



NEWS ROUNDUP

08 August 2022 (Monday) [as of 08:00 am]

- US Investors Visit South Africa With Eye on Renewable Energy
- Heavy downpour causes flooding in Metro Cebu
- QC mayor: City prioritizing 'green initiatives' means climate emergency exists
- US to help PH tap clean energy
- Atok-Big Wedge moving into renewable energy
- Blinken vows US support for Philippines' clean energy transition
- Makati declares climate emergency
- Solon, mayor attend 2022 World Cities Summit
- Vermont Creamery joins national movement to turn food waste into renewable energy
- Manchin votes with GOP to cancel Biden environmental permitting rule

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Climate Education sa K-12 ikinalugod ng Climate Change Commission
- DepEd teachers undergo online training to strengthen climate change education
- DepEd supports increased climate change topics in curriculum
- 'Climate emergency' drives next Makati gov't projects
- DepEd aims to boost 'climate literacy'
- Sustainability as the key to resiliency

BLOOMBERG

US Investors Visit South Africa With Eye on Renewable Energy

By: Monik Vaneque

US investors with more than \$1 trillion of assets under management are in South Africa to look for investment opportunities.

CNN PHILIPPINES

Heavy downpour causes flooding in Metro Cebu

By: Dale Israel

The heavy downpour on Thursday night caused swollen rivers, which led to waist-deep floods in several parts of Metro Cebu.

QC mayor: City prioritizing 'green initiatives' means climate emergency exists

By Paige Javier

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 7) -- Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said the local government unit's inclusion of climate initiatives in its top agenda is a declaration that a climate emergency exists in the city.

In a text message to CNN Philippines on Sunday, Belmonte said the city has been addressing climate change since her first term began in 2019.

THE MANILA TIMES

US to help PH tap clean energy

By: Bernadette Tamayo

The Philippines and the United States have agreed to collaborate in tapping clean energy, including nuclear power.

PHILIPPINE STAR

Atok-Big Wedge moving into renewable energy

By: Richmond Mercurio

Manila, Philippines — Roberto Ongpin-led Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. is moving forward with its plan to expand into renewable energy.

Blinken vows US support for Philippines' clean energy transition

Gaea Katreena Cabico

MANILA, Philippines — The United States is committed to help the Philippines shift to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, State Secretary Antony Blinken said Saturday.

Makati declares climate emergency

By: Romina Cabrera

MANILA, Philippines — Makati Mayor Abby Binay on Friday declared a state of climate emergency in the city as she called on all stakeholders to implement a whole-of-society approach to combat climate change.

PHILIPPINE INQUIRER

'Climate emergency' drives next Makati gov't projects

By: Dexter Cabalza

Manila, Philippines — Makati City, the country’s financial capital, has declared a “state of climate emergency,” becoming the first local government in Metro Manila to acknowledge it is in crisis due to climate change.

THE VISAYAN DAILY STAR

Solon, mayor attend 2022 World Cities Summit

By: Gilbert Bayoran

Two Negros Occidental officials joined the 8th World Cities Summit in Singapore for intensive discussions on how to help global cities remain liveable, sustainable and more resilient through prolonged and predictable disruptions, amid COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

VERMONT BUSINESS MAGAZINE

Vermont Creamery joins national movement to turn food waste into renewable energy

Vermont Business Magazine Vanguard Renewables’ Chief Strategy Officer John Hanselman and Vermont Creamery’s President, Adeline Druart, were joined Wednesday by Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts, along with Danielle Goodrich-Gingras, co-owner and herdsman of the Goodrich Family Dairy Farm, to announce Vermont Creamery’s membership in The Farm Powered Strategic Alliance (FPSA/Alliance). The announcement occurred at Vanguard Renewables’ anaerobic digester, the largest in the northeast, located on the Goodrich Family Dairy Farm in Salisbury, Vermont.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER

Manchin votes with GOP to cancel Biden environmental permitting rule

By: Jeremy Beaman

The Senate passed a resolution Thursday canceling a Biden administration rule governing environmental reviews for infrastructure projects that Republicans have argued made permitting more onerous, holding up construction.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DWIZ ONLINE

Climate Education sa K-12 ikinalugod ng Climate Change Commission

By: Gilbert Paredez

Ikinalugod ng Climate Change Commission o CCC ang pahayag ng Department of Education ukol sa pagpapaigting ng climate education sa K to 12 curriculum.

MANILA BULLETIN

DepEd teachers undergo online training to strengthen climate change education

By: Merlina Hernando-Malipot

In line with its efforts to strengthen climate change education in the country, teachers under the Department of Education (DepEd) underwent online training.

MANILA TIMES

DepEd supports increased climate change topics in curriculum

By: Red Mendoza

The Department of Education (DepEd) is supporting the call of the Climate Change Commission for the strengthening of climate literacy and the inclusion of climate action in the basic education curriculum.

PHILIPPINE INQUIRER

'Climate emergency' drives next Makati gov't projects

By: Dexter Cabalza

Manila, Philippines — Makati City, the country's financial capital, has declared a "state of climate emergency," becoming the first local government in Metro Manila to acknowledge it is in crisis due to climate change.

DepEd aims to boost 'climate literacy'

By: Jane Bautista

MANILA, Philippines — As a new international study urged people to start preparing for the possibility of a "climate endgame," the Department of Education (DepEd) said it was eyeing a collaboration with experts to improve climate change education, particularly at the basic education level.

