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By: Mengdi Yue and Christoph Nedopil

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By: Nanette Guadalquiver

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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By: Mengdi Yue and Christoph Nedopil

Many emerging Asian economies require billions of development finance to meet climate and economic growth targets. Developed countries have repeatedly committed to supporting the green transition but they have consistently fallen short of expectations.

Developed countries committed to mobilizing US\$100 billion per year by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries but fell well short of expectations.

Indonesia, for example, requires about \$281 billion of funding from 2018 to 2030 — or about \$22 billion annually — to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43.20% with international support.

Several Asian economies, including Indonesia and Vietnam, have been negotiating a Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP).

JETP Indonesia includes \$10 billion in public sector pledges from International Partners Group members and other actors such as the European Union, United States, Japan, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom. It also includes a commitment to mobilize an additional \$10 billion in private financing.

But relying solely on such promises poses risks to national climate and development progress due to uncertainties and signals of backsliding by developed countries. Indonesia and other emerging Asian economies need to recognize the challenges associated with accelerating the implementation of climate finance commitments.

Public and private climate finance is difficult to deliver internationally. This climate finance often lacks specified sovereign commitments and relies on risk-reward analysis for private-sector investments. This contrasts with China's approach of combining public and "commercial" finance through policy banks and state-owned enterprises.

Even with international climate finance through JETP, financing large-scale green energy projects becomes challenging due to increased foreign exchange risks. This limits local financial institutions' capacity to provide long-term loans.

Sovereign guarantees, which are essential for derisking larger projects, are harder to obtain due to sovereign debt risks. The dominance of state-owned enterprises in most Asian developing countries' energy markets also restricts private investor participation in power and grid projects.

Lastly, support for domestically financing the energy transition has experienced setbacks due to energy security concerns amid rising energy prices. This has resulted in increased coal production in Indonesia and reversals of no-new-coal commitments in countries like Pakistan.

Developing Asian economies can consider strategies to address these challenges such as strengthening commitments, mitigating investment risks, improving market mechanisms and cooperating with regional partners.

To accelerate the green energy transition, developing economies can strengthen political and regulatory commitments. Green-minded investors — including development finance institutions — cannot credibly provide coal-transition finance while political support for coal is not reduced.

This was highlighted in the June 2023 draft of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero Guide to Managed Phaseout of Coal in Asia-Pacific. The guide states that the foundation for attracting green and coal-transition finance is to ensure the “credibility of relevant energy transition and coal phaseout commitments and plans.”

Existing climate change partnerships with multilateral organizations or bilateral countries — such as Indonesia’s partnership with Norway — can help strengthen domestic institutions and capacity building.

Another strategy for developing economies is to enhance collaboration between local financial partners and major donor countries to mitigate investment risks. This can be achieved through currency hedging support and guarantee instruments to attract private investors.

Recent discussions at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris emphasized the importance of innovative financing mechanisms.

The development of innovative financing mechanisms could consider ASEAN’s sustainable finance taxonomy with a traffic light system which supports coal retirement and Indonesia’s new sustainable finance framework. This would help to build on Bank Indonesia’s previous experience of issuing green bonds.

Market mechanisms should also be improved to attract private investors across the green energy supply chain. Providing tax incentives for green energy projects, expediting negotiations of green energy power purchase agreements and ensuring priority payments for green electricity provision can attract these private investments.

Encouraging green transition investments in state-owned enterprises through international partnerships could also leverage green finance instruments.

Developing economies should also seek cooperation with regional partners such as China and South Korea for additional renewable energy project funding. China's increasing investments in overseas green energy and hydropower projects — as well as its efforts to “green” the Belt and Road Initiative — make it an important regional partner.

China–Indonesia partnerships, supported by the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition and Indonesia's Institute for Essential Services Reform, can accelerate green Chinese investments in Indonesia.

South Korea is another promising regional partner in climate cooperation with its commitment to supporting the Green Climate Fund in providing a total of \$30.3 billion for climate projects in partner countries.

Successfully accelerating the greening of the energy system in emerging Asian economies requires significant willingness and risk-taking to tackle financing and political constraints in addition to important transition considerations.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[PHL top scientists and outstanding women hold successful KLIMA conference in Tacloban](#)

Local government executives from all over the Visayas, private sector sustainability officers and scientists held a successful workshop seminar, “KLIMA” organized by TOWNS Foundation (The Outstanding Women in the Nation’s Service and NAST (National Academy of Science and Technology) at the Summit Hotel in Tacloban where science and nature-based solutions to climate change were tackled.

