



NEWS ROUNDUP

29 AUGUST 2023 [08:00 am]

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AL JAZEERA

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By: Michela Moscufo

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BUSINESS MIRROR

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[Pinoy students to train in China as renewable energy engineers](#)

By: Jonathan L. Mayuga

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CNN

[As young conservatives try to get climate on the agenda in 2024, denial takes the spotlight instead](#)

By: Ella Nilsen

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DW

[Biden to visit Vietnam after G20 summit in India](#)

United States President Joe Biden is traveling to Vietnam next month for a meeting with the leader of the ruling Communist Party Nguyen Phu Trong and other Vietnamese leaders, the White House announced on Monday.

ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] 100 days to COP28: Can it deliver climate action?](#)

By: Debbie Hillier and Barbara Rosen Jacobson

As we mark 100 days until the COP28 UN climate summit, the urgency of addressing the climate crisis has never been more palpable. Global failures to mitigate emissions and adapt to the impacts continue to wreak havoc on the planet, and we're seeing this in a range of ways.

MANILA BULLETIN

[The world must act now to combat 'global boiling'](#)

In a "searing" statement issued recently, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres declared that the world is now entering an era of "global boiling." Official data confirms that July 2023 has become the "hottest month ever recorded in human history," with temperatures breaking records across the board.

MANILA STANDARD

[DENR's Yulo-Loyzaga: From the ivory tower to the environmental front lines](#)

By: VC Galvez

It's been a year since Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga has moved out from the ivory tower, as it were, down to the front lines—to lead the fight to preserve, protect, and bring back to life, what some would say, the remains of the country's natural resources.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Nat'l action plan on climate change eyed](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission on Saturday said it is pushing the formulation of a comprehensive and effective National Action Plan that will serve as a long-term support mechanism for capacity and technologies to address the impact of the changing climate conditions in the country.

GMA NEWS

[Commission on Climate Change sinabing nasa code red ang status ng bansa.](#)

Publiko hinihikayat na magtanim sa kanilang bakuran at makiisa sa mga tree planting activity.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Community-driven climate action launched in Laguna](#)

By: Christopher Hedreyda

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has launched a program on Thursday that engages communities to help reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Flood impacts, solutions tackled in CCC's forum in Quezon](#)

Participants from various sectors, policymakers and experts gathered at the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) 2nd National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) Policy Forum held here on Aug. 25 to explore policy and technological solutions to address flooding in the country.

PTV

[Net Zero Challenge' campaign, inilunsad ng Climate Change Commission sa pamamagitan ng Tree Planting Activity sa Paete, Laguna](#)

Pagbaha, matinding pag-ulan, pagguho ng lupa at lubhang pagtaas ng temperatura ilan lang 'yan sa epekto na lumalalang climate change sa mundo na ating nararanasan sa kasalukuyan. Kaya ang Climate Change Commission at National Power Corporation at iba pang organisasyon inilunsad ang Net Zero challenge sa Laguna.

MAHARLIKA

[CCC's Dela Cruz Lauds Lower House for Amended Nationwide Tree-Planting Act](#)

Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz acclaimed the House of Representatives for its unanimous approval on the third and final reading of House Bill (HB) 8568, which aims to provide mechanisms that would ensure the effective implementation of a nationwide tree-planting program.

POLITIKO

[Climate body lauds House approval of Nationwide Tree-Planting Act](#)

By: Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission has welcome the unanimous approval on third and final reading of House Bill No. (HBN) 8568, which seeks to provide mechanisms that would ensure the effective implementation of a nationwide tree-planting program.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

[Are climate reparations finally on the way for vulnerable countries?](#)

By: Michela Moscufo

Climate negotiators representing two dozen countries will hold meetings on Tuesday to iron out details of the United Nations' "loss and damage" fund, created last year in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, and expected to be presented at COP28 in Dubai in November.

The fund is mean to provide compensation for poor nations suffering the impact of climate change. The committee meeting this week has been tasked with determining where the fund will be located, how it will be managed, who will be eligible and how it will be funded.

The committee is considering whether the fund should be hosted by an already existing institution, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the Green Climate Fund, or whether a new institution will be created.

Loss and damage funding includes money for such things as relocating or rebuilding after extreme weather, the loss of livelihoods due to ecosystem destruction and non-economic losses, such as loss of culture and tradition, or trauma.

It is different from mitigation, which is financial support that helps address the root cause of climate change, namely greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation, which helps reduce the impacts of climate change, although the terms are often used interchangeably.

Small island developing states and the least developed countries group have been advocating for loss and damage funding for nearly three decades, and they are finally sitting at the negotiating table determining what the fund will look like.

"I think it's real to people now because everyone is affected by climate change," Ayesha Dinshaw, loss and damage programme officer at the Climate Justice Resilience Fund, told Al Jazeera.

"People in developed countries understand now more than ever what it feels like to lose their loved ones, places that matter to them, their homes and belongings," she said.

\$671bn needed annually by 2030

Dinshaw was asked to present the work of the Climate Justice Resilience Fund, which focuses specifically on social justice and community-determined projects in their funding, at the committee's second workshop in July.

Funds required for loss and damage are expected to reach \$671bn annually by 2030, according to calculations by the Loss and Damage Collaboration. Current funding stands at less than \$500m annually.

The majority of current funding is directed through financial instruments called the Santiago Network and Global Shield, which were created at the UN climate change conferences, or COP summits, in 2020 and 2022, respectively.

The V20, a coalition of the 55 most climate-vulnerable countries, has estimated its members already spend more than 20 percent of their combined GDP on loss and damage because of climate change.

The conversations happening at the UN-level are coming alongside work by the Bridgetown Initiative, a coalition formed last year by world leaders, including the heads of the World Bank and IMF.

At a summit in Paris in June, the coalition announced a number of achievements including channeling \$100bn in the IMF's reserve currency, called "special drawing rights", towards vulnerable nations.