Sustainability as the key to resiliency

By: Ar. Vittoria Mawis-Aliston

The Philippines, with its rich landscape, has always been vulnerable to natural calamities. Thunderstorms, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes—these are just some of the dangers we have faced in the past. And with the onset of global warming, these calamities seemed to have gotten more dangerous in recent years.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BLOOMBERG

US Investors Visit South Africa With Eye on Renewable Energy

By: Monik Vaneque

US investors with more than \$1 trillion of assets under management are in South Africa to look for investment opportunities.

The visit being facilitated by USAID and Prosper Africa, the US government's initiative to increase trade and investment between African nations and America, started Tuesday and will coincide with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's trip. Blinken arrives in the country Sunday -- his second official trip to Africa. He will also visit the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

South Africa, the world's 13th-biggest source of greenhouse gases, will need to spend \$250 billion over the next three decades to fund the closing down of coal-fired plants and development of replacement green energy such as wind and solar, according to a report released in May. The world's richest nations at COP26 in Glasgow in November pledged just \$8.5 billion in climate grants and concessional loans to the nation.

"There's not enough public resources in donor budgets and in local budgets, for example, in South Africa to solve the climate crisis," Cameron Khosrowshahi, senior investment adviser for Prosper Africa, said in an interview Thursday. "There's going to need to be a scaling up of private capital alongside public capital in order to meet the challenge. And that's part of the reason why we're here."

The delegation comprising of pension funds, financial institutions and asset managers including Bank of New York Mellon Corp., Kansas City Public School Retirement System and the NYC Board of Education Retirement System will meet with fund managers and discuss blended finance opportunities for South Africa's transition to renewable energy and women's economic empowerment, a statement from Prosper Africa and USAID said.

The US is trying to deepen its ties with Africa and counter China's influence, the continent's largest trading partner and bilateral creditor.

Blinken will be hosted by South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor and will also engage on a strategic dialog.

US investors also visited Senegal and Kenya in April.

CNN PHILIPPINES

Heavy downpour causes flooding in Metro Cebu

By: Dale Israel

The heavy downpour on Thursday night caused swollen rivers, which led to waist-deep floods in several parts of Metro Cebu.

A search and rescue operation was mounted in Cebu City due after ravaging floodwaters from the Kinalumsan River in Barangay Mambaling swept away some makeshift homes.

A man was seen on video being carried by the strong river current, waving for help to the crowd on top of the Kinalumsan bridge.

The Cebu City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office said the man, who was identified as Basil Baylosis, was rescued later in the night.

Floodings were also reported on Colon Street, T. Padilla, Kamputhaw, and Mambaling in Cebu City.

There were also reports of inundation in Mandaue City, Talisay City, and the highway in Minglanilla town in Cebu Province.

Several workers were also stranded for a few hours because of the submerged streets, especially in Cebu City.

The heavy rains with moderate winds coupled with lightning and thunder started past 7 p.m.

The heavy rains momentarily stopped past 9 p.m. but moderate rains were again observed starting at 10 p.m. onwards.

CNN PHILIPPINES

QC mayor: City prioritizing 'green initiatives' means climate emergency exists

By Paige Javier

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 7) -- Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said the local government unit's inclusion of climate initiatives in its top agenda is a declaration that a climate emergency exists in the city.

In a text message to CNN Philippines on Sunday, Belmonte said the city has been addressing climate change since her first term began in 2019.

"I believe the fact that climate initiatives are among the top agenda items of our administration since 2019 when I first became mayor and is already an explicit and implicit declaration that a climate emergency exists. Otherwise why would we have put it among our city's top priorities?" she told CNN Philippines.

Belmonte included the environment and climate change in her 14-point agenda, with the goal to build a livable, green and sustainable city.

"We are the only city in the country that has created a Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department solely for the purpose of addressing and advocating for climate justice," Belmonte said.

The Quezon City Council passed a resolution declaring a state of climate emergency in 2019. Under the resolution, the city can implement actions to combat the crisis and promote disaster preparedness. It will also review its action plan and future budgets to ensure it has funds for programs aimed at mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis.

Belmonte said they have been meeting with international stakeholders to get good case practices on lowering carbon emissions, improving air quality, and sustainability.

In the past week, Belmonte met virtually with the Osaka City vice mayor to exchange information about their initiatives to achieve their mutual goal of reducing carbon emissions.

In the same meeting, the LGU highlighted its Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2050, which has technical and financial support from the international community. Through this comprehensive plan, Quezon City aims to reduce its carbon emissions by 30% in 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2050.

City officials also met with representatives of the United Nations Development Programme to discuss its sustainability and waste management programs.

Quezon City is the only Philippine locality which is a member of C40, a global alliance of megacities actively promoting climate justice. With the help of the network, the LGU is working on initiatives to address air pollution and improve air quality.

Makati City Mayor Abby Binay earlier declared a state of climate emergency in the financial district and vowed to step up LGU efforts to combat climate change.

THE MANILA TIMES

US to help PH tap clean energy

By: Bernadette Tamayo

The Philippines and the United States have agreed to collaborate in tapping clean energy, including nuclear power.

In a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said the two countries agreed "to flesh out further opportunities for enhanced cooperation that would support efforts to promote resilient supply chains, health systems and infrastructures, as well as opportunities to collaborate in marine resource management and clean energy, particularly nuclear energy."

He said these initiatives will be done bilaterally and "within the context of the United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework where the Philippines is a country partner."