“The first step towards solving a problem is first to acknowledge that there is in fact a problem. We here in this room, and in the Philippines in general, thankfully, are fully aware that climate change is well on its way and has a huge impact on us. It seems obvious to say this but unfortunately, some of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions are still debating if climate change is real and/or if they should do anything about it,” observed Dr Aletta Yñiguez in her synthesis on the conference. Yñiguez is a TOWNS member and was named one of Asia’s best scientists this year.

Academician Rex Victor Cruz who chairs the NAST Climate Change Committee highlighted the significant exposure of watershed ecosystems and attendant services to climate variability, extreme rain and temperature, floods, droughts and erosion.

A very instructive and relevant portion of Cruz’ presentation concerned overlapping boundaries of watershed ecosystems across municipalities and provinces hence the need for more harmonized planning among local government units.

Academicians Glenn Gregorio and Marie Antonette Juinio-Meñez, also a TOWNS member, illustrated the exposure of our agricultural and fisheries systems to climate change.

Rice, a Filipino staple, is threatened by salinization, drought and floods. Aquaculture systems and capture fisheries, and importantly the fishers themselves are at risk due to a variety of climate change hazards from increased temperatures, sea level rise, stronger storms, and ocean acidification.

The private sector themselves have conducted assessments on how climate change hazards affect or can affect their operations such as airlines, hotels, sugar production, and investments.

The very positive point is that there is a lot of effort toward strategizing and implementing mitigation and adaptation measures. Even with gaps in knowledge on the

risks, we already have holistic approaches that address not just climate change, but also significant localized threats we have known about for a long time.

Academician Cruz specified the watershed ecosystem-based approach to come up with Comprehensive Land Use Plans that integrate our responses to climate change and other threats.

But a big challenge is for all the different NGAs, LGUs and stakeholders to work together across political and other boundaries to come up with truly integrated plans. Academician Cesar Villanoy reminded us that the Philippines is blessed with habitats that serve as natural defenses to storm surges, flooding and erosion, but these need to be protected and we also need to explore nature-based coastal protection.

Academician Gregorio lined up various policy interventions that integrate rice varietal development with comprehensive actions such as enhancing science and technology applications and capacity development, and implementing good agricultural practices for growing rice in coastal saline areas.

Academician Juinio-Meñez pointed out the necessity for healthy coastal ecosystems to support sustainable capture fisheries and the health and security of coastal households. She also suggested looking into alternative aquaculture systems such as non-fed culture systems, integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, and most especially community-based culture and resources management where coastal communities are capacitated, supported and secured.

The private sector representatives also provided enlightening examples of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

Dr. Rodel Lasco, Executive Director of the Oscar M. Lopez Center presented a suite of tools that could be used for decision-support for climate change adaptation planning.

Katrina Francisco, Partner of SGV on Climate Change and Sustainability Services noted the importance of incorporating strategies for climate change action into city budgeting, and the process of tagging so there's transparency in potential climate funds.

Yvonne Flores, Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Head of the Gokongwei Group shared their company's climate resilience workshops.

Ellainne Muhal, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Head of the Victorias Milling Corporation's Distillery shared how VMC is working toward the principle of circularity in their production and enhancing their mitigation measures. Jo Anne Eala, VP and Head

of BPI's Sustainability Office emphasized their work with communities on climate change education, risk identification and readiness.

There is no denying the complexity of understanding, and even more so mitigating and adapting to climate change – as well as all the other threats. Going through the hands-on interactive Survive and Thrive simulation game led by TOWNS member and academician Dr. Laura David, emphasized these complexities, but at the same time illustrating the unquestionable partnership between natural resources and human activities, as well as between various sectors. Reef BayBe, a game developed by the UP Marine Institute, allowed for a more detailed exploration of the impacts of management decisions on coastal resources.

There is still much to understand about how climate change hazards will affect various ecosystems, communities and sectors in the Philippines, especially at a variety of scales or resolutions that would help provide concrete science-based recommendations.

What is heartening are the diverse efforts of diverse people coming together for climate action, learning about each other's approaches, and that hopefully will spur much-needed collaborative and integrative efforts.

