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By: Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez

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By: Kiffer George Card and Kalysha Closson

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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By: Mahmoud Mohieldin

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GMA NEWS

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By: Sherilyn Untalan

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KHALEEJ TIMES

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The Dubai Youth Council, in cooperation with the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority’s (DEWA) Youth Council, organised a Youth Circle under the theme ‘Towards a Sustainable Future’ to discuss environmental sustainability and the vital role of global cooperation and COP28 in facing the challenges of climate change. The event also discussed the objectives of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, which seeks to transform Dubai into one of the world’s smartest and most sustainable cities.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

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By: Ashzel Hachero

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MANILA BULLETIN

[BSP signs UN-backed sustainable funding rules](#)

By: Lee Chipongian

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Leave Candaba alone](#)

By: Segundo Eclar Romero

The Candaba wetlands in the Philippines, nestled in the intersection of Pampanga, Bulacan, and Nueva Ecija within the Pampanga River Basin, are a hidden gem. The wetlands span 32,000 hectares, encompassing ponds, swamps, marshes, and grasslands. Seasonal shifts dictate land use, from rice and crop planting to serving as a natural flood retention basin during rainy months.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[WHO chief warns against impacts of climate change](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) chief has warned against the impacts of climate change.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Korea, PH sign agreement to tackle PH air pollution](#)

The Korean government, through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica), and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) signed a partnership agreement to strengthen national capacity to monitor the condition of air quality and improve air quality plans and policies in the Philippines on August 2.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[‘Climate change may cause dengue, leptospirosis outbreaks’](#)

By: Mayen Jaymalin

The Philippines is likely to experience outbreaks of dengue and leptospirosis due to climate change, a health official said yesterday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MAHARLIKA

[Dela Cruz: PBBM’s Candaba Total Water Ecosystem project to solve flooding](#)

Following President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Romualdez Marcos Jr.’s directive for a thorough study on the proposed construction of an impounding system in Candaba, Pampanga, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. expressed his support to the proposal, saying the project would contribute considerably in resolving the lingering problem of massive flooding in Central Luzon.

MANILA BULLETIN

[ELEVENTH HOUR — Youth leaders in Zamboanga Del Norte vow to take action on climate and plastic crisis](#)

By: Climate Reality Project

Youth leaders and faculty members of Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU) in Dapitan City, Zamboanga Del Norte pledged their commitment to pave the way for a low-carbon, plastic-free, and climate-resilient university community.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ECO BUSINESS

[Amid perennial floods, Philippines think tank chief calls out government for not factoring in climate in key urban projects](#)

By: Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez

Lack of climate change considerations in the design of flood-control projects has contributed to perennial flooding in the Philippines, said the executive director of Manila-based think tank Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC).

“We are reacting to previous extreme weather events instead of anticipating future scenarios. It is sad to think that for a country which command such high respect in terms of finance from international donors, our systems are lacking,” Kairos dela Cruz told Eco-Business.

The strong charges against government infrastructure projects from the ICSC chief come amid an ongoing Senate investigation into the widespread flooding in provinces in Central Luzon and Metro Manila from the onslaught of Typhoons Doksuri and Khanun early this month.

Lawmakers started a probe into the government’s failure to address the severity of flooding in these areas which had an impact comparable to Typhoon Ketsana that inundated four-fifth of the entire Metro Manila in 2009. The extreme weather event then is widely deemed as the most devastating cyclone to hit the Philippine capital in decades.

This year, the Philippines’ department of public works and highways has already earmarked US\$3.2 million for flood control alone. An increase in funding has been proposed for next year, which will make it one of the biggest allotments of the 2024 national budget.

Dela Cruz cited flood control projects in Bulacan, the most populous province in Central Luzon bordering Metro Manila, as well as Marinduque, an agricultural province in the southeastern part of Luzon, which have not embedded “ecosystem-based adaptation” in their project design. This refers to biodiversity conservation and the planting of mangroves and forests.

“Flood control does not just mean building higher roads. We have to address the source of flooding itself...The current design [for these projects] does not have a very systemic approach, which is why we keep experiencing the same flood problems,” said Dela Cruz.

The Philippines is one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries. Located along the boundary of major tectonic plates and at the center of a typhoon belt, its islands are

regularly impacted by floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes, and droughts.

Since 1990, the country has faced 565 such disasters, killing 70,000 and costing US\$23 billion in damages, based on data from the World Bank.

Donors over-report climate funding

Some flood-control projects in the Philippines do not include climate change considerations also because funding from donors is not always used for adaptation and mitigation, explained Dela Cruz, who also heads the climate finance group at ICSC.

For instance, the Philippines sources a bulk of its flood control funding from bilateral institutions like the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which supports socio-economic projects of developing countries.

Japan has reported US\$924 million as adaptation finance to the Philippines from 2013 to 2017, but only about half was estimated to be genuinely relevant to climate change. According to a study conducted by ICSC in 2020, this would mean about US\$425 million of adaptation finance from Japan to the Philippines has been over-reported.

“The definition of climate finance is very loose,” said Dela Cruz. “As a recipient of these funds, we can see that sometimes the intent of the loan is not to improve our adaptive capacity and therefore not part of our climate change strategies.”

Japan has been the largest provider of climate finance for the Philippines, with foreign aid amounting to US\$1.5 billion in 2021, followed by France at US\$570 million, and Germany at US\$300 million, according to information released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

[\[Opinion\] It is not just heatwaves – climate change is also a crisis of disconnection](#)

By: Kiffer George Card and Kalysha Closson

Climate change is widely recognised by the scientific community as “the biggest global health threat of the 21st century.” However, climate change isn’t just about greenhouse gas emissions. At its core, it is both a symptom and a cause for the centuries-long trend in declining social connection and community cohesion.

A modern atomised life

Consider this: if human history was summarised in 100 minutes, modern life would only take shape in the last 30 or so seconds.