Additionally, it announced there was a "good likelihood" that developed countries will contribute their promised \$100bn in climate financing this year, based on a commitment made at COP14 in Copenhagen in 2009.

"We've seen a significant change in action," Avinash Persaud, a development economist and climate envoy representing Barbados, told Al Jazeera. "We've seen for the first time people looking at questions that have been previously considered closed."

Resistance to reparations

As the world battles record heat, extreme weather and rising sea levels, climate action is also accelerating with the tables appearing to turn in favour of vulnerable countries. Yet many fear the mobilisation of international finance is not moving fast enough.

Climate financing from developed to developing countries, which currently stands at an estimated \$57bn annually, is a far cry from the \$2.5 trillion for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage that experts calculate developing countries need annually.

The majority of climate finance is still leveraged through debt and prioritizes adaptation and mitigation efforts over funding for loss and damage. A recent UN report calculated more than 25 percent of countries in the world are either in debt distress or at risk from it.

Although China sent Prime Minister Li Qiang to the Paris summit, some of the largest carbon polluters, namely India and Russia, have been largely absent from meaningful climate action.

Additionally, most countries are resistant to a reparations framework that would encourage richer, more developed countries, which have historically contributed the most to climate change, to contribute financially to less developed countries that have historically contributed the least to climate change yet bear the major burden.

Under that framework, a vulnerable country such as Bangladesh, which contributes less than 4 percent of global carbon emissions and is one of the most vulnerable to climate change, would contribute the least to a loss and damage fund and have preferential access.

“Our position is that those who are responsible for climate change – developed countries – should provide resources to this fund,” Hafij Khan, environmental lawyer and adviser to the least developed countries group, told Al Jazeera.

“At the same time, we also agree that other parties who are in a position to do so should be encouraged to provide some resources,” he added.

‘Moral responsibility’

When Scotland gave a breakthrough grant of \$1.26m to the Climate Justice Resilience Fund ahead of last year’s COP summit, then-First Minister Nicola Sturgeon acknowledged developed countries had a “moral responsibility” to support developing ones in the face of climate change.

So far, more than a dozen countries already support some form of loss and damage funding, the largest being Germany’s pledge of 170 million euros (\$184m) at COP27 last year.

When the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was ratified in 1994, countries said developed nations had contributed the largest share of carbon emissions and agreed on the principle that countries had “common but differentiated responsibilities” in combating climate change. But diplomats vary on what that means.

As part of the Paris Agreement, which was signed at COP21 in 2015, countries agreed to remove any mention of liability and compensation from conversations about loss and damage.

The United States, for its part, has stated explicitly it is against climate reparations.

“No, under no circumstances,” US climate envoy John Kerry told the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives last month when asked, “Are you planning to commit America to climate reparations?”

Kerry’s senior adaptation adviser, Christina Chan, told Al Jazeera when asked whether the US would contribute to the loss and damage fund: “No funding commitments have been made at this point in the process.”

Numbers, not words

Although some negotiators place the burden on nations to contribute, others are more focused on leveraging the private sector and other mechanisms, such as taxation on the shipping industry.

The Bridgetown Initiative – named after the capital of Barbados, where the coalition was first convened by Prime Minister Mia Mottley last year – has made significant progress by uniting institutions such as the World Bank with leaders of more than 40 countries. In addition to increasing the IMF’s special drawing rights and potentially making good on the nationally determined contributions, the Bridgetown Initiative has announced a number of other achievements.

It expects a \$200bn increase in lending from development banks over the next 10 years and has also fundraised more than \$40bn for the IMF’s new Resilience and Sustainability Trust.

During its Paris summit, it also announced a renegotiation of \$6.3bn in debt owed by Zambia to China, a deal the Zambian president described as being “like a mission impossible”.

But can these developments be considered reparations?

“We need new taxes and levies that have a broad reach,” Persaud told Al Jazeera. “In the breadth of their reach, it should certainly be slanted to the wealthier countries.”

Yet, he added, “we are not going to get the \$2.4 trillion we need through reparations”.

“We want to debate the issue of numbers and funding, not words.”

BUSINESS MIRROR

Climate change is helping pests and diseases destroy our food

Pests and diseases are exacerbating crop shortages that have sent prices for goods like cocoa, olive oil and orange juice soaring. That's set to become even more prevalent as extreme weather events multiply.

Already, plant diseases cost the global economy over \$220 billion every year, and invasive insects at least \$70 billion, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. Pests adapt easily to the changing climate, with warmer temperatures allowing them to generate more quickly and migrate faster, in turn reducing crop yields, according to Leah Buchman, an entomologist at Georgetown University.

"As temperature rise, you have this expanded geographic range and this expanded range of insects that will just increase those diseases that insects spread," Buchman said.

As a result, destructive moths native to the Americas have been found devouring corn and other grains across Africa and Asia. A whitefly associated with tropical and subtropical climates has been destroying tomato plantations in Europe. Below are some of the crops that are struggling as the enemies that destroy them increase.

Cocoa

West Africa, home to two-thirds of global cocoa supply, has seen serious difficulties with its crop in recent seasons, causing wholesale prices to soar near historic highs this year.

Two diseases in particular have compounded the problem. Black pod disease is caused by fungal-like organisms that spread rapidly on cacao pods under humid conditions, turning them black or brown. It has caused destruction of up to 30 percent of annual cocoa crops, according to the several studies. Prolonged periods of heavy rain combined with irregular patterns have increased opportunities for it to spread.

Swollen shoot virus is transmitted via mealybugs that feed on the sap of cocoa plants, and significantly reduces crop yields before eventually killing the plant. Mealybugs thrive in warmer temperatures, and can spread the virus quickly even if only a single seedling is infected. Uprooting infected trees is the only way to control the disease, according to World Agroforestry. About 20 percent of the cocoa crop in Ivory Coast is infected with swollen shoot, said Steve Wateridge, head of research at Tropical Research Services.