The sponsors of the resilience workshop are First Gen Corporation, Energy Development Corporation, Oscar M. Lopez Center, Cebu Pacific, Summit Hotels, Go Hotels, JG Summit Holdings Inc. Victorias Milling Company, BPI, and SGV and Company. NAST and TOWNS will hold another "KLIMA" conference before the end of the year, this time in Mindanao.

[Young environmental activists prevail in first-of-its-kind climate change trial in Montana](#)

By: Matthew Brown & Amy Beth Hanson

Young environmental activists scored what experts described as a ground-breaking legal victory Monday when a Montana judge said state agencies were violating their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment by allowing fossil fuel development.

The ruling in this first-of-its-kind trial in the US adds to a small number of legal decisions around the world that have established a government duty to protect citizens from climate change. If it stands, the ruling could set an important legal precedent, though experts said the immediate impacts are limited and state officials pledged to seek to overturn the decision on appeal.

District Court Judge Kathy Seeley found the policy the state uses in evaluating requests for fossil fuel permits—which does not allow agencies to look at greenhouse gas emissions—is unconstitutional.

It marks the first time a US court has ruled against a government for violating a constitutional right based on climate change, said Harvard Law School Professor Richard Lazarus.

“To be sure, it is a state court not a federal court and the ruling is based on a state constitution and not the US Constitution, but it is still clearly a major, pathbreaking win for climate plaintiffs,” Lazarus wrote in an e-mail.

The judge rejected the state’s argument that Montana’s emissions are insignificant, saying they were “a substantial factor” in climate change. Montana is a major producer of coal burned for electricity and has large oil and gas reserves.

“Every additional ton of GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions exacerbates plaintiffs’ injuries and risks locking in irreversible climate injuries,” Seeley wrote.

However, it’s up to the Montana Legislature to determine how to bring the state’s policies into compliance. That leaves slim chances for prompt changes in a fossil fuel-friendly state where Republicans dominate the statehouse.

Only a few states, including Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, have constitutions with similar environmental protections.

“The ruling really provides nothing beyond emotional support for the many cases seeking to establish a public trust right, human right or a federal constitutional right” to a

healthy environment, said James Huffman, dean emeritus at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland.

State officials had tried to derail the case and prevent it from going to trial through numerous motions to dismiss the lawsuit.

Claire Vlases was 17 years old when she became a plaintiff in the case. Now 20 and working as a ski instructor, she said climate change hangs over every aspect of her life.

“I think a lot of young people feel really helpless, especially when it comes to the future,” Vlases said, adding that she expects Montana lawmakers to respect the state’s constitution and abide by the court’s decision. “Hopefully this is one for history,” she said.

Emily Flower, spokesperson for Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, decried the ruling as “absurd” and said the office planned to appeal. She criticized Seeley for allowing the plaintiffs to put on what Flower called a “taxpayer-funded publicity stunt.”

“Montanans can’t be blamed for changing the climate,” she said. “Their same legal theory has been thrown out of federal court and courts in more than a dozen states. It should have been here as well.”

Attorneys for the 16 plaintiffs, ranging in age from 5 to 22, presented evidence during the two-week trial that increasing carbon dioxide emissions are driving hotter temperatures, more drought and wildfires and decreased snowpack.

The plaintiffs said those changes were harming their mental and physical health, with wildfire smoke choking the air they breathe and drought drying out rivers that sustain agriculture, fish, wildlife and recreation. Native Americans testifying for the plaintiffs said climate change affects their ceremonies and traditional food sources.

The state argued that even if Montana completely stopped producing CO₂, it would have no effect on a global scale because states and countries around the world contribute to the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. A remedy has to offer relief, the state said, or it’s not a remedy at all.

Seeley said the state’s attorneys failed to give a compelling reason for why they were not evaluating greenhouse gas emissions. She rejected the notion that Montana’s greenhouse gas emissions are insignificant and noted that renewable power is “technically feasible and economically beneficial,” citing testimony from the trial indicating Montana could replace 80 percent of existing fossil fuel energy by 2030.

Since its founding, Our Children's Trust has raised more than \$20 million to press its lawsuits in state and federal court. No previous attempts reached trial.

Carbon dioxide, which is released when fossil fuels are burned, traps heat in the atmosphere and is largely responsible for the warming of the climate. This spring, carbon dioxide levels in the air reached the highest levels they've been in over 4 million years, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration said earlier this month.

July was the hottest month on record globally and likely the warmest that human civilization has seen, according to scientists.