In these last 30 seconds, human beings began domesticating plants and animals, built cities, invented factories and began harnessing electric power. These novelties totally revolutionised how we relate to each other and the world around us.

Prior to the modern age, most humans lived in small collective bands, surrounded by extended family, and hardly ever ventured far from home. These traditional lifestyles are increasingly rare as the pressures of capitalism and colonialism homogenise our lives.

Across the globe, people increasingly live in cities and are forced to abandon traditional lifestyles. Social networks have divided and grown smaller and smaller. Despite efforts to resist declining social connection, we increasingly organise ourselves into disconnected and competing family units. As a result, rates of loneliness are elevated and increasing in nearly every global region and our attachments to one another are becoming less and less secure.

Consequences for our planet

The consequences of modern life don’t end with growing rates of loneliness and social disconnection. Indeed, in the same fraction of time that we revolutionised human social life, we have also dramatically increased our demand on the world around us – clearing billions of acres of forests, releasing billions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and imposing vast infrastructure upon this planet and its non-human inhabitants. Moreover, we are losing traditional ecological knowledge needed to protect our environments. These atomised lifestyle changes have been costly to the environment.

In addition to the more environmentally intensive lifestyles we now lead, our increasingly individualistic culture has emerged as a key driver of environmental degradation.

Studies suggest that tribalism and polarisation are stifling our ability to respond to the environmental threats we are increasingly facing.

A vicious feedback cycle

Perhaps of greatest concern, it is apparent that there is a vicious feedback cycle between climate change and poor social cohesion. In fact, there is a growing body of research showing that climate change will not just be worsened by our social disconnectedness, but will itself contribute to greater disconnection. Climate change and our modern social ills are linked.

As Indigenous peoples have taught for centuries, it's time we recognise that all things are interconnected. If we don't act, climate change will worsen our social bonds, which will only reduce our capacity to respond to the environmental threats that lie ahead.

As exemplified by recent media reports, even close families and friends experience conflict over climate change. Such conflicts may arise from disagreements about how to live our lives in an environmentally conscious way and this potential is increased by important gender differences in climate anxiety.

Couples worried about the future may therefore experience conflicts over whether to have kids. For other couples, climate change may reduce intimacy, increase intimate partner violence and threaten sexual and reproductive wellbeing. Indeed, there is compelling evidence that unseasonably warm weather is associated with a decline in births nine months later, which suggests that changes in the climate could impact intimacy between partners. Climate change is a wedge issue that has the potential to drive us further and further apart.

While the decision to not have kids may have many environmental benefits, living and ageing without children can have its own difficulties – including increased risk for loneliness and isolation. The feedback cycle goes both directions.

Moreover, at the population level, these impacts are compounded. Extreme weather effects can increase the rate of interpersonal violence. Declining birth rates lead to considerable economic impact. And mass migration creates cultural challenges such as those driving the re-emergence of extreme-right parties in Europe.

The way out

Put simply, human life has changed at a breakneck pace and our biology, ecology and psychology have failed to keep up.

As Indigenous peoples have taught for centuries, it's time we recognise that all things are interconnected. If we don't act, climate change will worsen our social bonds, which will only reduce our capacity to respond to the environmental threats that lie ahead. The climate will worsen and the cycle will continue.

However, there is a way out of this vicious feedback loop: we can reverse the centuries-long trend in disconnection by treating social and environmental health on par with physical and mental health.

Our own research suggests that promoting social connection is key to reducing the harmful effects of climate change, including its effect on mental health. Other studies also show that the more connected we are, the better we will be able to discuss and respond to climate change.

Of course, if the last few decades are any indication, we must acknowledge that social connection and cohesion is difficult to achieve. If modern life were conducive to healthy social lives, we would not be where we are today.

This is exactly why we need renewed public and philanthropic investments in social cohesion and community life. For example, friendship benches in Zimbabwe provide a leading example for how relying on and strengthening community can help people live happier and healthier lives. We must learn from communities leading the way across the globe if we are to survive and thrive in the midst of environmental change. Indeed, climate change requires us to come together.

FINANCIAL TIMES

[\[Opinion\] The Green Climate Fund needs urgent replenishment](#)

By: Mahmoud Mohieldin

If developing countries are to deliver on their Paris Agreement goals, adequate funds will be the catalyst. Finance has been at the heart of recent climate negotiations — without it, these economies will not be able to mitigate the impacts of environmental disasters, nor increase their resilience against such crises.

The Green Climate Fund, a centrepiece of the climate finance landscape, is undergoing replenishment this year. Country contributions will determine how much funding GCF has available over the coming four years. As stressed during last year's COP27 climate summit, an ambitious replenishment of the GCF could contribute to building trust between developed and developing countries to address the climate emergency.

GCF was created via the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2010, to finance developing countries' response to the climate crisis. Its governance structure represents a balance between contributor and beneficiary countries. Its focus is on providing adaptation funding, particularly to small island developing states and the least developed economies, including many African countries.

GCF approved its first projects ahead of the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015, and has since built an investment portfolio of \$12.8bn across 129 countries. It is funded on a four-year cycle, with \$10bn committed for 2020-2023. Developed country contributors provide most of these funds, which are allocated to climate projects in developing countries.

Three elements make the fund unique in its ability to tackle climate change. The first is partnership. The GCF has a small organisational structure but an outsized reach, which is delivered by working with over 200 partners. Its collaborators range from multilateral development banks and UN bodies to smaller, locally-led organisations.

The fund is also distinct in its flexibility. It provides a range of grants, concessional debt, equity investment and guarantees, tailored to the needs of each project. A grant might support small-scale action to preserve fresh water supplies in an island state, while a multi-country programme to promote renewable energy might depend on long-term, concessional loans or equity provided by the GCF that will pave the way for other investors to join at a lower risk level.