Tomatoes

The price of tomatoes in India soared 700 percent last month, an increase so out of the ordinary that it has sparked social media memes comparing the cost of the essential ingredient with anything from petrol to political influence.

The crop's output took a hit amid delayed monsoon, heavy rains in some growing areas and hotter-than normal temperatures in June. But it has also suffered because of the so-called silverleaf whitefly. The sap-feeding insect has the ability to transmit hundreds of plant viruses, crimping production of key crops like tomatoes, but also cassava, beans and sweet potatoes. In India, the highly infectious tomato leaf curl virus transmitted by the insect contributed to devastating losses. The virus was recently introduced to Europe, possibly from India and has been causing outbreaks in several European countries. The insects have shown high adaptability to changes in agro-ecosystems, with a combination of hot weather and high humidity resulting in the insects' buildup.

Olives

Spain, the world's largest olive oil producer, is facing its own type of oil crisis as drought has caused output to dwindle, more than doubling wholesale costs in the past year. But it's not only extreme heat and dryness that's biting into European olive farmers' production.

With temperatures in the region rising, fending off certain diseases has become more difficult. *Xylella fastidiosa* is "one of the most dangerous plant bacteria worldwide," according to the European Commission, and has the potential to cause an annual production loss of €5.5 billion in the EU. The bacterium kills plants by clogging vessels that carry water from roots to leaves, slowly choking them to death.

Temperatures below -5C (23F) can reduce the disease viability, but with winter seasons reaching those temperatures less frequently, the distribution of suitable areas for the bacteria may change. In Italy, at least 20 million of the country's 150 million olive trees have already been infected, mostly in the region of Puglia, which used to contribute up to 50 percent of Italy's total annual olive oil production.

Grains

The global grains trade has faced trouble for a number of reasons, not least due to recent escalations in Russia's war against Ukraine. While prices have remained more or less in check, unfavorable weather and pests have sparked local production issues in some countries.

That's true in China, one of the world's top growers of corn, where pests like the fall armyworm are attacking plants earlier than usual. Native to the Americas, the destructive pest is now found across various continents including Asia and Africa. Fall armyworms can migrate hundreds of kilometers in a single night during their moth stage, and produce many eggs, raising their chances of survival. Warmer and humid weather supports survival and reproduction of the pest, allowing larvae to begin their assault much earlier in a crop cycle.

Orange juice

Damage from hurricanes, frost and diseases have decimated orange groves in Florida, pushing US orange juice futures to record highs this month. Orange growers across Brazil and the US are struggling to battle the citrus greening disease, a fatal illness that causes fruits to get smaller, fall off trees and produce bitter juice, causing a global shortage.

The disease, transmitted by an insect known as the Asian citrus psyllid, is considered the most serious threat to citrus plants. In Brazil, nearly one in four orange trees in Sao Paulo State and western Minas Gerais have the disease, according to research group Fundecitrus.

An increase in average temperatures in parts of the country's citrus belt can benefit the spread of the insect that carries the bacteria, according to a study by Brazilian Agricultural Research company Embrapa. Citrus crop output in Brazil, the world's top exporter, has also dwindled due to the disease.

[Pinoy students to train in China as renewable energy engineers](#)

By: Jonathan L. Mayuga

A MANILA-BASED climate-advocacy group has selected 18 resource-poor yet deserving students to become renewable energy (RE) engineers and champions.

This is to help the Philippines cope better with challenges posed by climate change and the new normal through mitigation and adaptation, and to guide the country toward a path on RE.

For the first batch of beneficiaries, 18 Filipino high-school graduates were selected for a three-year, full scholarship program. They are expected to fly to China this month, in time for the opening of classes in the host college.

A first in the Philippines, the “Renewable Energy Scholarship Program for Filipino Students” will send the young learners to China for an RE engineering course in Jiuquan Vocational Technical College in the province of Gansu.

The full scholarship from September 2023 to July 2026 also opens an opportunity for internships to would-be graduates in RE-based companies in China.

Implemented by the People Asia for Climate Solutions (PACS)—an organization founded in 2019 by climate communicator Wang Xiaojun from China and its local partners 350, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, and the Climate Reality Project-Philippines, the program also aims to inspire and encourage people-centered climate actions, with the Asian superpower shifting its role from a major climate polluter to vital solutions provider—domestically and overseas—mainly in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner-countries such as the Philippines.

Pre-scholarship capacity building

THE students aged 17 to 22 were among those whose lives were forever changed by the devastating impact of climate change-induced events like Super typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan). Described as the worst ever to hit the country in its history, the howler made the world realize that climate change is real, and that the occurrence of superstorms now comprise the new normal.

Interviewed online, Wang said PACS will upskill the 18 students before they fly to China for their scholarships. They will learn the language, basic RE knowledge, transportation, and weather conditions they will be facing before heading to Gansu.

The school, he said, is near the remote Gobi Desert, which is ideal for their training in RE engineering—particularly wind and solar energy.

In the duration of their stay as scholars, they will be provided with board and lodging, receive allowances, plus have the opportunity to visit RE plants, including those in farms that make use of the said type of energy.

Molding RE champions

ACCORDING to Wang, all scholars will be coming from the Philippines this year.

The communicator said PACS is currently in talks with other learning institutions in China, optimistic of bringing in more Filipino students and other nationals to learn about RE in his country.

With the program and after their training, he hopes that the students would return to their respective countries, then use their acquired skills and knowledge to help their homeland become more climate-friendly and climate-resilient.

Climate change-vulnerable countries

WANG said the Philippines and China share similar vulnerabilities to climate change, and that both countries also have vast RE potentials, which could boost economic growth and build disaster-resilient communities.

“The most recent typhoons that passed through the Philippines also hit China, [which killed] 18 people in Beijing alone,” he shared.

In recruiting local scholars, Wang relayed that PACS went from school-to-school and talked to school officials to convince school principals to send a representative or two for the opportunity to learn about RE in China.