Blinken said that as part of his itinerary, he visited the Clean Energy Fair in Makati City which will "lay the groundwork for one of the first offshore wind power [projects] in the Philippines."

"This is the latest in a long line of clean energy collaborations between us because clean energy is vital for economic growth, is vital for innovation, and of course is vital for responding to the climate crisis," he said.

Blinken in a later tweet said that after meeting with inspiring entrepreneurs, "I reaffirmed our commitment to help the Philippines as it transitions to clean energy."

He said the US Department of Agriculture on Saturday signed a grant agreement with its Philippine counterpart "to enable the Philippines to explore more offshore wind power."

The Office of the Spokesperson of the US State Department said that Washington and Manila are set to "collaborate closely with one another on nuclear and clean energy."

It noted that in March, the US and the Philippines signed the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation which sets up a framework for cooperation and a mutually aligned approach to nonproliferation on civil nuclear issues.

It added that the US also provided assistance to the Philippines through "our Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology (First) program which deepens our strategic ties, supports energy innovation, and

advances our technical collaboration with the Philippines on secure, safe nuclear energy infrastructure."

The US Agency for International Development has allotted \$34 million for its Energy Secure Philippines (ESP) program "to support a more competitive, secure, and resilient Philippine energy sector by working to improve the performance and efficiency of energy utilities, deploy renewable energy systems, enhance competition in the power sector, and bolster energy sector cybersecurity."

"The ESP will help raise over \$750 million in private sector investment to develop at least 500 megawatts of additional clean energy generation capacity," it said.

The US Department of State Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) Clean Energy Demand Initiative and the Philippine government had signed a Letter of Intent to adopt policy principles with 12 companies who are interested in investing up to \$2.1 billion in the country's clean power infrastructure.

ENR is also supporting responsible and sound mining sector development in the Philippines through its Energy Resource Governance Initiative, which promotes resilient and diverse critical mineral supply chains for clean energy technologies.

Likewise, ENR is working with the Philippines in developing its geothermal resources through the Geothermal Development Initiative.

The US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has funded activities ranging from smart grids, renewable power generation, distributed energy, and energy storage systems to help the Philippines optimize resources, strengthen markets, and build resilient energy systems.

The USTDA has completed 33 energy projects for the Philippines that have been credited by US companies with generating over \$557 million in US exports.

Manalo also said he and Blinken touched on the very foundation of Philippine-US partnership — "our common values and shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights."

"Recognizing that democracy, whether in the Philippines or the US, will always be a work in progress, we agreed to maintain open lines of communication for discussing human rights issues," he said.

Manalo has designated Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro as the Philippine representative to the Focal Group preparing for the second US-led Summit for Democracy to be hosted by President Joe Biden in early 2023.

"Our request made to our American partners is to actively contribute to cultivating a constructive environment, within the UN Human Rights Council," he said.

"Recognizing the importance of financial and technical assistance to support national institutions in the areas of human rights, I urged Secretary Blinken to support Philippine work in the UN Joint Program," Manalo said.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Atok-Big Wedge moving into renewable energy

By: Richmond Mercurio

Manila, Philippines — Roberto Ongpin-led Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. is moving forward with its plan to expand into renewable energy.

The board of Atok-Big Wedge has given the green light for the proposed change in the company's articles of incorporation, which will pave the way for the listed mining firm's planned venture into the renewable energy space.

Atok-Big Wedge, in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, said its board of directors unanimously approved the amendment of the company's primary purpose to go into renewable energy.

The company said it would submit the foregoing amendment to its articles of incorporation for the approval of at least two thirds of the stockholders through written assent.

Atok-Big Wedge earlier announced plans for a major expansion into renewable energy in a bid "to participate in the climate change effort that the entire world is presently focusing on."

The company's first project would be a 500-megawatt wind power project on Patnanungan Island, a 750-hectare property which is 22 nautical miles from Balesin island and is owned by its sister company Alphaland Corp.

It earlier said it was in discussions with a major power company in China.

Atok-Big Wedge is one of the oldest mining firms listed in the PSE, having been incorporated in the early 1930s.

The company owns Tidemark Corp., which in turn owns 20 percent of Forum Energy PLC, which has a 70 percent stake in Service Contract 72.

"As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides," Mayor Abby Binay said during a webinar on Friday organized by the Makati Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

"This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities," she warned.

In declaring a climate emergency, Binay identified several measures the local government was planning to take in order to reduce its carbon footprint or greenhouse gas emissions and to improve the city's climate resilience.

Among the plans are procuring an entire fleet of electric vehicles for the city, and using solar panels in public schools and government offices to minimize energy consumption and ensure the continuity of services during calamities.

The mayor called on the leaders of the cities' 33 barangays to take the lead in educating residents and businesses about the impact of climate change, and involving them in plans to make their communities more climate resilient.

"We must promote sustainability and climate consciousness in all our actions. We must be the change we want to see in our city and the world," Binay said.

9 flood-prone barangays

Among the cities in southern Metro Manila, Makati is known to suffer moderate to severe flooding during the monsoon season, including areas close to the financial district.

Former tidal flats, or level marshy lands that get swamped with the rising of the tides, are located at the western portion of the city. As a result, nine of its barangays are flood-prone, according to a profile on Makati in the Making Cities Resilient website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Three barangays are also identified to be near the course of Pasig River, the website added, noting that "the city faces the potential of liquefaction and landslide."