INTERAKSYON

[How climate change might trigger more earthquakes and volcanic eruptions](#)

By: Matthew Blackett

Earth's climate is changing rapidly. In some areas, escalating temperatures are increasing the frequency and likelihood of wildfires and drought. In others, they are making downpours and storms more intense or accelerating the pace of glacial melting.

The past month is a stark illustration of exactly this. Parts of Europe and Canada are being devastated by wildfires, while Beijing has recorded its heaviest rainfall in at least 140 years. Looking back further, between 2000 and 2019 the world's glaciers lost around 267 gigatonnes of ice per year. Melting glaciers contribute to rising sea levels (currently rising by about 3.3mm per year) and more coastal hazards such as flooding and erosion.

But research suggests that our changing climate may not solely influence hazards at the Earth's surface. Climate change – and specifically rising rainfall rates and glacial melting – could also exacerbate dangers beneath the Earth's surface, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Drought in Europe and North America has received a lot of recent media coverage. But the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report in 2021 revealed that average rainfall has actually increased in many world regions since 1950. A warmer atmosphere can retain more water vapour, subsequently leading to higher levels of precipitation.

Interestingly, geologists have long identified a relationship between rainfall rates and seismic activity. In the Himalayas, for example, the frequency of earthquakes is influenced by the annual rainfall cycle of the summer monsoon season. Research reveals that 48% of Himalayan earthquakes strike during the drier pre-monsoon months of March, April and May, while just 16% occur in the monsoon season.

During the summer monsoon season, the weight of up to 4 metres of rainfall compresses the crust both vertically and horizontally, stabilising it. When this water disappears in the winter, the effective "rebound" destabilises the region and increases the number of earthquakes that occur.

In the pre-monsoon period, the number of earthquakes increases.

Shashikant Nagale et al. (2022)/Geodesy and Geodynamics, CC BY-NC-ND

Climate change could intensify this phenomenon. Climate models project that the intensity of monsoon rainfall in southern Asia will increase in the future as a result of

climate change. This could feasibly enhance the winter rebound and cause more seismic events.

The impact of water's weight on the Earth's crust goes beyond just precipitation; it extends to glacial ice as well. As the last ice age came to an end roughly 10,000 years ago, the thawing of heavy glacial ice masses caused parts of the Earth's crust to rebound upwards. This process, called isostatic rebound, is evidenced by raised beaches in Scotland – some of which are up to 45 meters above current sea level.

Evidence from Scandinavia suggests that such uplift, coupled with the destabilization of the region's tectonics, triggered numerous earthquake events between 11,000 and 7,000 years ago. Some of these earthquakes even exceeded a magnitude of 8.0 which indicates severe destruction and loss of life. The concern is that the continued melting of glacial ice today could result in similar effects elsewhere.

How about volcanic activity?

Research has also found a correlation between glacial-load changes on the Earth's crust and the occurrence of volcanic activity. Approximately 5,500–4,500 years ago, Earth's climate briefly cooled and glaciers began to expand in Iceland. Analysis of volcanic ash deposits spread throughout Europe suggest that volcanic activity in Iceland markedly reduced during this period.

There was a subsequent increase in volcanic activity following the end of this cool period, albeit with a delay of several hundred years.

This phenomenon can be explained by the weight of glaciers compressing both the Earth's crust and the underlying mantle (the mostly solid bulk of Earth's interior). This kept the material that makes up the mantle under higher pressure, preventing it from melting and forming the magma required for volcanic eruptions.

However, deglaciation and the associated loss of weight on the Earth's surface allowed a process called decompression melting to occur, where lower pressure facilitates melting in the mantle. Such melting resulted in the formation of the liquid magma that fuelled the subsequent volcanic activity in Iceland.

Even today, this process is responsible for driving some volcanic activity in Iceland. Eruptions at two volcanoes, Grímsvötn and Katla, consistently occur during the summer period when glaciers retreat.

It is therefore feasible that ongoing glacial retreat due to global warming could potentially increase volcanic activity in the future. However, the time lag between glacial changes and the volcanic response is reassuring for now.

The impacts of a changing climate are becoming more evident, with unusual weather events having become the norm rather than the exception. However, the indirect impacts of climate change on the ground beneath our feet are neither widely known or discussed.

This must change if we are to minimize the effects of the changing climate that have already been set firmly in motion.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

'Danger' level heat index to continue in parts of Luzon

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

The weather bureau is expecting danger level heat index (the temperature that a person feels) to continue in some areas in Luzon.