He said his country is investing more today in RE which, like the Philippines, has huge promise, being in the tropics blessed with strong winds and plenty of sunlight. Said elements can be tapped and converted into an environment-friendly power source.

For him, the three-year training will help the students become champions of RE, and help unleash the Philippines’s potential for such.

RE-based future

ACCORDING to the communicator, the Chinese expect the graduates to help their country shift to RE—either as developers working on their own respective firms, or as top engineers of Filipino-owned companies in 15 to 20 years. They can contribute to the

national effort in shifting to RE, while becoming more economically, politically, and energy independent.

The school and community where the scholars will be based have various RE projects based in some of the world's largest wind and solar farms, confirmed Wang.

"They can also talk to locals because in farms around the college, there's solar-powered farming, and the farmers are also working for RE companies. They will really have a learning experience after their training," he said.

PACS advocacy

SINCE its founding, PACS has helped produce Southeast Asian climate experts as opinion leaders. The organization has also published testimonial books and practical guides about China's energy investments overseas, while successfully facilitating effective and efficient workshops, as well as field trips to China.

PACS' goal in the coming years is to collaborate with more international and local media, including other nongovernment organizations, in order to establish the Belt and Road Initiative Direction toward Green Energy, or BRIDGE. Its goal is to build a safe space for climate and energy NGOs in BRI partner-countries.

It also aims to drive regular candid and constructive conversations with Chinese stakeholders about their country's support for a real, fast, just, and clean energy transition in their countries.

Commitment to RE

THE 18 students, who are 17- to 22-years-old, are mostly females. This is a manifestation of the program opening up equal opportunities for many to be part of engineering programs for new sustainable technologies.

Said high-school graduates are from Leyte National High School in Tacloban; the Bonifacio Camacho National High School in Bataan; as well as Rizal, Nueva Ecija-based institutions Bicos National High School, Agbannawag High School, and the Asia Pacific College of Business and Arts.

A scholar, Geraldine P. Lucero, hopes to learn about RE and help her locale become more resilient and environment-friendly. She remarked that "RE has a lot of positive impacts in our community. Having it there will help improve lives."

John Lexter G. Paner of Balanga, Bataan intends to study and learn RE to debunk the notion that nuclear power, a facility of which is in his province, is the cheapest source. He clarified that “based on my observations, people here are in favor of nuclear power, because it will bring cheap energy. This is not true, because the costs of operating power plants are higher.”

Bianca Mae A. Encarnacion who is from Palo, Leyte, which was one of the heavily devastated areas during the onslaught of “Yolanda” in 2013, expects to learn about RE and apply her knowledge in bringing its benefits in her province.

“Every time there’s a typhoon, we experience hardships. There’s also no RE facility in Tacloban,” Encarnacion imparted. “I will use my learning to help the country, and our province. I am hoping to build one there three years from now.”

BUSINESS WORLD

Global warming link to intense rains in India's Himalayas

Torrential rains that have battered India's Himalayas in recent years, killing hundreds of people and causing billions of dollars worth of damage, are becoming more intense due to a clash of weather systems triggered by global warming, scientists said.

At least 240 people have died this year in the mountainous region as landslides and flash floods triggered by heavy rains buried homes and destroyed crops and infrastructure. Seasonal monsoon showers are vital for India's \$3-trillion economy, bringing nearly 70% of the rain the country needs to water farms and refill reservoirs and aquifers.

But the monsoon's convergence with a low-pressure weather system in the Himalayas in recent years has caused extremely heavy rains, something that scientists and officials have blamed on rising temperatures.

"Think of it as a collision of two forceful systems," said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the India Meteorological department's regional center in New Delhi. "It causes significant rain, or even cloudbursts ... we are noticing in the last few years, intense spells of rain lasting short durations," he said, adding that this was due climate change driven by global increase in temperatures.

The number of very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall days per decade in India's Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh (HP) and neighboring Uttarakhand increased to 118 between 2011 and 2020 from 74 in the preceding decade, data from the weather office showed.

At least 166 people have died in HP and 74 in Uttarakhand this year since June in landslides, flash floods and other rain-related incidents, according to government data.

Rains battered the two states following the convergence of the monsoon system with Western Disturbances, a weather system that originates in the Mediterranean Sea and moves east, bringing moisture-laden winds that cause winter rain and snow in the Himalayas.

Western Disturbances usually pass north of India's northern border between the summer and monsoon months of June and October, but, as temperatures rise, some of them move slightly south, said V.P. Dimri, director of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism.

“Because of sea surface temperature warming, the Western Disturbances have more energy ... similarly, general warming of the earth is also leading to change in wind motions,” he added.

Monsoon rainfall patterns across India have seen a climatic shift in the recent decades, said Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

“The most significant change is that instead of having moderate rains spread out through the monsoon season, we have long dry periods intermittent with short spells of heavy rains,” Mr. Koll said.

CNN

[As young conservatives try to get climate on the agenda in 2024, denial takes the spotlight instead](#)

By: Ella Nilsen

During this week's Republican primary debate on Fox News, a young voter notably asked about the climate crisis: How would these presidential candidates assuage concerns that the Republican Party "doesn't care" about the issue?

The question was all but unavoidable after weeks of extreme, deadly weather. Global temperature records have been shattered, extreme heat has soared off-the-charts in the US and the Maui wildfire death toll continues to climb.

What followed the question was one of the night's most chaotic exchanges, demonstrating the challenge some conservatives face in getting climate policy on the 2024 GOP agenda, even as extreme weather takes its toll on millions of people across the country.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, the leader of a state that has been thrashed by deadly extreme weather in recent years, refused the moderators' show-of-hands question on whether climate change is caused by humans. He used the moment to deride the media and President Joe Biden's response in Maui.

Then 38-year-old Vivek Ramaswamy – notably the youngest candidate on stage – called the "climate change agenda" a "hoax," an answer that elicited intense boos from the audience.

A majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents – 55% – say human activity is causing changes to the world's climate, according to a recent Washington Post/University of Maryland poll. It also found a majority of Americans and Republicans say their area has been impacted by extreme heat in the past five years.

But connecting the dots between climate and extreme weather is proving a more partisan issue. The poll found there are deep divides between Republicans and Democrats on the question of whether human-caused climate change is contributing to extreme weather: just 35% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said they think climate change is a major factor in extremely hot days, compared with 85% of those who lean Democrat.

After the debate, a prominent conservative climate group said Ramaswamy tried to clarify his position.

“He came to our after-party and he blatantly told us that he believes climate change is real,” Benji Backer, founder of the American Conservation Coalition, told CNN. “So, he changed his position again.”

Asked by CNN on Friday whether he believes climate change is real, Ramaswamy responded, “Climate change has existed as long as the Earth has existed. Manmade climate change has existed as long as man has existed on the earth.” In an email, Ramaswamy’s campaign spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told CNN the candidate does believe climate change is real, but policies to address it “have little to do with climate change and more to do with penalizing the West as a way to achieve global ‘equity.’”

Yet for Republicans working to make climate policy more mainstream in the GOP, Ramaswamy’s language at the debate echoed a climate crisis-denying candidate who wasn’t onstage, former President Donald Trump. Trump has called climate change itself a “hoax” and falsely claimed wind turbines cause cancer.

“The fact that he chose the word hoax, to me, he’s emulating what President Trump had said before,” Heather Reams, president of conservative nonprofit Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, told CNN. Reams, who was sitting in the audience in Milwaukee, noted that Ramaswamy calling the “climate change agenda” a hoax didn’t go over well in a room full of Republicans.

“The whole place booed him, so it wasn’t well received,” Reams said. “Hearing booing was actually heartening to hear that the party is really moving on, they’re seeing the economic opportunities that can be had for the United States being a leader in lowering emissions.”

Ramaswamy’s response was an attempt to go after the older GOP voting base in the primary, Backer said. It’s the kind of audience that Fox News has historically played to when it hosts climate deniers on some of its shows or casts doubt on the connection between extreme weather and the climate crisis – but Backer said the fact the network even asked this question “just shows that the pendulum is shifting.”

Backer warned Ramaswamy’s response to the question risks alienating younger conservative voters who are increasingly concerned about climate impacts.

“I’ve in two presidential elections and I’ve never voted for a Republican president in my life, because I don’t vote for climate deniers,” Backer said, adding that climate denial “is the way of the past.”

Several Republican presidential candidates have said they believe climate change is real and caused by human activity – a shift from previous elections.

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley acknowledged its reality but said foreign nations, including India and China, bear larger responsibility for addressing it. Haley, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum have all engaged frequently with conservative groups, Reams and Backer said.

“I think that Nikki Haley provided a very clear, very positive response,” Danielle Butcher Franz, CEO of the American Conservation Coalition, told CNN. “We need to see more responses like that in the Republican Party. I think it’s important that we show the conservative environmental movement is here to stay.”

Backer warned that Ramaswamy and other candidates risk losing young voters if they continue to engage in climate denial – or anything that sounds remotely like it.

“There’s a lot of Republicans leading on this, but the narrative is that we don’t care,” Backer said. “And if we nominate another person who doesn’t care, young people are not going to forget that. There’s not going to be a lot of baby boomers in 20 years, so you better start thinking about the next generation.”

DW

[Biden to visit Vietnam after G20 summit in India](#)

United States President Joe Biden is traveling to Vietnam next month for a meeting with the leader of the ruling Communist Party Nguyen Phu Trong and other Vietnamese leaders, the White House announced on Monday.

Biden will arrive in Hanoi on September 10 after attending the annual summit of the G20 leaders in India. The one-day in Vietnam comes as Washington seeks to counter China's influence in the region.

"The leaders will explore opportunities to promote the growth of a technology-focused and innovation-driven Vietnamese economy," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

The meeting will also focus on "education exchanges and workforce development programs," combating climate change, and increasing peace, prosperity, and stability in the region," the statement said.

Building partnership despite difficult past

Biden had announced in early August that he would soon be traveling to Vietnam, saying that Hanoi "wants to change our relationship and become a partner." The US, for years has sought to strengthen relations with Vietnam.

Biden and Trong spoke by phone in March, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the southeast Asian nation one month later. Washington considers Hanoi one of its top partners in the region, especially as the memory of the Vietnam War fades.

However, Vietnam must also weigh any reaction by a powerful neighbor, China. Trong last year became the first foreign leader to meet President Xi Jinping in Beijing after the Chinese leader secured a precedent-breaking third term.

US and Vietnam share concerns about China

In addition to increasingly close trade links, the US and Vietnam both share concern over China's growing strength. Friction has been increasing for years between Beijing and Southeast Asian nations, particularly Vietnam and the Philippines, over China's sweeping maritime claims in the South China Sea.

The White House also announced that to mark the the 22nd anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] 100 days to COP28: Can it deliver climate action?](#)

By: Debbie Hillier and Barbara Rosen Jacobson

As we mark 100 days until the COP28 UN climate summit, the urgency of addressing the climate crisis has never been more palpable. Global failures to mitigate emissions and adapt to the impacts continue to wreak havoc on the planet, and we're seeing this in a range of ways.

Unprecedented extreme weather events have occurred with frightening regularity in 2023. In March, over 500 people lost their lives when Cyclone Freddy struck Malawi. Last month, flooding in the Philippines caused by Typhoons Doksuri and Khanun displaced more than 300,000 people, and the recent wildfires that ravaged Hawaii – in part exacerbated by climate change – continue to make for distressing headlines. This list is likely to become even longer by the end of the year, when COP28 gets underway in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Then there's the long-term future to consider - with the world predicted to warm by 2.8 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, a massive course correct is required. This COP must not just take baby steps in the right direction; it must instead deliver bold, truly transformative action.