With Makati being in a state of climate emergency, Binay said she wanted to see the active involvement of the business sector, communities, and other stakeholders to address the problem.

"We call upon everyone to come together and act now. We must ensure aggressive application of the whole-of-society approach in combating climate change," she said during the webinar.

It was not the first time that Makati has shown the way in addressing the worsening impact of climate change on urban centers.

The city, for instance, was among the first local government units in Metro Manila to ban the use of single-use plastics and styrofoam or foamed polystyrene material in households and business establishments in 2013.

In 2017, the city council passed an ordinance to reduce greenhouse emissions, not only among business establishments but even tricycles plying Makati roads.

Binay said the city government was stepping up initiatives to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Makati.

Smart public transport

On Wednesday, the city entered into an agreement with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to build a smart public transport system that uses electric buses. KOICA will shell out \$13 million or about P722 million, while the city will provide land for the construction of the bus depot and parking area, and oversee the implementation of the project.

The electric bus system will complement the ongoing construction of the Makati Subway, which is envisioned to unclog traffic jams in the city, improve air quality, provide jobs to thousands of residents, boost the economy and reduce emissions.

“We need to upgrade our systems because smart transportation is more convenient, safe, and cost-effective for both the city and commuters than traditional frameworks,” Binay said.

Data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration indicated a 0.75 degrees Celsius increase in the country’s annual temperature over the past 70 years. By 2050, the temperature increase is expected to reach as high as 1.8 C.

Climate change has been blamed on extreme disasters befalling the Philippines over the years, including deadly supertyphoons such as 2013’s “Yolanda” (international name: Haiyan) in Eastern Visayas.

Environmentalists and climate scientists have repeatedly urged the government to declare a national climate emergency as a policy instrument to help the country achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement.

In November 2020, the House committee on disaster resilience adopted a resolution authored by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda declaring a climate emergency, saying climate change was a “clear and present threat to the country’s national security and its efforts to reduce poverty.”

There was also a plan in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to declare a climate emergency at the national level, with then-Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu saying it was in the works.

But then President Rodrigo Duterte’s term ended on June 30 without such a declaration.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Blinken vows US support for Philippines' clean energy transition

Gaea Katreena Cabico

MANILA, Philippines — The United States is committed to help the Philippines shift to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, State Secretary Antony Blinken said Saturday.

Washington's top diplomat said the US is committed to aid the Philippines achieve its target of increasing the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix to 35% by 2030 and to 50% by 2040. Only 21% of the country's generated power came from renewables such as solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal in 2020.

Blinken attended a clean energy event in Makati City's central business district, where he stressed that investing in clean energy is one of the "powerful" ways to address the climate crisis. The Philippines is among the countries most exposed to climate change hazards.

"These efforts are more important than ever because every region in the world is experiencing the dangerous effects of the climate crisis," he said.

Blinken also witnessed the awarding of a US Trade and Development Agency grant to Aboitiz Renewables, Inc. for a feasibility study to develop up to three gigawatts of offshore wind projects in the Philippines.

"We hope we can galvanize more investments in wind power. That's an industry with tremendous potential for growth in the Philippines," Blinken said.

In his speech, Blinken also cited US' support to help the Philippines switch to clean energy such as the State Department's Clean Energy Demand Initiative. He said 12 companies representing \$2 billion in investments have so far signed letters of intent to partner with the Philippines.

"Together, we're reducing carbon emissions while creating jobs. We're sparking innovation. We're producing affordable reliable energy for families and communities throughout the country," he continued.

Blinken also mentioned the partnership of Manila and Washington to develop a nuclear energy sector in the Philippines by facilitating cooperation between the two countries' nuclear experts.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is determined to adopt nuclear power, saying in July that it is time to re-examine the government's strategy toward building nuclear power plants. Environmental groups have been saying that nuclear power is an expensive and dangerous energy source.

Offshore wind power

During his first State of the Nation Address, Marcos stressed that increasing the use of renewables is "at the top" of the government's climate agenda.

The grant from the USTDA will help Aboitiz Renewables, Inc. identify potential offshore wind sites in the Philippines. The study is expected to last for a year and a half.

"There's huge potential for offshore wind in the Philippines. We're surrounded by waters," said Lee Hazel Balangue, first vice president for renewable energy project development & execution at Aboitiz Power Corporation.

Under a high growth scenario, the Philippines has the potential to install 21 GW of offshore wind power by 2040, accounting for 21% of its energy supply, an April 2022 joint study of the Department of Energy and the World Bank showed.

Under a low-growth scenario, the Philippines can only install GW of offshore wind, representing 3% of the country's energy supply.

Main challenges to the installation of a successful offshore wind industry at a large scale include cost of energy, transmission, impacts to the environment and sustainability, limited local chain supply, financing, and project ownership.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Makati declares climate emergency

By: Romina Cabrera

MANILA, Philippines — Makati Mayor Abby Binay on Friday declared a state of climate emergency in the city as she called on all stakeholders to implement a whole-of-society approach to combat climate change.

Binay said the city will gear up on green initiatives to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to help address the global issue.

She noted that climate change poses threats to countries and individual cities that will disrupt services and displace countless communities.

“As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides,” Mayor Abby Binay said during a webinar on Friday organized by the Makati Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

“This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities,” she warned.

In declaring a climate emergency, Binay identified several measures the local government was planning to take in order to reduce its carbon footprint or greenhouse gas emissions and to improve the city’s climate resilience.