"Our analysis shows that most areas in Metro Manila, Northern and Central Luzon will still experience danger level heat index," said Marcelino Villafuerte II, chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's (PAGASA) Climate Impact Assessment and Application Climatology, in a public briefing Tuesday.

PAGASA logged a 60°C heat index in Casiguran, Aurora on Monday. The bureau estimates the heat index based on the combined effects of the temperature and air humidity.

The heat index in Casiguran fell under the extreme danger level, wherein heat stroke is imminent.

"We hope that the 60°C (heat index) will not be interpreted based on its magnitude but rather on its possible impact on health. The public should take precautions because when (the heat index) goes beyond 52°C, it means this is an extreme danger level and heat stroke is imminent," Villafuerte said.

He said the high heat index reaching danger level started in some areas in Luzon last week. High temperature was also recorded in Metro Manila despite some rains.

PAGASA recorded a 40°C heat index (extreme caution level) at the Science Garden in Quezon City, and 43°C (danger level) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Monday.

The 43°C heat index may result in heat cramps and heat exhaustion, as well as heat stroke.

"The public should take precautions against adverse effects of high heat index," Villafuerte emphasized.

He advised the public to lessen the risks by drinking water regularly, and minimizing time outdoors. It is better to do outdoor activities late in the afternoon or early morning, he added.

Villafuerte said one may suffer from heat stroke if he or she will continue intense activities while the heat index is high.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[50% chance 2023 will be warmest year on record — US gov't climate experts](#)

By: Agence France Presse

There is a nearly 50% probability that 2023 will be the warmest year ever recorded and next year could be even hotter, US government climate experts said Monday.

"2023 to date has been the third warmest on record," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) chief scientist Sarah Kapnick told reporters.

"It is virtually certain -- over 99% chance -- that 2023 will rank among the five warmest years on record with a nearly 50% probability that 2023 will rank warmest on record," Kapnick said.

Gavin Schmidt, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, said next year could be even hotter than this year because of the Pacific warming phenomenon known as El Niño.

"The biggest impact of El Niño will actually occur in 2024," Schmidt said. "So we're anticipating that not only is 2023 going to be exceptionally warm and possibly a record warm year, but we anticipate that 2024 will be warmer still."

The European Union's climate observatory Copernicus reported last week that July was the hottest month ever recorded on Earth, and NOAA figures released on Monday were in line with the EU data.

"The average global surface temperature in July was 2.02 degrees Fahrenheit (1.12 degrees Celsius) above average, ranking it as the warmest July in NOAA's 174-year record," NOAA said.

NOAA also said that global ocean surface temperatures hit a record high in July for a fourth consecutive month, as El Niño conditions that emerged in June continued.

Kate Calvin, NASA's chief scientist and senior climate advisor, said "climate change is having impacts on people and ecosystems all around the world.

"Along with changes in temperature, we're experiencing other changes in climate like sea level rise, declines in Arctic sea ice, wildfires, heavy precipitation events and more," Calvin said.

Bill Nelson, the administrator of the US space agency, said it is "self-evident that the Earth is heating up.

"Mother Nature is sending us a message," Nelson said. "And that message is we better act now, before it's too late to save our climate, in other words, to save our planet."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

GLOBAL DAILY MIRROR

[Cooperation needed to lessen effects of climate change: CCC](#)

By: Denisse Osorio

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) called on stakeholders to form part of a global, coordinated effort to address climate change and enhance regional and national disaster resilience by mainstreaming the Philippines' socio-economic development planning and implementation.

“Our collective resolve will allow us to do more to save lives and protect the livelihoods of the present and future generations,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said at the Asian Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience (ACCCDR).

The Marcos administration embedded climate change in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, specifically "Chapter 15: Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience."

Borje emphasized the need for "Bayanihan" to further strengthen collaboration, foster innovative solutions, and demonstrate accountability across sectors and nations as he highlighted the critical roles of government agencies and legislators, business and private sector leaders, academic and research institutions, civil society and non-government organizations (NGOs), and international and regional organizations.

“The challenge is now—we must challenge ourselves to do better for our sake, and for our world's future,” Borje said, noting that “building bridges is not just a metaphorical concept but a moral imperative to achieve the desired resilience for us all.”

