local population for ticketing and reducing the size of venues."

"Some people squirm at that."

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

On the other side of the scale is money.

All those visitors mean the Paris Games are projected to generate between 6.7 billion euros and 11.1 billion euros (\$7.27 and \$12.04 billion) in net economic benefits for the region.

The Paris organizing committee set a target of halving the carbon footprint of their Games compared to earlier editions, excluding Tokyo where spectators were banned due to COVID-19.

Paris is using a host of measures to achieve this, but the footprint is still an estimated 1.58 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent, according to its own calculations.

For comparison, a single ton of CO2 is equivalent to 138 meat-based meals or a one-way flight from Paris to New York.

“Instead of a 60,000-seat stadium for football, say ‘we’re playing in smaller facilities and there’s 10,000 tickets’,” added Ms. Orr, whose book *Warming Up, How Climate Change is Changing Sport* was published in May.

“It’ll still be an awesome environment for athletes. It’ll look like a full crowd for the cameras. It just won’t be a tourism spectacle.”

Meanwhile, the future of the Games themselves are at risk.

“If we’re talking winter sports, (climate change) is an existential crisis,” Orr said.

“If we’re talking summer sports, we’re still within the window of adaptation. The problem is there’s very little attention being paid.”

The IOC would disagree.

Its “reduce, compensate, influence” climate commitment includes a target of 50% reduction of carbon emissions by 2030, compensating more than 100% of the residual emissions and encouraging stakeholders and fans to act against climate change.

‘DRAMATIC IMPACT’

It is also considering introducing a rotation of the winter Games among a permanent pool of host nations who have a reliable winter climate needed for the Olympics.

“We need to address very quickly this dramatic impact of climate change on winter sport,” IOC President Thomas Bach said last October. “By mid-century, there will remain practically just 10-12 (countries) who could host these snow events.”

On the summer side, World Athletics president Sebastian Coe warned that athletes are suffering, with 75% reporting competition or training had been affected by climate change.

“There are countries in our federation that will probably not be in existence in the next 20 years because of rising sea levels,” Mr. Coe said last year.

The heat could cause issues at endurance events in Paris, particularly once athletics gets underway on Thursday.

The World Championships marathons in Doha in 2019 started at midnight to avoid the searing Middle East heat and still 46 runners did not finish.

Ms. Orr said heat was a threat to sport all over the world and an “existential crisis” in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and parts of China.

UNCONTROLLED WILDFIRES

North America is also reeling. Hundreds of uncontrolled wildfires are burning across western Canada, forcing the evacuation of thousands of residents.

The smoke from North American wildfires has wreaked havoc over the last few years, forcing the postponement of Major League Baseball games, a National Women’s Soccer League match and an indoor WNBA game to protect the fans and teams.

Christopher Blevins, who was 13th in Monday’s Olympic mountain bike race, said checking an air quality app on his phone had become routine.

“There’s typically a fire somewhere on the West Coast and as an endurance athlete air quality is obviously important,” said the American, an athlete spokesperson for the environmental group Protect our Winters.

“It’s just a new reality,” he added. “It’s not just sports, it relates just as much to someone who wants to enjoy the outdoors, go for a hike in the park.”

Canadian rower Jennifer Casson recalled training under the “apocalyptic” red sky caused by Canada’s wildfires, and the algae bloom on Vancouver Island’s Quamichan Lake being so dense that she could not see her oar below the surface.

“Athletes care about the planet,” said Casson, who is competing in her second Olympics in Paris.

“We rely on this planet to do our sport, and I don’t need to be an expert to know that it’s getting frickin’ hot outside and I can’t breathe.”

GMA NEWS

Thunderstorm advisory up over Metro Manila, 7 Luzon provinces

Metro Manila and seven Luzon provinces are expected to experience moderate to heavy rains with lightning and strong winds Wednesday afternoon.

In a thunderstorm advisory issued at 12:50 p.m., state weather bureau PAGASA said the affected areas within the next two to three hours are:

- Cavite,
- Laguna,
- Tarlac,
- Pampanga,
- Bulacan,
- Bataan, and
- Rizal.

Meanwhile, Santa Cruz, Candelaria, Masinloc, Palauig, Iba, and Botolan in Zambales; Candelaria, Tiaong, San Antonio, and Tayabas in Quezon; Pantabangan in Nueva Ecija; and Laurel and Agoncillo in Batangas are currently experiencing moderate to heavy rains with lightning and strong winds

The weather condition may persist within two hours and affect nearby areas.

Affected residents are advised to take precautionary measures against flash floods and landslides.

INTERAKSYON

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

By: David Stanway

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 then 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 behaviour of tropical storms, including typhoons, making them less frequent but more powerful.