Among the plans are procuring an entire fleet of electric vehicles for the city, and using solar panels in public schools and government offices to minimize energy consumption and ensure the continuity of services during calamities.

The mayor called on the leaders of the cities’ 33 barangays to take the lead in educating residents and businesses about the impact of climate change, and involving them in plans to make their communities more climate resilient.

“We must promote sustainability and climate consciousness in all our actions. We must be the change we want to see in our city and the world,” Binay said.

9 flood-prone barangays

Among the cities in southern Metro Manila, Makati is known to suffer moderate to severe flooding during the monsoon season, including areas close to the financial district.

Former tidal flats, or level marshy lands that get swamped with the rising of the tides, are located at the western portion of the city. As a result, nine of its barangays are flood-prone, according to a profile on Makati in the Making Cities Resilient website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Three barangays are also identified to be near the course of Pasig River, the website added, noting that “the city faces the potential of liquefaction and landslide.”

With Makati being in a state of climate emergency, Binay said she wanted to see the active involvement of the business sector, communities, and other stakeholders to address the problem.

“We call upon everyone to come together and act now. We must ensure aggressive application of the whole-of-society approach in combating climate change,” she said during the webinar.

It was not the first time that Makati has shown the way in addressing the worsening impact of climate change on urban centers.

The city, for instance, was among the first local government units in Metro Manila to ban the use of single-use plastics and styrofoam or foamed polystyrene material in households and business establishments in 2013.

In 2017, the city council passed an ordinance to reduce greenhouse emissions, not only among business establishments but even tricycles plying Makati roads.

Binay said the city government was stepping up initiatives to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Makati.

Smart public transport

On Wednesday, the city entered into an agreement with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to build a smart public transport system that uses electric buses. KOICA will shell out \$13 million or about P722 million, while the city will provide land for the construction of the bus depot and parking area, and oversee the implementation of the project.

The electric bus system will complement the ongoing construction of the Makati Subway, which is envisioned to unclog traffic jams in the city, improve air quality, provide jobs to thousands of residents, boost the economy and reduce emissions.

“We need to upgrade our systems because smart transportation is more convenient, safe, and cost-effective for both the city and commuters than traditional frameworks,” Binay said.

Data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration indicated a 0.75 degrees Celsius increase in the country’s annual

temperature over the past 70 years. By 2050, the temperature increase is expected to reach as high as 1.8 C.

Climate change has been blamed on extreme disasters befalling the Philippines over the years, including deadly supertyphoons such as 2013's "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan) in Eastern Visayas.

Environmentalists and climate scientists have repeatedly urged the government to declare a national climate emergency as a policy instrument to help the country achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement.

In November 2020, the House committee on disaster resilience adopted a resolution authored by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda declaring a climate emergency, saying climate change was a "clear and present threat to the country's national security and its efforts to reduce poverty."

There was also a plan in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to declare a climate emergency at the national level, with then-Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu saying it was in the works.

But then President Rodrigo Duterte's term ended on June 30 without such a declaration.

THE VISAYAN DAILY STAR

Solon, mayor attend 2022 World Cities Summit

By: Gilbert Bayoran

Two Negros Occidental officials joined the 8th World Cities Summit in Singapore for intensive discussions on how to help global cities remain liveable, sustainable and more resilient through prolonged and predictable disruptions, amid COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

Two Negros Occidental officials joined the 8th World Cities Summit in Singapore for intensive discussions on how to help global cities remain liveable, sustainable and more resilient through prolonged and predictable disruptions, amid COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

Negros Occidental 3rd District Rep. Jose Francisco Benitez, chairman of the House committee on Housing and Urban Development, and Victorias City Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez who is also the Negros Association of Chief Executives (ACE) president, were among the participants of the summit held at the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Singapore, representing the Philippines, that ended Aug.3.

Mayor Benitez is also focal mayor for youth development of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and representative of the ASEAN Young Business Leaders.

The two Negrense officials participated in workshop engagements on five major areas – sustainable financing, smart cities, development and planning, urban resilience and liveable future cities.

VERMONT BUSINESS MAGAZINE

Vermont Creamery joins national movement to turn food waste into renewable energy

Vermont Business Magazine Vanguard Renewables' Chief Strategy Officer John Hanselman and Vermont Creamery's President, Adeline Druart, were joined Wednesday by Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts, along with Danielle Goodrich-Gingras, co-owner and herdsman of the Goodrich Family Dairy Farm, to announce Vermont Creamery's membership in The Farm Powered Strategic Alliance (FPSA/Alliance). The announcement occurred at Vanguard Renewables' anaerobic digester, the largest in the northeast, located on the Goodrich Family Dairy Farm in Salisbury, Vermont.

The Farm Powered Strategic Alliance is a collaborative movement to boost food waste reduction and recycling and expand renewable energy production across America. The Alliance was founded in 2020 by Vanguard Renewables, Unilever, Starbucks, and Dairy Farmers of America and aims to avoid or eliminate food waste first and repurpose what can't be eliminated into renewable energy via Farm Powered® anaerobic digesters.

"Vermont Creamery has grown from a two-person start-up to become one of the leaders in the sustainable dairy movement," said John Hanselman, chief strategy officer at Vanguard Renewables. "Working with Adeline and her team to further their commitment to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to support regenerative agriculture on dairy farms in Vermont is proof that Vanguard's Farm Powered® movement is changing how food manufacturers are thinking about their waste and how they can turn it into something good for our planet - like renewable natural gas at one of our country's multi-generational dairy farms."