The ACCCDR was presented by Aboitiz Power Corporation in partnership with the CCC, Asian Institute of Management (AIM), NOW Corporation, and EASD Environmental Consultancy.

POLITIKO

[Borje calls for bayanihan efforts vs climate change, disaster resilience](#)

By: prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) called on stakeholders to embrace “Bayanihan” in addressing the climate crisis and developing regional and national climate change and disaster resilience.

In his “Call to Action and Collaboration” at the recent Asian Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje urged all parties to join a global, united effort to urgently address climate change.

“Our collective resolve will allow us to do more to save lives and protect the livelihoods of the present and future generations,” said Borje.

Given Asia’s climate and disaster vulnerabilities, the CCC chief raised the need to incorporate climate change into the country’s socioeconomic development strategy and implementation.

Under President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.’s leadership, the Philippine government embedded climate change in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

The plan specifically embodies “Chapter 15: Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience.”

Borje believes that climate change must be the “lynchpin for all policy formulation, planning, and implementation” because it now underlies human development and security.

He also underscored the key roles of government agencies and legislators, business and private sector leaders, academic and research institutions, civil society and non-government organizations, and international and regional organizations to further intensify collaboration, nurture innovative solutions, and exhibit accountability across sectors and nations.

“I call on everybody, it is time for us to work very closely together, and it should bring out the very best in the Philippines and every Filipino.”

THE MANILA TIMES

[Accurate weather data, technology key to securing safety of life at sea](#)

By: Carmela I. Huelar

PROVIDING the country's maritime industry with accurate weather data as well as investing heavily in climate technology is vital to reducing the risk of losses while at sea.

"The gathering of esteemed experts showcased the pivotal role these elements play in ensuring the safety of ships and boats, regardless of weather conditions," Pastrana said, adding that the introduction of technology-driven risk assessment tools showcased during the conference highlighted a significant step forward in enhancing operational safety.

Pastrana has been very vocal about her climate change advocacies, starting with its bumper crop of state-of-the-art vessels and competent pool of seafarers and using the best available technology to aid its operations and promote safety in all its areas of operations in the country.

The Philippines is committed to reducing its carbon footprints by promoting green maritime decarbonization to mitigate disastrous weather disturbances while leveraging the full potential of the Paris Agreement, as well as entering into partnerships with other countries and collaborating on key environmental issues.

Also, the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), created under the Climate Change Act to provide technical advice to the Climate Change Commission (CCC) in areas of climate science, technologies, and best practices for risk assessment and enhancement of the adaptive capacity of vulnerable human settlements to potential impacts of climate change, has been conducting a series of awareness campaigns through its five-part policy forum to further engage stakeholders in climate policy.

Likewise, the CCC, taking the lead from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s recent State of the Nation Address (SONA), is taking concrete steps emphasizing the critical importance of climate action in building a sustainable economic agenda for the Philippines.

Consistent with the pronouncements of the President in SONA 2023, the CCC will continue to collaborate with government agencies and stakeholders to further ensure that climate change is integrated and mainstreamed in national policies, planning, decision-making and implementation.

The CCC will further strengthen the implementation of the National Climate Risk Management Framework and update the National Climate Change Action Plan and the Nationally Determined Contribution.

Additionally, the National Adaptation Plan is currently being developed to enhance the country's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Meanwhile, the goal of the International Maritime Safety and Weather Technology conference and workshop is to save lives at sea by improving knowledge about and warning about impending weather.

The topics covered include sea level rise, health and climate change, flooding, integrated coastal management, the blue economy, and water and human security, to further engage stakeholders in the climate policy.

Among those who spoke during the conference were Dr. Triko Pitani, dean of the Faculty of Marine Technology; Dr. Roberta Weisbrod of the Worldwide Ferry Safety Association; and Eko Prasetyo, director of the Marine Meteorology Center of BMKG, along with several speakers from BMKG: Dr. Riris Adriyanto, Fachri Radjab, Sam Adhiprabowo, Dr. Furqon Alfahmi, Randi Firdaus and Dava Amrina, as well as Dr. Soerjanto Tjahjono, KNKT director; Dr. Nelly Florida, chairman of the World Meteorology Organization Data Buoy Cooperation Panel; ITS professor Dr. Saut Gurning, who was a stand-in for Dr. Beny Cahyono of Marine Engineering; and Dr. Agoes Santoso, also from ITS.