"I believe higher water vapour 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.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Water security now for our future](#)

By: Anna Mae Lamentillo

As an archipelagic nation with rich natural resources, the Philippines has a large amount of water resources, particularly from rivers, lakes, and groundwater. Ironically, water security remains a challenge for the country.

In the past months, weather patterns and climate conditions have highlighted another growing challenge on water security — either we have too little or too much. This affects not only water supply, sanitation, and access to safe drinking water, but also food security, jobs and livelihood, the environment, and the economy as a whole.

Water security is key to our development and resilience, as the World Bank stressed, noting that 42 percent of the country's jobs are in sectors that use water intensively, such as crop and animal production, construction of buildings, food and beverage activities, fishing and aquaculture, manufacture of food products, human health activities, and manufacturing of clothing. Tourism and semiconductor industries are also known to be water-intensive.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), 97.6 percent of Filipino families use improved drinking water sources and 84 percent have access to basic sanitation services. However, without sound water governance, we will not be able to achieve universal access to safe water and sanitation services by 2030. In fact, parts of the country are projected to endure extreme water stress by 2050 if we fail to employ significant changes in water management.

Poor management, over-extraction of groundwater, contamination of freshwater supplies, rapid population growth and urbanization all contribute to water scarcity, further compounded by the climate crisis.

According to GHD's 2022 Aquanomics report, the Philippines will experience an average economic decline of 0.7 percent in annual GDP in the years up to 2050 because of water risks. Moreover, the agriculture sector will be severely affected by climate shocks with significant decline in corn, sugarcane and rice yield by 2030, based on the Philippines Country Climate Development Report (CCDR).

The World Bank emphasizes that with the threat of climate change on socio-economic progress, water security must be prioritized. In order to adapt to climate change in a sustainable and inclusive manner, there should be an integrated approach to water

security, which includes the planning, development, and management of water — from water resource management down to water use.

This integrated approach has four pillars: (1) achieving universal access to safe water supply and sanitation; (2) improving irrigation models and productivity; (3) reducing flood and drought risks through sustainable water resource management; (4) and enhancing water security in fragility, conflict, and violence areas through a holistic development approach for peace.

In order to achieve water security, the NEDA highlights the need for a Department of Water (DWR) and a Water Regulatory Commission (WRC) that will address the institutional fragmentation of the water sector, as well as to improve infrastructure planning and management.

Water is a vital resource that we cannot live without. It affects every aspect of our lives, including our health and safety. It is crucial to the growth of our communities and our economy. Where do we get water in times of extreme heat? Where do we put excess water in times of torrential rains?

It is time that we rethink our policy on water. We need to manage our water resources well and address the threats to water scarcity and access to safe drinking water. Otherwise, it will be impossible to solve poverty and achieve sustainable progress. Water is our need now; water is our future. -30-

NIKKEI ASIA

[\[Opinion\] World should take note of a new trade and climate change deal](#)

By: Wendy Cutler and Jane Mellsop

More attention should be paid to a new trade agreement that could better meet the challenge of climate change.

The conclusion earlier this month of the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) by New Zealand, Costa Rica, Switzerland and Iceland comes at a time when the world is experiencing record-high temperatures, spreading wildfires, and destructive floods and droughts. Despite these developments, WTO members have been unable to rally consensus to develop new trading rules to help halt these trends, highlighted by their recent failure to bring the second part of the fisheries subsidies agreement over the finish line.

The ACCTS reflects an emerging model for trade agreements -- one that is limited in participants and sectors but can be concluded more quickly and without sacrificing ambition.

Instead of sitting around in endless discussions on what is the best way to incorporate climate change and sustainability concerns into trade agreements, these four small, trade-dependent countries moved into action and hammered out meaningful commitments. The agreement is an important step in elaborating on what is possible in this contested space. The parties hope that others will join over time, or even adopt similar rules in their own bilateral agreements, providing momentum for a broader multilateral agreement.

ACCTS has four key components. First, the four parties will eliminate tariffs on over 300 "environmental goods" upon entry into force. Although the list of goods has not yet been released, the members claim it is the most comprehensive and ambitious list of agreed-upon goods to date, including solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles, recycled paper and wood products offering a more environmentally sound alternative to carbon-intensive construction materials. It also includes criteria for qualifying as an environmental good so there can be ongoing updates. The tariff cuts will apply to all WTO members (not just the other parties), so as to be consistent with WTO rules.

Second, the parties went beyond goods commitments to also open up their service sectors. They agreed to new levels of market access in more than 100 sectors that make a "substantial contribution to addressing pressing environmental purposes."

However, which sectors these are, and the level of market access agreed upon, is yet to be made public.

Third, the agreement provides a new framework to prohibit and discipline harmful subsidies for fossil fuels, with limited exceptions.