"We have long sought an opportunity to use anaerobic digesters to convert food waste into renewable energy, and Vanguard Renewables facility and model is delivering for us," said Adeline Druart, President of Vermont Creamery. "We must tackle food waste and make good on our goal to turn the food waste we create here in Websterville into renewable energy, and thanks to this partnership, and our new membership to the Farm Powered Strategic Alliance, we're doing just that."

"Vermont farmers are always looking for new ways to improve the environment and be innovators for the rest of the United States," said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture. "This is another example of working together to think of solutions that tackle food waste while creating energy. Congratulations to Vermont Creamery and their farmers for this innovative partnership with the Farm Powered Strategic Alliance."

Since April 2022, Vermont Creamery has diverted over 2,750 tons of inedible food waste from the landfill to Vanguard's anaerobic digester at the Goodrich Family Farm in Salisbury, Vermont. The company has mitigated nearly 1,600 tons of greenhouse gas emissions in just under five months. This is the equivalent of taking nearly 350 cars off

our roads for a year, planting over 26 thousand trees, or generating enough power to charge more than 530 thousand individuals' cell phones annually.

The Farm Powered Strategic Alliance, named one of Fast Company's 2021 World Changing Ideas, includes Unilever, Starbucks, Dairy Farmers of America, Vanguard Renewables, Stonyfield Organic, Cabot Creamery, Smithfield Foods, Food Tank (a leading NGO), Chobani, Kikkoman, Schreiber Foods, Hillebrand, Polar Beverages, and now Vermont Creamery. The Alliance offers U.S. food manufacturers and retailers a circular approach to reducing the detrimental environmental impacts of CO2 emissions and provides a pathway toward a carbon-neutral footprint. Members commit to recycle unavoidable food and beverage waste on farms where it is combined with farm manure in a Farm Powered anaerobic digester to generate renewable natural gas (RNG). Hosting a Farm Powered anaerobic digester provides farm partners with a diversified income stream in addition to a by-product of the operation: a low-carbon fertilizer that host farms can spread in place of chemical fertilizers and supports regenerative agriculture practices.

Vanguard Renewables recently announced that a fund managed by BlackRock Real Assets has acquired the company. BlackRock Real Assets will partner with Vanguard Renewables' management team to build upon the company's market-leading track record and drive its next phase of growth, including both its expansion of the Farm Powered Strategic Alliance and its plans to commission more than 150 anaerobic digesters to produce renewable natural gas across the country by 2026.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER

Manchin votes with GOP to cancel Biden environmental permitting rule

By: Jeremy Beaman

The Senate passed a resolution Thursday canceling a Biden administration rule governing environmental reviews for infrastructure projects that Republicans have argued made permitting more onerous, holding up construction.

All 49 Republicans present, and the lone Democratic vote of Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), were enough to pass the Congressional Review Act joint resolution of disapproval, which would strike down a rule governing implementation of the National Environmental Policy Review Act. Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK), who introduced the resolution, and other Republican supporters argued the NEPA rule makes the review and permitting of infrastructure projects more difficult.

A CLOSER LOOK AT MANCHIN'S ASKS ON PERMITTING

The rule in question was finalized by the White House's Council on Environmental Quality in April and rolled back Trump-era reforms to the NEPA implementation process, including the condition that agencies overseeing environmental reviews limit their scope to "reasonably foreseeable" impacts of a given action.

The Biden rule instead directed agencies to consider the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, with the intent being to quantify how a project could contribute to climate change.

In order for the joint resolution to take effect, the House of Representatives would also need to pass the resolution, and President Joe Biden would have to give it his signature, which is unlikely.

Sullivan framed the vote as a choice between laborers who build projects, such as highways and pipelines, and liberal interest groups seeking to stop projects. He said the rule "invites and incentivizes delay and litigation" and runs contrary to the new bipartisan infrastructure law, which allocated tens of billions of dollars for new infrastructure and included multiple permitting reforms.

Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), who chairs the Environment and Public Works Committee, expressed his opposition to the resolution ahead of the vote. Blocking the Biden rule, Carper said, is the "policy equivalent to burying our heads in the sand" about climate change and the environmental impact that a given project might have.

"Refusing to consider the impact of climate change will not stop the climate from changing," he said.

Carper also criticized the Trump-era NEPA reforms, although a few of them were carried over and passed by Congress in the new infrastructure law, including one provision that sets a goal of two years for agencies to complete environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects.

The showdown coincides with Democrats finalizing negotiations over a tax and spending package that would devote hundreds of billions of dollars to green energy.

In separate legislation, Democrats will take up comprehensive permitting reform, according to an agreement between Manchin and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DWIZ ONLINE

Climate Education sa K-12 ikinalugod ng Climate Change Commission

By: Gilbert Paredez

Ikinalugod ng Climate Change Commission o CCC ang pahayag ng Department of Education ukol sa pagpapaigting ng climate education sa K to 12 curriculum.

Ayon kay CCC Secretary Robert Borje, mahalagang maisama ang usapin ng pagbabago ng klima sa education curriculum na isa sa mga susi upang itaas ang kamalayan tungkol dito sa hanay ng mga kabataan.

Matatandaang bumuo ang DepEd ng Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service o DRRMS para matiyak ang integrasyon ng climate literacy sa basic education alinsunod na rin sa Climate Change Act of 2009.