A key feature of the conference and the related workshop was the introduction of new technology. Foremost is the use of automated weather monitors connected to AIS — the locational devices that most vessels already have — that text out weather information to the vessels and, importantly, to vessels in the radio frequency range so they can learn of impending weather that might affect them and take evasive action.

Dr. Greg Johnson, working as a contractor for US maritime agencies, has been testing the system on 15 vessels since 2019, receiving weather data every 3 minutes, 24/7, which is transmitted to the national and international weather services for improving the global weather prediction model. It was this technology that the organizing team recognized could help miners directly and resolved to bring it to Indonesia — with a trial on the DLU vessels Kencana 3 and Sintana.

Dr. Johnson's presentation was followed by presentations by five different, all very ingeniously innovative — and all with an impressive reach of clients — maritime weather detection and communication technology companies. The first four employ AIS in part: Ocean Sync; eOdyn, which measures currents; CLS-Indonesia, which works

with BMKG now; OneOcean, a Lloyd's Register company; and SofarOcean, which deploys basketball-sized weather buoys that measure waves among other parameters.

"By harnessing the power of data, these advancements promise to revolutionize the industry's approach to navigating through various weather challenges. This serves as a powerful reminder of the continuous efforts being made to improve maritime safety and underscores the potential for innovative solutions to safeguard lives and vessels at sea," Pastrana stressed

[Opinion] Take heat warnings seriously

BOTH the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) issued warnings to the public this week over the likelihood that many parts of the country will experience increasing heat waves in the coming months as a consequence of the El Niño climate phenomenon. Although recent bouts of rain that have even caused flooding in some areas may make the forecast of higher temperatures and drought seem far-fetched, the warning should be taken seriously.

According to meteorologists, the month of July was the hottest ever recorded on planet Earth, a consequence of climate change and the periodic El Niño, which is characterized by an increase in sea temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean. An estimated 4 out of 5 people worldwide have been affected by hotter temperatures this year, and that includes people in much of the Philippines. Again, though the recent wet and thankfully somewhat cooler weather might give a different impression, we have already experienced dangerous heat conditions in some parts of the country this summer. These spells have been mercifully brief, but they may last longer and be more widespread as the El Niño intensifies over the next few months.

In other countries where heat waves have already lasted an extended period of time, there have been thousands of deaths. Some estimates run as high as 20,000, but the exact number is difficult to determine since many deaths are recorded as being from cardiac arrest or organ failure instead of heat stress, which often does not leave any other tell-tale evidence in the body. Anyone at any age is susceptible to heat exhaustion or heat stroke; ironically, many victims are younger and healthier people, since they are the least likely to recognize when they are being overcome by heat.

Even if heat exposure does not lead to immediate death, an advisory from the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) warned that experiencing a core body temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) can lead to organ damage, particularly the kidneys.

A recent study in the US found that agricultural workers are most at risk and are about 35 times more likely to die from heat than other workers; construction workers are about 14 times more likely to suffer heat deaths. The study did emphasize, however, that anyone who is exposed to high outdoor temperatures for an extended period of time is potentially putting themselves in danger.

How to protect oneself

The cautions provided by Pagasa and the CCC this week are not the first time that government agencies have issued public service advisories about the risks of high temperatures, and we have previously highlighted the issue here as well. The risk of death or serious injury from heat is so serious, however, that the warnings and advice on how to protect oneself ought to be repeated and shared as widely as possible before dangerous temperatures are experienced. One of the lethal characteristics of heat stroke and heat exhaustion is that the early warning signs are often difficult to recognize; often, by the time the victim or those around him realize something is wrong, only swift medical intervention can save his life.

There are a number of simple ways one can avoid becoming a victim, however. In general, limiting one's exposure to high temperatures — a heat index, or "feels like" temperature of 40 C or higher — is the best choice. If staying indoors is not an option, such as for people who must work outdoors, following the "shade-rest-water" rule at least once per hour is vital: Get out of the direct sun, rest from strenuous activity for a short period of time, perhaps 10 to 15 minutes, and drink plenty of water.

Finally, if you begin to feel discomfort such as fatigue or fever-like symptoms, immediately notify someone, go indoors or to a cooler location, and take steps to cool down, such as taking a cool bath or shower or applying wet cloths to the head and neck, as one would do to relieve a fever. Drink plenty of fluids as well; water or sports drinks that are room temperature (not very cold) are recommended, while sugary drinks or soda should be avoided.

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