Finally, the parties agreed on guidelines for voluntary eco-labeling programs, which should help provide consumers with more accurate information and avoid such labels in and of themselves becoming a barrier to trade. The inclusion of binding dispute settlement in the agreement also underscores the importance the countries attach to these commitments.

The ACCTS partners hope to sign the pact later this year, with the aim that it will enter into force in 2025. Once the text is released, other countries will then have the opportunity to study the obligations and determine their interest in joining. Norway participated in all 15 rounds of negotiation but said it needs more time to consider the final text to see whether it should sign up. Fiji had also been involved in the negotiations but dropped out of the talks early on, most likely due to capacity issues.

Regrettably, the U.S. is unlikely to sign -- particularly given its aversion to further cutting tariffs, and especially given those tariff cuts would be expected to also apply to nonparties, including China. Curbing fossil fuel subsidies also has been a bridge too far for Washington, although a Democratic president in the White House next year may be more ambitious. There is little doubt that a Trump administration would firmly oppose such provisions.

Like others, China is expected to closely study the text once it is released. Even though Beijing may have concerns with some elements of the agreement, it may apply for membership, as it has recently done with the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA). By expressing interest, Beijing has little to lose. It can show it is committed to addressing climate change through WTO-consistent trade agreements while seeing whether the other parties would consider the necessary flexibilities for it to join.

While the two largest economies may be absent, ACCTS follows a model that New Zealand and other small and medium-size countries are increasingly relying on: a "let's start small" approach toward trade agreements in which they focus on specific areas of interest, invite a small number of like-minded countries to join and over time expand the circle of participants and grow the commitments.

This approach, which has been successfully employed for CPTPP, DEPA and the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement, has become increasingly attractive, as deals in the WTO are hard to come by given its large and diversified membership.

ACCTS includes rules and market access commitments that may not be to Washington's liking, but by not being at the table the U.S. continues to forfeit its role in shaping new trade and investment rules.

More of these mini trade deals among small groupings of trading partners are expected to be concluded in the months and years ahead. If this model drives the development of new norms in trade policy (as the parties hope), Washington should reconsider its stance of sitting on the sidelines and claim its seat at the negotiating table.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Fair weather, isolated rain showers to prevail across PH

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

The entire country will experience fair weather with isolated rain showers Thursday, the weather bureau said.

This weather condition is likely to continue until Friday due to the ridge of a high pressure area, Aldczar Aurelio of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Localized thunderstorms will cause isolated rain showers, he said.

The southwest monsoon (habagat) is not affecting the country and PAGASA is expecting a monsoon break or break in rainfall events, Aurelio added.

Meanwhile, the whole country will continue to experience light to moderate winds and slight to moderate seas.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Villanueva to Marcos: Tackle flooding as seriously as Pogos](#)

By: Charie Abarca

Keep an eye on flooding as much as you keep an eye on Philippine offshore gaming operators (Pogos), Sen. Joel Villanueva urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday.

“You have to be serious about it. I’m also calling on Malacañang. As serious as we are about Pogo, let’s be serious about this too,” Villanueva said, speaking partly in Filipino, at the Kapihan sa Senado forum.

“Otherwise, tanggalin na natin ang pondong ito because it’s a waste of money. It’s an awful waste of time, awful waste of money,” Villanueva said .

“Otherwise, let’s get rid of this fund because it’s a waste of money. It’s an awful waste of time, [an] awful waste of money.”

The senator made the appeal after lamenting about the perennial flooding in the Philippines, especially after the recent onslaught of Typhoon Carina which enhanced the southwest monsoon.

“This happens every year. I already mentioned this last year. You were also there in the Senate hearing last year. No one believes in the Senate anymore,” he said.

“No one believes the government anymore that it will do anything to address the problem because every single year it’s getting worse.”

To support his remarks, the senator pointed out that the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Commission on Climate Change, had a combined budget of P1.44 billion a day.

This budget alone can fund 700 classrooms a day, according to Villanueva.

“Can you imagine, we can have 700 classrooms built in a day instead of putting it into a waste project? Well, tell me that it’s not a waste. Go ahead. Prove it to me that it’s not a waste project,” he said.

The “project” that the senator was referring to was the government’s flood control programs.

In his third State of the Nation Address, Marcos said 5,500 of these initiatives had so far been completed, but Villanueva admitted to thinking that the chief executive might have been misled.

Meanwhile, two Senate committees — on public works and on the environment, natural resources, and climate change — will conduct an inquiry on Thursday into the country’s flood control master plan and pending flood control projects.

“What’s going to happen? What do you think is going to happen? Let’s again enumerate this one by one. I have learned how to raise my voice and how to lower my voice. What more can we do? Should we do this every day? Let’s look at all these,” Villanueva said.

Despite his frustration, he made clear that there would still be a need to investigate this matter so that the country’s flooding problem could be minimized once and for all.

=END=