MANILA BULLETIN

DepEd teachers undergo online training to strengthen climate change education

By: Merlina Hernando-Malipot

In line with its efforts to strengthen climate change education in the country, teachers under the Department of Education (DepEd) underwent online training.

Through “Climate Changemakers,” DepEd partnered with Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) where exchange alumni set out to strengthen climate change education.

“Time is of the essence. Climate change is an emergency. The time to act is now,” said DepEd Disaster Risk Reduction Management Service (DRRMS) Director Ronilda Co.

Climate Changemakers is the first climate change training course recognized by the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) as part of the Professional Development Priorities of the DepEd.

DepEd said that the program aims to increase the capacities of teachers to effectively teach climate change competencies, integrate climate change in competencies, and commit to climate action.

Some 400 teachers completed the ten-week online course that utilized synchronous and asynchronous modalities focusing on correcting misconceptions about climate change.

Climate Changemakers is also supported by the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines, Save the Children Philippines, YGoal Philippines, Climate Reality Project Philippines, and Climate Action for Sustainability Initiative.

The online training also provided a space for teachers to reflect on their learning and share challenges and good practices.

The course featured lectures from exchange alumni of the YSEALI program of the U.S. Department of State, representatives and former and present members of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the Climate Change Commission, technical specialists and teachers from the Department of Education, and climate change-focused organizations like the Oscar M. Lopez (OML) Center and Youth Strike for Climate Philippines.

The first batch of the training was held from November 2021 to March 2022 where the completers were trained to be mentors in partnership with the Divisions of Apayao, Sorsogon, Iloilo City, Eastern Samar, and Surigao Del Sur from the Cordillera Administrative Region, Region V, VII, VIII, and Caraga, respectively.

The second batch was opened to all K to 12 teachers from public and private schools across the country where hundreds applied and completed their synchronous and asynchronous activities.

Following the ongoing K to 12 curriculum review and revision, Co said that DepEd will further enhance the Climate Changemakers online training course before its next release in 2023.

“We hope to continue training our teachers to effectively teach climate education and ultimately answer the call to commit to climate action in the Philippines,” she added.

THE MANILA TIMES

DepEd supports increased climate change topics in curriculum

By: Red Mendoza

The Department of Education (DepEd) is supporting the call of the Climate Change Commission for the strengthening of climate literacy and the inclusion of climate action in the basic education curriculum.

It added that the inclusion of climate action in the curriculum will hone learners and personnel who are climate-literate and proactive in championing resilient and sustainable schools.

In a statement on Saturday, DepEd said that its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service has been promoting climate education through different programs, projects and activities aligned with the updated K to 12 curriculum as per Republic Act 9729 or the "Climate Change Act."

It added that climate change concepts have been integrated with the curriculum in subjects such as Science, Health, Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies), Edukasyon sa Pagpapa-katao (Values Education), Mathematics, English, Filipino, Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (Home Economics and Livelihood Education), Technology and Livelihood Economics, and Music, Arts and Physical Education.

It added that while climate change concepts are integrated in the curriculum, there is a need to "strengthen its presence in the curriculum by refining learning competencies and standards and monitoring learning delivery."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DepEd aims to boost 'climate literacy'

By: Jane Bautista

MANILA, Philippines — As a new international study urged people to start preparing for the possibility of a “climate endgame,” the Department of Education (DepEd) said it was eyeing a collaboration with experts to improve climate change education, particularly at the basic education level.

“DepEd is one with the Climate Change Commission in strengthening climate literacy and supporting climate action in the basic education curriculum to hone learners and personnel who are climate literate and proactive in championing resilient and sustainable schools,” it said in a statement on Saturday.

It noted that while key climate change concepts were already integrated into the K-12 curriculum, there was a need to “strengthen [their] presence...by refining learning competencies and standards, and monitoring learning delivery.”

It noted that while key climate change concepts were already integrated into the K-12 curriculum, there was a need to “strengthen [their] presence...by refining learning competencies and standards, and monitoring learning delivery.”

From kindergarten to junior high school, topics on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and climate change action are included in subject areas like health, science, Araling Panlipunan and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao.

On the other hand, a special subject on DRRM is offered as part of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) strand in senior high school.

Core, specialized subjects

To also empower teachers to teach climate change competencies and “commit to climate action,” DepEd, in collaboration with the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, recently conducted “Climate Changemakers,” a 10-week online training course, for some 400 teachers

“Time is of the essence. Climate change is an emergency. The time to act is now,” Ronilda Co, DepEd director for disaster risk reduction and management, said at the completion ceremony which took place last month.

“Following the ongoing K-12 curriculum review and revision, we will also further enhance the Climate Changemakers online training course before its next release in 2023 and we hope to continue training our teachers to effectively teach climate education and ultimately answer the call to commit to climate action in the Philippines,” she said.

The training program consists of three subjects: a core subject on the introduction to climate change, a specialized subject for teaching climate change, and a supplemental course for online learning facilitators.

'Dangerously underexplored'

The core subject ends with a "capstone project" of a personal/family/school action plan while teachers are expected to come up with a daily lesson log with climate change integration for the specialized subject.

A new international research said that despite growing public consensus about the urgency of the climate crisis, high-impact climate scenarios still remain "dangerously underexplored" by both scientists and policymakers.

In the study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists from the University of Cambridge argued that climate scientists must now look into outcomes "ranging from a loss of 10 percent of the global population to eventual human extinction."