The fund also increases the capacity of developing countries to engage effectively with financial institutions. The GCF's "readiness" programme provides funding and technical

assistance for developing countries at the country-level. This has proven vital for longer-term climate planning and for developing large funding proposals, such as a \$432,000 readiness grant to Liberia that laid the groundwork for a \$11.4mn hydrometeorological infrastructure project, which will increase the country's resilience against climate change.

The GCF had a challenging start, facing criticism that its funding mechanisms were too slow and complex. Ongoing reforms and increased efficiency are disproving this claim. Over 80 per cent of GCF's portfolio is being implemented, and more than \$3.5bn has been disbursed to projects.

In 2018, it took a median time of 18 months to move a project from proposal review to first disbursement; in 2022, the median was 7 months. The time between GCF board approval and implementation has also been reduced, with some projects moving from board endorsement to the transfer of funds in five weeks.

Globally, now is not the easiest time to garner new finance, but so far the prognosis is good. In recent weeks, I've had many positive conversations with current and potential contributors.

Germany has made an early pledge of €2bn, a 33 per cent increase on its previous contribution, while Canada has pledged C\$450mn (\$332mn), a 50 per cent increase on last time. Current contributors such as Austria, Czechia and Monaco have made pledges too. Other potential funders look poised to follow their lead, particularly at the UN Climate Ambition Summit in September.

One big question is whether the pool of contributors can be broadened. Expanding the base of contributors to include less developed countries will boost the GCF potential.

The appointment of a new executive director, Mafalda Duarte, has signalled the board's commitment to continuing reform apace. If the GCF can deliver more good news at its pledging conference on October 5 in Germany, a strong, timely signal will be sent ahead of the COP28 summit later this year. Now, more than ever, we need to demonstrate the strength of global commitment to tackling the climate emergency.

GMA NEWS

[NAMRIA: Metro Manila's sea level rising almost 3 times the global average](#)

By: Sherilyn Untalan

The sea level around Metro Manila rose by 8.40 millimeters a year from 1901 to 2022 - around three times the global average, according to the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).

NAMRIA Division Chief Dennis Bringas presented the data during a coastal engineering summit at the Mariano Marcos State University in Ilocos Norte on August 15.

"We have records to show like in Manila, (the sea level) is increasing pero what we did was to segregate 'yung old historical data saka yung nangyayare ngayon," Bringas said.

The NAMRIA's data showed that from 1947 to 2022, the sea level increased by an average of 13.20 millimeters yearly.

When urbanization began in 1965 until 2022, it increased by 14.40 millimeters a year.

"So kung tignan natin 'yun, mas mataas pa - 14.4. That's the start of urbanization in Manila. So I'd like you to know na itong 1947 at itong 1965, may 1 millimeter difference," he noted.

Bringas said this difference was part of the "coupling effect" or the sea level rise and land subsidence.

Among the factors that contributed to this were:

- Groundwater, oil, and gas mining
- Water impoundment or channelization
- Vegetation clearance or deforestation
- Other activities affecting the hydrological cycle including pollution, climate change, deforestation, landscape changes, and urban growth

Bringas also presented data from tide stations in the provinces. In Legazpi, the rate of increase in the sea level is 6 millimeters per year, while Cebu is below the average with 1.2 millimeters per year, and Davao is under the global average of 3.60 millimeters per year.

The study showed that the coastal sea level rise or fall depended on the strong influence of other local factors such as geographic location, climate pattern, ocean dynamics, and varying geologic forms and settings.

“Most of the sea level trends from Tide Gauges (TG) in the East, North, and South of the Philippines showed sea level falling, because of the short period or TG observations or less than 19 years that is dominated by El Nino occurrences, while TGs with long periods of observation (of more than 19 years) exhibit a sea level rise,” NAMRIA said.

Dubai: Youth circle discusses sustainability, climate change

The Dubai Youth Council, in cooperation with the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's (DEWA) Youth Council, organised a Youth Circle under the theme 'Towards a Sustainable Future' to discuss environmental sustainability and the vital role of global cooperation and COP28 in facing the challenges of climate change. The event also discussed the objectives of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, which seeks to transform Dubai into one of the world's smartest and most sustainable cities.

The Youth Circle was attended by Abdulla Mohammed Al Basti, Secretary General of The Executive Council of Dubai; Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, and Ahmad Saeed bin Meshar Al Muhairi, Secretary General of the Supreme Legislation Committee (SLC). The Circle also saw the participation of the Office of the UAE Special Envoy for COP28, and members of youth councils from the public and private sectors.

"This Youth Circle is part of the Dubai Government's efforts to realise the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; and the directives of Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, to invest in the nation's youth, involve them in building a bright future and encourage them to use science, knowledge and innovation to create a truly sustainable world," said Abdulla Mohammed Al Basti, Secretary General of The Executive Council of Dubai.

"The UAE has designated 2023 as the Year of Sustainability, reflecting the high priority it places on environmental preservation. The hosting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) at Expo City Dubai further demonstrates the nation's commitment to forging international collaboration to advance environmental preservation. In this context, it is vital to involve the youth in developing unique solutions to address the climate crisis," he noted.

Al Basti highlighted the UAE's comprehensive efforts to support the global mission to combat the challenges brought by climate change. He emphasised the importance of collaborative work and urged the youth and society to adopt appropriate measures to contribute to strengthening global sustainability efforts.

"I was pleased to attend the Youth Circle organised by the Dubai Youth Council under the theme 'Towards a Sustainable Future'. The youth represent a vital pillar of the present and a beacon of hope for the future. They will lead efforts to realise the vision

and directives of the UAE's leadership to advance sustainability. The UAE's pioneering role in fostering a climate-conscious platform for youth in the run-up to COP28 remains unparalleled in the event's history. We are committed to solidifying youth engagement, actively listening to their perspectives, empowering them with knowledge, cutting-edge technologies and skills, opening unique new opportunities, and supporting their initiatives in climate action. We seek to nurture them into true partners in the nation-building journey so that the UAE continues to raise its stature on the global stage," remarked Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA.