Conflicts of interest risk derailing progress

The COP Presidency has a key role in guiding the summit, setting expectations and driving progress. As such, the appointment of Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, the Managing Director of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), as President of COP28 has been highly controversial. Many states have officially offered their support (highlighting his other role as chair of Masdar, a major renewable energy company), but there are obvious concerns about potential conflicts of interest.

Critics point to ADNOC's US\$150bn investment over five years in an "accelerated growth strategy" for oil and gas production, the UAE not declaring its methane emissions, and the revelation by the Guardian newspaper that ADNOC had access to confidential COP28 emails.

The geopolitical context is undeniably difficult at the moment, and we saw useful technical discussions at Bonn falter when political decisions came into play. This is yet another reason why a strong Presidency, one which can bring all governments together, is required.

Will we get an ambitious COP?

In July, the Presidency sent a letter to UN member states outlining his vision. While it was stronger than many analysts had expected, it still left many questions unanswered – including, ‘is this enough?’. For example, in contrast to European countries’ COP28 vision to promote a global phase-out of fossil fuels, the Presidency’s letter referred to a focus on unabated fossil fuels, and a previous speech mentioned the need for fossil fuels ‘for the foreseeable future’.

It is imperative that the COP28 Presidency fully embraces its role and responsibility to drive the required efforts to reduce planet-heating emissions. For COP28 to be a success, the Presidency needs to actively champion the phase-out of fossil fuels and facilitate the transition to renewable energy sources, in addition to making progress on climate finance, adaptation, and loss and damage.

The right voices in the room

If real progress is to be made, COP28 needs to hear from those on the frontlines of climate change, not those who profit from it. Lobbying by oil and gas companies reached alarming levels at COP27, with over 600 lobbyists attending the conference – an increase of more than 25 per cent from COP26, prompting questions about the impartiality of climate negotiations.

Some argue that oil and gas companies need to be at the negotiating table because the world will continue to need energy providers. While this could be productive in theory, it assumes that they are interested in seeking change and being part of the solution. Yet, oil companies achieved huge profits this year due to higher prices, and instead of seeing this unearned windfall as an opportunity to invest in a transition to green energy, the largest producers have prioritised shareholder remuneration.

Indeed, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said oil majors must “cease and desist influence peddling and legal threats designed to knee-cap progress.” In June, the UN announced it will require fossil fuel lobbyists to identify themselves as such when registering for COP28. While a useful first step, it is undeniably small progress; much more is needed to ensure that the negotiating process is focused on solutions, and that the money and influence of oil companies is not allowed to drown out the voices of affected countries, communities and groups.

Action needed now more than ever

We have always needed COP to deliver strong outcomes - but the gulf between where we are and where we need to be is widening. And this year, the increasing conflicts of interest are further undermining trust in the process.

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance recognises the challenges in achieving success at COP28, and the need to take steps to enhance transparency and accountability. Yet, given the severity of the climate crisis, we call on all governments and other organisations present to use the opportunity to deliver the lasting change that climate-vulnerable communities desperately and urgently need.

MANILA BULLETIN

[The world must act now to combat 'global boiling'](#)

In a “searing” statement issued recently, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres declared that the world is now entering an era of “global boiling.” Official data confirms that July 2023 has become the “hottest month ever recorded in human history,” with temperatures breaking records across the board.

“Humanity is in the hotseat,” Guterres said at a climate press conference at the UN headquarters. “Climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning. The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived. The air is unbreathable. The heat is unbearable. And the level of fossil fuel profits and climate inaction is unacceptable.”

According to data released by the World Meteorological Organization and the European Commission’s Copernicus Climate Change Service, July has “already seen the hottest three-week period ever recorded, the three hottest days on record, and the highest-ever ocean temperatures for this time of year.”

In the Philippines last Aug. 14, the heat index, or temperature as perceived by the body, reached 60 degrees Celsius (°C) in Casiguran, Aurora, based on the monitoring of PAGASA.

Sixteen other areas on the same day experienced “dangerous” heat indices, among them: Calapan, Oriental Mindoro (45°C); NAIA, Pasay City (43°C); Dagupan City, Pangasinan (43°C); Tuguegarao City, Cagayan (43°C); Baler, Aurora (43°C); Alabat, Quezon (43°C); Daet, Camarines Norte (43°C); Virac, Catanduanes (43°C); Roxas City, Capiz (43°C); Aparri, Cagayan (42°C); Iba, Zambales (42°C); Sangley Point, and Cavite (42°C).

PAGASA said a heat index ranging from 42°C to 51°C indicates impending “danger,” as “heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely,” and “heat stroke is probable with continued activity.”

And who is to blame for global boiling? Guterres points to humanity itself as the primary culprit. “Humans are to blame. All this is entirely consistent with predictions and repeated warnings (of scientists).” What’s surprising and alarming for Guterres, however, is the “speed of change.”

But all is not lost, as there is still a little bit of time left. But there can be no hesitancy and excuses, especially for climate-vulnerable nations such as the Philippines. It

wouldn't take a scientist to know — and feel — that we are in a precarious state, with heat getting more intense, and rains getting more mightier. In fact, the Institute for Economics and Peace has said that the Philippines is the country most at risk from the climate crisis.

Amidst the alarming shift from global warming to global boiling, Guterres urged us not to despair but to take action. He remains optimistic that when humanity unites and works toward a common goal, we can still prevent the worst outcomes.

One of the most crucial actions to take now is to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius in order to avoid the very worst of climate change. As citizens, we can support the private and public sectors' transition to renewable energy, reduce unnecessary electricity consumption, and prioritize the reuse of finite resources. Most of all, educating younger generations about the importance of saving this planet is also crucial.

Furthermore, Guterres emphasizes the need for “adaptation.” “Extreme weather is becoming the new normal. All countries must respond and protect their people from the searing heat, fatal floods, storms, droughts, and raging fires that result. Those countries on the frontlines – who have done the least to cause the crisis and have the least resources to deal with it – must have the support they need to do so.” Again, this statement perfectly describes the Philippine situation, as we are a “carbon sink” country.