"There are plenty of reasons to believe climate change could become catastrophic, even at modest levels of warming," said lead author Luke Kemp. "Climate change has played a role in every mass extinction event... The catastrophic risk is there, but we need a more detailed picture."

Currently, the scientists said, the consequences of global warming and its related risks remain underexamined, and much of climate-related action remain naive to extreme scenarios such as mass extinction.

At the same time, phrases like "catastrophic climate change" remain deeply ambiguous and thus undermine scientific inquiry into the crisis, they added.

Sustainability as the key to resiliency

By: Ar. Vittoria Mawis-Aliston

The Philippines, with its rich landscape, has always been vulnerable to natural calamities. Thunderstorms, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes—these are just some of the dangers we have faced in the past. And with the onset of global warming, these calamities seemed to have gotten more dangerous in recent years.

With disaster resiliency programs in place, both in the public and private sectors, what else could we do to mitigate the effects of natural calamities? According to the Climate Change Commission (NPTE of CCC), the answer lies in our communities' efforts to combat climate change.

Fighting a global problem at the local level

“What is global must now be addressed at the local level. What was theoretical now demands practical applications on the ground.” These words were uttered by CCC chairperson-designate Carlos Dominguez III during the 2021 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

This sentiment encourages local government units (LGUs) to implement projects geared towards adapting to climate change. By implementing local measures to fight global warming, our government hopes to empower vulnerable communities to combat the effects of climate change and to better prepare for disasters.

Thankfully, many communities have already begun efforts to take better care of the environment. Such initiatives were rewarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the 2021 Resiliency Awards. These projects serve as exemplary models on how local communities can make a difference and prepare for natural disasters.

A clean-up drive initiated by the Botolan LGU helps ensure that the local Najeko River would remain free of debris despite the influx of tourists.

A clean-up drive initiated by the Botolan LGU helps ensure that the local Najeko River would remain free of debris despite the influx of tourists.

The Philippines, with its rich landscape, has always been vulnerable to natural calamities. Thunderstorms, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes—these are just some of the dangers we have faced in the past. And with the onset of global warming, these calamities seemed to have gotten more dangerous in recent years.

With disaster resiliency programs in place, both in the public and private sectors, what else could we do to mitigate the effects of natural calamities? According to the Climate Change Commission (NPTE of CCC), the answer lies in our communities' efforts to combat climate change.

Fighting a global problem at the local level

“What is global must now be addressed at the local level. What was theoretical now demands practical applications on the ground.” These words were uttered by CCC chairperson-designate Carlos Dominguez III during the 2021 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

This sentiment encourages local government units (LGUs) to implement projects geared towards adapting to climate change. By implementing local measures to fight global warming, our government hopes to empower vulnerable communities to combat the effects of climate change and to better prepare for disasters.

Thankfully, many communities have already begun efforts to take better care of the environment. Such initiatives were rewarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the 2021 Resiliency Awards. These projects serve as exemplary models on how local communities can make a difference and prepare for natural disasters.

A gender-empowered initiative

The project that won first place in the 2021 Resiliency Awards is commendable not only for its environmental efforts but also for highlighting its feminist achievements. Entitled “Women Leadership, Trailblazers of Environmental Sustainability,” the presentation was made by Annadine Manzinares, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) in Botolan, Zambales. The initiative highlighted the efforts of Botolan in promoting sustainability in their area.

In particular, Botolan has installed artificial reefs with coral transplantation—an initiative that helps enrich marine life and ensure the livelihood of fishermen and tourism-based businesses. Besides this effort, the LGU also implements mangrove and forest reforestation, as well as a solid waste management system. Some of the waste is recycled and turned into income-generating products, such as Eco-bricks and Fish Amino Acid.

Fighting against greenhouse gases

The second place winner was represented by Engr. Reynaldo Gonzales of the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources in Zamboanga City.

For its part, Zamboanga established a transfer station and materials recovery facility, and implemented reforestation projects in the city’s watershed and mangrove forests. The city also established climate-resilient school buildings which are designed with rainwater collection systems and other sustainable features. The LGU further spearheaded the development of the City Waterfront and Heritage Walk as part of its tourism efforts.

These initiatives have turned Zamboanga into a model city when it comes to reducing greenhouse gases. According to Engr. Gonzales, the city has further reduced their carbon footprint by monitoring their fossil fuel and electricity consumption.

The Sagip-Wakatan program

An annual drive to reforest mangroves, replant trees and clean-up coasts won the third prize in the Resiliency Awards. Implemented by the LGU of Bayabas in Surigao del Sur, the project aims to increase the population of mangroves in their area. This would help protect the people from disasters such as storm surges, tsunamis and soil erosion accidents.

As a bonus, the project also allowed the locals to earn their livelihood from the additional tourism and activities generated by the project. The “Gakit festival” was developed as part of the initiative, which boosted eco-tourism in the area.

“For the changing climate, the strong community ownership and co-ownership of ecosystem conservation is a resilient foundation of a community,” said Bayabas Mayor Limbaro.

Going green to save lives

In general, it makes sense to take care of Mother Nature to avoid her wrath. Community-led green initiatives make a lot of difference when it comes to preventing massive destruction from natural calamities. While we cannot predict or prevent earthquakes or storms from happening, we can avoid destruction by protecting our environment.

Hopefully, these community projects mark only the beginning of local efforts to promote sustainability in our country. If these projects help pave the way for other initiatives to take place, there is much hope that the Philippines would be able to better overcome disasters of the future.

=END=