"One of the most critical global challenges of our era, climate change has the potential to cause higher temperatures, shifts in weather patterns, sea-level rise, and a cascade of other phenomenon that can affect life on our planet. The UAE has emerged as a leader in climate change mitigation, spearheading a host of strategic initiatives and transformative projects. Aligned with the visionary guidance of our leaders, the UAE was the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to launch a comprehensive strategy to achieve Net-Zero emissions by 2050."

"Dubai is resolutely focused on achieving the goals of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050 to generate 100% of the emirate's total power capacity from clean energy sources by 2050. To achieve this, DEWA has launched several leading renewable projects, including the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world. Built based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, it will have a capacity of 5,000MW by 2030. COP28 provides an opportunity to enhance international cooperation in combating climate change, explore ways to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and develop innovative solutions to counter the multi-faceted impact of climate change. The conference will also provide a platform for governments, corporations, and civil society to exchange experiences and insights and develop synergistic action plans to achieve sustainable development goals," added Al Tayer.

"Our participation in the Youth Circle reflects our strong belief in the significance of empowering youth in climate action and environmental preservation. They represent a key driving force behind positive transformation and are vital to creating the foundation for a more sustainable future."

Apart from shedding light on the crucial role played by legislative frameworks in tackling climate and environmental challenges, the event served as a platform for forging collaboration and exchanging insights and experiences among Youth Councils in the public and private sectors. During the Circle, the Supreme Legislation Committee Youth Council conducted a workshop on environmental degradation and the mechanisms for legislative solutions. They also highlighted the UAE's pioneering accomplishments in

this area, underscoring our commitment to heightening awareness of climate risks and legislative approaches for mitigating them.

Organising the Youth Circle in conjunction with the UAE's preparations to host COP28 underscores the Dubai Youth Council's dedication to empowering the younger generation. The event provided an invaluable platform for the youth to voice their opinions and ideas and deepen their involvement in decision-making processes that will shape the future of climate protection strategies and the advancement of sustainability," said Ahmad Saeed bin Meshar Al Muhairi, Secretary General of SLC.

Comprehensive programme

The Youth Circle featured a workshop presented by the SLC Youth Council on environmental damage and legislative solutions to mitigate them. It highlighted key ecological issues the world is facing due to the fast pace of economic development, climate change and global warming, as well as the UAE's legislative initiatives to tackle them.

3DXB GROUP, the first company in the region to provide 3D printing services to the construction sector, presented a workshop on the future of the sector. The workshop highlighted the importance of expanding the use of 3D printing to advance the transformation of the construction sector in the UAE and the region. These efforts are aligned with Dubai's vision to become a leading city in using 3D printing technologies in construction by 2030.

"Under the theme 'Towards a Sustainable Future' the Youth Circle engaged in a comprehensive dialogue encompassing a diverse spectrum of issues related to environmental sustainability. Topics included the role of global collaboration and COP28 in addressing the formidable challenges posed by climate change, as well as the role of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 in accelerating change towards a sustainable future in ways that serve the best interests of forthcoming generations. The event is aligned with the directives of the leadership to mobilise the youth to get involved in climate work as well as the generation of practical climate solutions and efforts to ensure the success of COP28. We believe that cooperation and interaction among all members of society will play an effective role in achieving our ambitious vision for sustainability," said Hasan Sabt, President of the Dubai Youth Council.

"We extend our utmost gratitude to Abdulla Mohammed Al Basti, Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, and Ahmad Saeed bin Meshar Al Muhairi for their presence at the Youth Circle. The gathering served as a productive platform for fostering a meaningful exchange of ideas and insights between youth and decision-makers on the vital issue of sustainability. At a time when the UAE is gearing up to host COP28, the event offered

the perfect opportunity for discussing youth-led initiatives to mitigate the issues and uncertainties posed by climate change,” he added.

The Youth Circles initiative, launched by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and governed by the Federal Youth Authority, aims to inspire youth-centric dialogue across a variety of areas as part of promoting closer engagement with the younger generation and generating innovative solutions for global challenges.

In April 2023, The Executive Council of Dubai, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Youth, announced the formation of the sixth cycle of the Dubai Youth Council for 2023-2025. The Council's members, who include talented young individuals from Dubai, seek to work collaboratively to support the emirate's growth plans. The formation of the Council is part of the leadership's commitment to ensuring youth are represented in the decision-making process and empowered to solve challenges and create a more prosperous future. The members of the Dubai Youth Council for 2023-2025 include Abdulla Majid Al Hathboor Al Rumaithi, Afra Sultan Al Suwaidi, Rashid Mohammed Al Zarooni, Hasan Khalid Sabt, Hind Ibrahim Mohammed Al Hammadi, Salem Saqr Majid Saqr Al Marri and Hind Saeed Mohammed Matar Al Ketbi.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Marcos receives German, Iran envoys in Malacañang

By: Ashzel Hachero

President Marcos Jr. yesterday underscored the importance of reinvigorating trade, diplomacy and politics, and people-to-people ties with other nations as well as pursuing more areas of cooperation like on climate change, tourism and technology.

The President received yesterday in Malacañang German Ambassador Andreas Michael Pfaffernoschke and Iranian Ambassador Yousef Esmaeil Zadeh who submitted their credentials.

Marcos said there is a “great deal of promise” in further strengthening the relations between the Philippines and Germany especially in terms of trade, diplomacy, politics, and people-to-people relations amid the recent development in the world.

“There are many things that I think we can do. I hope few of them will come to fruition so that we can say that we have done the fullest that we can do in this partnership,” he said.

The President said Manila and Berlin should also continue to strengthen climate cooperation.

“I always describe it as really the first truly global problem that humanity faces because it’s global in the sense that everybody is affected. And it’s also global because we cannot solve it without everybody doing their part. It is axiomatic to me to say that no country can do this alone. The economy, climate change, energy, all of these things have to be done in partnership. So, let’s look in that direction Mr. Ambassador,” he told Pfaffernoschke.

The Philippines and Germany recently signed an agreement to hold regular interdepartmental consultations about ongoing and pipeline technical cooperation projects.

Pfaffernoschke vowed to foster Philippine-German relations particularly in the areas of trade, investment and economic cooperation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and in maintaining international order based on the principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter.

He also committed Germany's support for the relaunching of the Philippines-European Union (EU) free trade agreement negotiations, as he highlighted the importance of strong economic relations between the Manila and Berlin.

"That (PH-EU FTA) was... what we in Germany really pushed for. We pushed the information to do this and our business people here are very keen on really exploring new possibilities and new ideas and new business opportunities both ways, of course, not just for the German industry here but also for the Philippine industry in Germany," Pfaffernoschke said.

The Philippines' total trade with Germany reached S\$4.7 billion last year, with S\$2.8 billion in exports and S\$1.9 billion in imports. It is also the country's top trading partner in the EU.

Major German companies operating in the Philippines include Deutsche Bank (banking), Bosch (automotive after-market and power tools business), Siemens (information and communications), STEAG 210-megawatt hard-coal-fired power plant in Misamis Oriental, and Bayer Philippines Inc.

The Philippines and Germany are celebrating its 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2024.

Marcos, meanwhile, wished Esmaeil Zadeh a successful tour of duty in the Philippines that is "geared towards the strengthening of longstanding relationship between the Philippines and Iran."

The envoy, for his part, vowed to do his utmost best to continue building on the friendly relationship and the shared vision for the future of the two countries

The Philippines and Iran also agreed to initiate high-level contacts to discuss areas of cooperation such as agriculture, trade and investment, technology, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

Esmaeil Zadeh said the two countries can cooperate on science, and maritime security where "Iran is doing very well."

He also suggested organizing a barter, with Iran sending the Philippines fertilizer and importing tropical fruits.

The Philippines and Iran are celebrating its 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations next year.

MANILA BULLETIN

[BSP signs UN-backed sustainable funding rules](#)

By: Lee Chipongian

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is now a signatory to the United Nations (UN)-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), one of the largest public and private sector voluntary global network for sustainable investment.

The BSP announced its participation on Monday, Aug. 21 although the central bank signed the UN-supported PRI earlier on July 31, 2023.

The BSP said PRI CEO David Atkin is “extremely pleased to welcome BSP as a PRI signatory.”

The statement from the central bank quoted Atkin as saying that “the central bank for the Republic of the Philippines” has a “broad mandate and responsibilities, and a unique opportunity to influence the responsible investment ecosystem in the market.”

As such, he said that BSP is to be “commended for its commitment to incorporate ESG factors into its ownership and investment decisions, and we look forward to working with the team.”

The plan to be a PRI signatory was hatched during former BSP Governor Felipe M. Medalla’s time. When he first disclosed it, Medalla said it is important for the BSP to participate in the global stage in weaving environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations in all aspects of investment practices to promote inclusive green finance.

The BSP said that being part of PRI “allows (it) to deepen its understanding of responsible investing, enhance the inclusion of ESG factors into the overall investment process and decision-making, benchmark its practices with other PRI signatories, and thereby, help achieve the BSP’s sustainability objectives.”

By signing the PRI, investors commit to integrating ESG issues into their policies, where consistent with their fiduciary responsibilities, said the BSP.

It also said that as a PRI signatory, this complements the BSP’s membership to the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) and strengthens BSP’s 11-point Sustainable Central Banking (SCB) Strategy.

“The BSP recognizes that in fulfilling its mandates, it must take concrete actions in promoting the sustainability agenda. Joining the PRI aligns with the (BSP’s) mission and values,” it said Monday.

The Philippines has committed to reduce its carbon emissions by 75 percent by 2030 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The BSP, with the Department of Finance, also co-chairs the Green Force which is responsible for the country’s sustainable finance roadmap.

The PRI was first established in 2005 by a group of the world’s largest institutional investors during the leadership of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

As of mid-August this year, there are 5,390 PRI signatories according to the UNPRI website, of which 76 percent are investment managers, 14 percent are asset owners, and 10 percent are service providers. The BSP is part of the asset owners’ group.

Basically, the PRI has six principles, and some of these are: that all signatories will incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes; to be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into ownership policies and practices; and to seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which they invest.

The other three principles include: to promote acceptance and implementation of the PRI within the investment industry; to work together to enhance their effectiveness in implementing the principles; and report activities and progress towards implementing the principles.

Meanwhile, the BSP’s 11-point SCB Strategy was launched last Dec. 22, 2022 after four years of initially announcing its own sustainability principles.

One of the objectives of the SCB is for Philippine banks and financial institutions to be mindful of the environment and the pressing issues and threats of climate change to price and financial stability.

The 11-point strategy should increase awareness and capacity building activities, and issuance of enabling regulations.

These include membership to regional or international groups of central banks and supervisors such as the NGFS, Sustainable Banking and Finance Network, Inclusive Green Finance Working Group of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, Executives’ Meeting of East Asia-Pacific Central Banks Working Group on Banking Supervision (EMEAP-WGBS), and task force or working groups at the ASEAN level.

The BSP will also conduct various studies or preliminary insights on sustainable finance such as the “Impact of Extreme Weather Episodes on the Philippine Banking Sector using Branch-level Supervisory Data”, "Climate Change and Monetary Policy: Some Preliminary Thoughts" by the BSP, and the “Report on The Roles of ASEAN Central Banks in Managing Climate and Environment-related Risk”, a collaborative project of the ASEAN Central Banks.

In terms of BSP’s sustainability rules and regulations for all banks, it has already issued the first and second phase frameworks, while the third phase is still ongoing.

In the next months and years, the BSP will issue more regulations including the conduct of climate risk stress testing by banks, improvements to prudential reports for data collection and surveillance analysis, and the incentivization for the lending or financing of green or sustainable projects or activities.

The SCB roadmap and the 11-point strategy and related initiatives is aimed at mainstreaming green and sustainability principles and practices in BSP operations and across the financial system.

These strategies include: to conduct a comprehensive vulnerability assessment of the economy and financial system, accounting for physical and transition risks and other environmental risks; to enhance mandatory disclosures of climate-related financial risks by all banks, building on the Financial Stability Board’s Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations; and to issue guidance on mandatory climate stress testing for banks; explore the integration of E&S risk into prudential practices.

The SCB will also incorporate the following: macroeconomic effects of climate change into monetary policy analysis; incentive schemes for the promotion of green lending by banks; sustainability considerations in its portfolio management and risk management and the PRI; a task force for inclusive green finance; climate-related financial disclosures in its annual report; sustainable practices for its own facilities and operations; the roll out of capacity-building program for all staff in relevant areas.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Leave Candaba alone

By: Segundo Eclar Romero

The Candaba wetlands in the Philippines, nestled in the intersection of Pampanga, Bulacan, and Nueva Ecija within the Pampanga River Basin, are a hidden gem. The wetlands span 32,000 hectares, encompassing ponds, swamps, marshes, and grasslands. Seasonal shifts dictate land use, from rice and crop planting to serving as a natural flood retention basin during rainy months.

The wetlands' avian diversity offers birdwatchers and nature lovers a vibrant experience. The declaration of Candaba as a bird sanctuary and the establishment of the Candaba Swamp Wildlife Reserve showcase efforts to protect the area's avian diversity.

However, the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan, plagued by frequent floods, have triggered a private sector-initiated, government-considered proposal to transform a portion of the Candaba wetlands into a floodwater impounding area.

While the impulse to mitigate flooding is understandable, the environmental cost of such an intervention is incalculable. The eruption of Mount Pinatubo has disrupted the region's hydrology and, unbeknownst to many, is arguably the main culprit in the large-scale flooding in Pampanga and Bulacan. Climate change exacerbates these challenges, making flooding a recurring nightmare. Over the years, infrastructure projects have aimed to address flooding, such as floodways and protective dikes. The P900-million megadike project to armor Pampanga towns from lahar deposits has yet to fulfill its promise, and various ring dikes and other flood control measures of local government and residents have proved futile.

At first, the main threat to the Candaba wetlands was the proposal to drain and reclaim the area for more extensive agriculture. Now that floods are the main problem, the threat is the submergence of one-tenth of the wetlands as an impounding area for floodwater.

This proposed infrastructural intervention project is daunting. As proposed, a 200-hectare floodwater impounding area will be carved out of the Candaba wetlands. Assume that the retaining wall of this impounding area is five meters high, it can hold approximately 10 million cubic meters of water. Ten million cubic meters of water, if one meter high, would cover only an area of 10 square kilometers and may not have the flood-reduction impact expected from the project. How much would the eight-kilometer retaining wall of this impounding area cost? Also, for this impounding area to be effective, it should not absorb water from the mighty Pampanga River, which means that

the riparian towns of Bulacan and Pampanga subject to flooding must be sealed from the river. Floodwater would also need to be pumped into the impounding area.

President Marcos has ordered the conduct of an extensive study on the proposed construction of a floodwater impounding system in the Candaba wetlands as a long-term solution to the flooding problem in Bulacan and Pampanga. Evaluating a single policy option is not sound. The President should enlarge the study to look into all possible options that consider the environmental, economic, technological, sociocultural, and political aspects. A larger, landscape-scale study is needed. It is clear that there is significant political and environmental opposition to the proposal. We should learn from the experiences of other countries. Japan's Sendai River basin suffered catastrophic damage due to heavy rain and river channel alterations. It is clear that infrastructure projects can have unforeseen consequences.

Several non-hard infrastructure options should be considered, including rehabilitating the Pampanga River Basin's watershed, planting suitable native species for riparian stabilization, and rehabilitating and extending the protective riparian dikes using environmentally sound engineering principles.

The agricultural value of the Candaba wetlands should not be discounted. The development and use of crop cultivars with a strong flood tolerance like the scuba rice that had been developed by the International Rice Research Institute could reinvigorate agriculture in naturally functioning wetlands like Candaba. Scuba rice is rice that can survive two weeks of complete submersion in floods, stay dormant, and thereafter recover to produce a reasonable yield. Such a strategy will make intrusive reclamation measures and the inordinate use of fertilizers and pesticides unnecessary.

If the President is indeed seeking a long-term, sustainable solution, he should be open to other policy alternatives, so that the Pampanga River Basin and the Candaba wetlands can stand as a potential model for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Strategies combining infrastructure and non-infrastructure measures offer a path to maintaining biodiversity and harnessing the benefits of wetland ecosystem services.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[WHO chief warns against impacts of climate change](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) chief has warned against the impacts of climate change.

"Devastating fires, catastrophic floods, extreme heatwaves, and prolonged droughts. Climate change is not a distant threat—it's happening now, impacting lives and ecosystems," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Sunday on X, the social platform formerly known as Twitter.

"Let's come together, reduce emissions, promote resilience, and forge a sustainable path forward. Our planet and future generations depend on it," he added.

Recent months have seen increasing heat waves, cyclones, floods, droughts and wildfires, with July recorded as the world's hottest month ever on record.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Korea, PH sign agreement to tackle PH air pollution](#)

The Korean government, through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica), and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) signed a partnership agreement to strengthen national capacity to monitor the condition of air quality and improve air quality plans and policies in the Philippines on August 2.

The Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information and the Pandora Asia Network (PAPGAPI-PAN) project is a technology transfer, data-sharing and capacity building initiative on air pollution using data from the Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer (GEMS) aboard Korea's GEO-KOMPSAT-2B satellite complemented by ground-based remote sensing instruments called Pandora. Launched by the Republic of Korea in February 2020, GEMS is the world's first geostationary satellite sensor for air quality monitoring. This technology enables hourly monitoring of air pollution levels in almost 20 countries in Asia, including the Philippines.

The project will provide PhilSA the capability to combine satellite and ground measurements for a comprehensive overview of air quality in the Philippines. The Pandora instruments, expected to be installed and operated in the country within the year, will be part of the Pandonia Global Network (PGN) which collects the Pandora data around the world and provides real-time standardized, calibrated, and verified air quality data. It is expected that this will fill information gaps to help build more evidence-based policy making to address air quality issues in the country. KOICA and PhilSA will jointly provide technical and operational support to implement the project in the identified sites.

Selected Pandora sites in the country include Puerto Princesa in Palawan and Manila Observatory in Quezon City, Metro Manila. These sites were identified based on existing infrastructure, logistics, and scientific merit. In particular, the proposed Pandora sites are selected to cover different concentrations of air pollutants (such as nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter) across the country based on historical records both from ground and satellite observations. Meteorological parameters such as rainfall and cloud cover are also considered in the selection process. Other candidate sites for potential additional Pandora instruments include Ilocos Norte, and Cebu City.

The ground vertical column measurement of air pollutants from Pandora will be used in conjunction with the GEMS observation for comprehensive and improved monitoring of air quality across the country and the Asia-Pacific region. With its hyperspectral sensor and geostationary orbit, GEMS will provide measurements of different air pollutants

such as nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, formaldehyde, and particulate matter at an hourly rate during daytime.

With the P12.6 million partnership aiming to monitor the condition of the Philippines' air quality using data from the GEMS and Pandora instruments, this will further enhance national capacity as well as fill in the data gap in the country for better understanding of air pollution and air quality monitoring.

"Air quality can significantly affect the health and quality of life of people everywhere. Satellites and measurements from space provide additional perspectives that complement and enhance ground measurements and existing air quality monitoring initiatives in our country," PhilSA Director General Marciano said.

"PhilSA welcomes the cooperation with Korea and the signing of the ROD as timely and meaningful developments especially as we celebrate the very first Philippine Space Week and the 4th anniversary of PhilSA and the Philippine Space Act this month," he added.

Koica Country Director Kim Eunsub mentioned that the milestone project will highlight the substantial contribution of space science and technology applications in the socio-economic development of the Philippines as President Marcos Jr. emphasized when he proclaimed Philippine Space Week to be celebrated every August 8 to 14 of every year. He is optimistic that "the partnership will contribute to the furtherance of PhilSA's mandate of strengthening national security, space research and climate change management."

The project is a collaboration among various agencies, including KOICA, PhilSA, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Korea National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER), and Korea Environment Corporation (KECO).

It is expected to contribute to further enhancing the strong and dynamic relationship between the Philippines and Korea through the sharing of satellite air quality data, best practices of GEMS data application and technology, joint research, and successful project implementation.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

'Climate change may cause dengue, leptospirosis outbreaks'

By: Mayen Jaymalin

The Philippines is likely to experience outbreaks of dengue and leptospirosis due to climate change, a health official said yesterday.

Health Undersecretary Eric Tayag said another outbreak of dengue similar to what happened in the previous El Niño might occur again.

“During the previous El Niño, which is an effect of climate change, there were dengue epidemics, and it is not impossible that it will happen again,” Tayag said.

Aside from dengue, he said an outbreak of leptospirosis is also possible as torrential rains and floodings are becoming more frequent.

Recent data from the Department of Health showed a total of 80,318 dengue cases were recorded from Jan. 1 to July 15 this year.

The figure is 17 percent lower compared to the 96,500 cases recorded in the same period last year.

A total of 2,079 leptospirosis cases were recorded nationwide, the DOH said. The figure is 59 percent higher than the 1,310 infections recorded during the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) has given assurance that hospital confinement due to dengue and leptospirosis is covered by its health benefit packages.

PhilHealth said it is ready to pay P10,000 for hospitalized mild dengue cases and P16,000 for severe cases.

As of June 5, the state health insurer has paid more than P700 million for 76,000 dengue claims. For leptospirosis cases, PhilHealth has released P19 million for 1,654 patients nationwide as of June 5.

Chikungunya cases up

Meanwhile, the provincial government of Mountain Province has reported an increase in chikungunya cases, another mosquito-borne disease, with 672 infections recorded from January to this month.

The disease causes joint pains and swelling accompanied by fever that lasts three to four days.

A patient infected with chikungunya develops rashes in the face, palms, feet and limbs.

Among the towns in Mountain Province, Paracelis topped the list with 658 chikungunya cases recorded in the villages of Banana, Bantay and Butigue.

Fourteen more cases were logged in the neighboring town of Natonin.

No chikungunya-related death has been recorded in the province as of the second week of this month.

To prevent the spread of the disease, measures are continuously being conducted, especially in areas with recorded infections.

Residents have been advised to continue searching and destroying mosquito breeding sites, wearing long-sleeved clothes and applying mosquito repellents.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MAHARLIKA

[Dela Cruz: PBBM's Candaba Total Water Ecosystem project to solve flooding](#)

Following President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Romualdez Marcos Jr.'s directive for a thorough study on the proposed construction of an impounding system in Candaba, Pampanga, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. expressed his support to the proposal, saying the project would contribute considerably in resolving the lingering problem of massive flooding in Central Luzon.

During a meeting with local officials, the chief executive had stressed the need to study the proposal as a long-term solution to the flooding problems in Pampanga and nearby provinces even as he allayed the fears of local government units (LGUs) over the impact of the construction on people's livelihood in the area, particularly that of palay farmers in Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Bulacan.

The Candaba impounding system project was actually proposed by former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Rogelio Singson in 2013 but local officials had opposed it because they believe the project would affect more than 9,000 residents in Candaba whose lives would be drastically disrupted because there were no measures apparently outlined for their welfare.

Despite this, however, the President has now allayed the misgivings expressed by local government chief executives (LGCEs) who were apprehensive over the impact of the construction of the impounding facility on their constituents.

"Do not worry when it comes to the LGUs. Kayo naman ay hindi namin basta . . . sasagasaan na lang iyong project. Hindi namin gagawin iyon (We will not let the project affect you. We will not do that)," he enthused during his meeting with the LGUs in the area.

The chief executive likewise assured them that those who will be displaced by the proposed project would be relocated to other areas where they would be provided with all their needs.

Commissioner Dela Cruz recently visited Marawi City in Lanao del Sur, where he discussed with local officials to transform the well known trade hub into an 'Ecopolis' or Green City, and as of press time, he is now in Iligan City in Lanao del Norte to meet with students and the youth to inculcate in them the significance of their involvement and

active participation in the government's efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and global warming.

He spelled out that the establishment of the impounding system facility, or what he has described as a total water ecosystem, would not only be beneficial in flood prevention but also in providing an additional water source for the National Capital Region (NCR) and outlying areas.

“Makakatulong din ito sa pangangalaga ng ating biodiversity sa Candaba swamp at maaaring din itog maging lugar para sa ecotourism tulad ng La Mesa Nature Reserve sa Quezon City,” Dela Cruz pointed out in the vernacular.

MANILA BULLETIN

[ELEVENTH HOUR — Youth leaders in Zamboanga Del Norte vow to take action on climate and plastic crisis](#)

By: Climate Reality Project

Youth leaders and faculty members of Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU) in Dapitan City, Zamboanga Del Norte pledged their commitment to pave the way for a low-carbon, plastic-free, and climate-resilient university community.

The commitment was made during the two-day session of Klima Eskwela: Climate Science, Arts, and Action, conducted by The Climate Reality Project Philippines in partnership with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the JRMSU Supreme Student Government in the university last July 28 to 29, 2023.

Klima Eskwela is Climate Reality Philippines' knowledge exchange program that provides opportunities for young climate advocates and other stakeholders to deepen and broaden their understanding of climate science, policy, and governance.

"[Climate change] awareness should not be confined to scientists only. It is necessary to bring this knowledge to the common men, too. The way the population is increasing, the pressure on earth coming from this is undoubtedly going to increase critically," said Dr. Venus Namoc, JRMSU dean for student affairs and services.

Jerome Ilagan, CCC Policy and Research Division chief echoed Namoc's sentiment. "The collective consciousness of young people will determine the kind of climate policies in 2050 and beyond," he said.

"We recognize that despite being the least responsible for the prevailing climate crisis and bearing the brunt of its impacts, the youth play a crucial role in charting a more sustainable and climate-resilient future," said Ferth Manaysay, Climate Reality Philippines Plastic-Free Reality lead, underscoring the need to empower the youth to become agents of change.

Interlinked challenges of the climate and the plastic crises

The two-day Klima Eskwela session held in Dapitan City delved into the intersection of plastic pollution and the climate crisis.

Marine science and climate change expert Dr. Richard N. Muallil, vice chancellor for research and extension of the Mindanao State University-Tawi-Tawi and member of the

CCC National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), led the discussion on the need to tackle both crises hand-in-hand.

“The plastics industry is the fastest-growing source of industrial greenhouse gases in the world. The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) estimates that the greenhouse gas emissions from plastic production, use, and disposal could account for 19 percent of the total global carbon budget by 2040,” Dr. Muallil explained.

According to Dr. Muallil, about 99 percent of plastics originate from fossil fuels like oil, gas, or coal. As a result, due to the energy-intensive processes required, the production of plastics generates enormous amounts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Aside from reducing individual plastic footprints, Dr. Muallil underscored the need for youth leaders and faculty members to advocate for and support the implementation of policy and legislation to reduce plastic production, boost circular design, improve waste management, and hold polluters accountable.

The need to reduce plastic waste at the source

A new report released by the UN Environment early this year revealed that the global community can reduce plastic pollution by 80 percent by 2040 using existing technologies and solutions.

To do this, international cooperation and local policies must (1) accelerate the market for reusable products; (2) accelerate the market for plastics recycling; (3) re-orient and diversify the market for sustainable and safe plastic alternatives.

The said report was unequivocal that the most powerful market shift is reducing waste at source. This means eliminating single-use plastics and adopting reuse schemes.

This is why Climate Reality Philippines has been advocating for national legislation that will ban single-use plastics in the country. Responding to the 2023 State of the Nation Address last July, the organization urged the President to support a gradual phase-out of single-use plastics and direct the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to identify and include single-use plastics in the Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products (NEAP) list — and finally promulgate this list.

Local plastic solutions in Dapitan City

Engr. Ryan Carreon, Planning Officer III of the Dapitan City Environment and Natural Resource Office, presented the city’s local solid waste management policies and policies designed to curb plastic pollution.

City Ordinance No. 2019-404, as amended by City Ordinance No. 2021-449, regulates the use of plastic for goods and commodities, promotes the use of native baskets, eco bags, and other biodegradable and recyclable materials, and declares Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday as No Plastic Day in the city.

Under this ordinance, the city prohibits the use of plastic in merchandise every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

“A no plastic ordinance can motivate businesses to adopt sustainable packaging practices, reduce plastic packaging, and develop more environmentally friendly products,” Carreon said.

Integrating youth leadership, arts, and climate action

Toward the end of the Klima Eskwela session, participants vowed to minimize the consumption of single-use plastics, collaborate with school administration and local authorities to implement and expand plastic-free policies, support and actively participate in university-led initiatives to promote renewable energy sources, and prioritize sustainable transportation options, among others.

Participants were also given the opportunity to harness their creativity to communicate their vision of a sustainable future during the Poets for Climate art workshop held on the second day of the event.

Literary pieces, songs, and artworks created by the participants will be showcased in the online platforms of Climate Reality Philippines and the global poetry and art movement called When Is Now.

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