Are you ready to do something today for the planet? Let's not wait for the “boiling point” to force us into action.

MANILA STANDARD

[DENR's Yulo-Loyzaga: From the ivory tower to the environmental front lines](#)

By: VC Galvez

It's been a year since Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga has moved out from the ivory tower, as it were, down to the front lines—to lead the fight to preserve, protect, and bring back to life, what some would say, the remains of the country's natural resources.

In keeping perhaps with her persona, she has quietly adopted innovative ways to enable the DENR bureaucracy to work together in achieving goals she has set during her watch.

Navigating her way through what she has described as the department's silos has been "very challenging."

"We've had to deal with a lot of legacy issues, as you know, and we've had to deal with some cultures and practices that are part of the history of this department," says Yulo-Loyzaga without elaborating in an interview.

Innovations

Yulo-Loyzaga has laid down the infrastructure which will provide her department with the data she needs to make difficult, and maybe even controversial, but science-based decisions in the days ahead.

She has brought in two new undersecretaries—one to oversee organizational transformation and the training of the "next generation leadership" of the department, and another known expert in the field of environmental science to manage a geo-spatial database.

"These two achievements, along with the organization of the Water Resources Management Office, I hope will characterize our first year as the introduction of evidence-based decision making in this department," says Yulo-Loyzaga.

She explains that the geo-spatial database aims to properly account for, value and manage our country's natural resources, as well as a basis to identify priority areas for forestation, reforestation and afforestation.

It can detect encroachment on public coastal areas, illegal mining activities and industries without necessary permits and pinpoint water systems that can be developed for hydropower and water supply.

Mindoro oil spill

Even as she puts her department in order, Yulo-Loyzaga has had to go out to the field to deal with a different set of challenges.

In February this year, a fuel tanker sank off Naujan, Mindoro Oriental and spewed out about 800,000 liters of oil resulting in damages amounting to over P1 billion.

Yulo-Loyzaga flew out to check on the situation, met with the governor and the coast guard, and deployed a hydrographer ship to locate the sunken vessel.

“We needed to find out where the oil was heading. For that, we turned to the UP Marine Science Institute. We were able to anticipate the flow towards the shore,” she says.

Water quality has since improved in most areas affected by the oil spill. She, however, takes pains to point out it is the local government that can best monitor and protect the environment.

“We are not there 24 hours, we are undermanned as a department. But the local government is present and they do have environment officers... and we will support them,” she says.

Reclamation at Manila Bay

Yulo-Loyzaga has also begun to look into the multi-billion peso (P330.6 billion) reclamation projects in Manila Bay.

“Reclamation, of course, is one way forward in terms of the economic development of the different areas. However, we need a thorough approach that welcomes different perspectives from all groups,” she told reporters.

A task force composed of Filipino scientists and foreign experts will be formed this month to conduct an evaluation of the environmental impact of the ongoing reclamation projects.

Full text at www.manilastandard.net

An initial assessment has already shown possible violations and the DENR is reviewing the ECC issued to the contractors to check for compliance.

El Niño and Water Security

Yulo-Loyzaga sees water security as a priority and immediate concern, especially with El Niño looming large on the horizon.

“Conservation is on top of our list. But we are also ramping up efforts at installing water collection facilities in areas projected to be hit hard by El Niño,” she says.

PAGASA has projected that most areas will experience below-normal rainfall conditions from November 2023 to January 2024.

The creation of the Department’s Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) is expected to spur efforts at ensuring “universal access to safe, sufficient, affordable, and sustainable water supply, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030.”

A resilient future

Having been executive director of the Jesuit-run Manila Observatory from 2007-2016, Yulo-Loyzaga has long adopted a science-based approach to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

With five years to go, Yulo-Loyzaga has wasted no time in doing what she thinks needs to be done to accomplish the goals she has set during her watch.

The bespectacled professor-scientist with a hairdo that has sparked comparisons online with the Edna Mode character in the movie *Incredibles* is more than ready to fight in the environmental front lines.

With a growing consensus among scientists that the world’s climate has gone beyond the tipping point, Yulo-Loyzaga has the credentials to help steer the country towards a resilient future.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Nat'l action plan on climate change eyed](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission on Saturday said it is pushing the formulation of a comprehensive and effective National Action Plan that will serve as a long-term support mechanism for capacity and technologies to address the impact of the changing climate conditions in the country.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the need to craft a science-based, evidence-based, and needs-based NAP to strengthen the adaptive capacities of all Filipinos, particularly those most vulnerable sectors of society.

Borje said one of the key deliverables of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 includes the completion of the NAP which requires a whole-of-society and whole-of-world approach—consistent with the recent pronouncement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in his second to building a “climate-smart and climate-resilient country.”

The CCC aims to craft the NAP through a series of consultations with invaluable contributions from diverse stakeholders such as national agencies, local government units, academic and scientific institutions, civil society, the private sector, and the development sector.

“It’s not only important that we have our experience and expertise at the table, but it is also vital to make this plan genuine, needs-based, and a product of multi-stakeholder collaboration. Consultation is important because we need to make sure that the process reflects the different components of our society,” Borje said.

The NAP development targets to standardize climate risk assessment and adaptation priorities.

Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Carlos Primo David said the NAP includes priority programs for funding. It shall contain convergence projects among government agencies “that solve sectoral cross-cutting issues intensified by climate change,” he added.

The NAP is targeted to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the impacts of climate change by building the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities and facilitating

the coherent integration of climate change adaptation into relevant new and existing policies, programs, and activities.

It also endeavors to mainstream adaptation across as many sectors as possible and at different levels (national, subnational, regional, and local), incorporating both medium- and long-term strategies, and strengthening policies and frameworks.

GMA NEWS

[Commission on Climate Change sinabing nasa code red ang status ng bansa.](#)

Publiko hinihikayat na magtanim sa kanilang bakuran at makiisa sa mga tree planting activity.



PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

Community-driven climate action launched in Laguna

By: Christopher Hedreyda

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has launched a program on Thursday that engages communities to help reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The program dubbed Net Zero Challenge (NZC), which was unveiled at the Caliraya-Lumot watershed, aims to significantly offset carbon emissions and create a sustainable future by engaging individuals, communities, and organizations in tree-planting activities.

"We all have a carbon footprint, whether as individuals or organizations. It is important that we find ways to reduce this carbon footprint and lower our greenhouse gas emissions. Planting and growing trees is the easiest, most effective, and impactful method to achieve this," said CCC Vice Chairperson, Executive Director Secretary Robert Borje.

Borje emphasized the importance of regenerative forestry in combating climate change as trees play a crucial role in absorbing carbon dioxide and making communities more resilient, particularly in times of extreme weather events such as typhoons.

During the launch on August 24, over 200 seedlings were planted in the watershed as part of the overarching goal of planting 15,625 seedlings across 25 hectares of land from 2023 to 2027.

Monitoring and evaluation will continue until 2030, three years after the last batch of seedlings planted. By then, the country will assess if it has achieved the 75% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and avoidance target as part of the Philippines' commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Another way to fight climate change, according to CCC is global partnership and engagement with local civil society organizations.

Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Philippines Ahmed Bin Saad N.A. Al-Homidi and Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Manila First Secretary Obaid Al Shehhi also graced the event and pledges their respective countries efforts to the environmental cause.

According to Sec. Borje, negotiations have begun with partner countries which will help the Philippines have access to technical capabilities to be used for scientific approach in combating climate change.

“We are working very closely with them on options and cooperation. What we’re working on right now is we have draft memorandum of understanding with UAE on technical cooperation in climate change pero it’s still under negotiations. What we want is work closely with partners.”

“They do have the resources and the technical know-how. Magaling sila sa measurement, magaling sila sa monitoring nitong greenhouse gas emissions. May teknolohiya sila doon at yun ang gusto nating i-leverage because we want to work very closely with our partners at importante talaga ang partnership with the international community,” he added.

Mayor Ronald Cosico of Paete expressed gratitude for being chosen as the site for this massive reforestation project. He called for urgent action against climate change and appealed to his constituents to support the Net Zero Challenge.

“We can no longer ignore climate change; it is already here. Paete is fortunate to have been selected as the launch site for the Net Zero Challenge of the Climate Change Commission. Let us all take care of and help nurture our resources and mountains to make them grow,” Cosico added.

Paete resident Julienn Adea Banaag recognized the importance of tree planting noting that the Sierra Madre mountain range has long protected the town against extreme weather conditions.

“Everyone experiences climate change. Paete is fortunate to have the Sierra Madre, which has saved and protected us numerous times. We are grateful for projects like this. It is a significant help and can make a big impact. Some may think that planting trees is a simple act, but its impact is substantial and meaningful,” she said.

In crafting policies and programs, the CCC emphasizes the importance of considering the needs and issues of each community since climate change affects everyone differently.

Globally, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report of 2021 states that the world is now experiencing 'code red' for human-driven global heating, and irreversible changes to Earth's climate system have already occurred.

"We should be alarmed. When you say 'code red,' it means lives, livelihoods, and the future are at stake. It requires not just awareness but urgent and rapid action against climate change. This is why we have framed the Net Zero Challenge in this manner, to help people understand that we need to do everything we can. We all have a part to play in addressing climate change," explained Secretary Borje.

In the Philippines, the CCC observes that the average temperature is setting new records, sea levels are rising, and storms are becoming more intense.

"The impact of climate change transcends borders. Therefore, the challenge is to develop an integrated and coordinated approach. Let's not wait until it reaches code black. We should do everything we can to prevent further effects of climate change. We must prioritize this issue, not just by planting trees, but also through other sustainable practices such as zero-waste management. It all comes down to being responsible consumers and human beings," Borje added.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Flood impacts, solutions tackled in CCC's forum in Quezon

Participants from various sectors, policymakers and experts gathered at the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) 2nd National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) Policy Forum held here on Aug. 25 to explore policy and technological solutions to address flooding in the country.

The forum, themed "Beyond the Floodgates: Navigating Flooding's Impact on Responses to Climate Change, Food Security, and Disasters in the Philippines," tackled the issue of flooding, one of the 10 climate-induced risks in the Philippines recognized by the NPTE.

In his remarks, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje stressed the impacts of flooding on communities, infrastructure and economic growth, and underscored the urgency of comprehensive strategies to prioritize resilience.

"This forum is not just about discussions. It is also a call to action. More important or equally as important as policy papers, we must translate our knowledge into tangible outcomes and implement practical measures to enhance our nation's flood resilience," Borje said.

He also stressed the importance of collaboration among stakeholders, including national and local governments, academic institutions, civil society, and the private sector, to collectively address flooding along with other risks brought by climate change.

"The work on climate change does not end in our forum. The work should be done everyday because we have one responsibility – be it as individuals or as organizations or as LGUs," he added.

Borje also cited that the challenge for everyone now is to use our understanding of climate change and the skills and talents of the Filipinos to strengthen our communities.

Borje said he is hoping that the forum's collaborative efforts, guided by NPTE members, would sow the seeds for a climate-resilient future.

"Let's make the story of the Philippines not a story of despair, death and destruction but a story of hope," he said.

The Forum featured a rich lineup of speakers from the NPTE, including Dr. Doracie B. Zoleta-Nantes, Dr. Jimmy T. Masagca, Dr. Patricia Ann J. Sanchez, Dr. Jihan H. Adil,

and Engr. Meriam M. Santillan, who shared insights and best practices to understand the root causes of flooding, explore strategies and identify actionable solutions to address this issue.

“This gathering serves as a catalyst for change, empowering us to build more informed and resilient communities. Through the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices, we gain insights that enable us to develop innovative solutions and strategies and ways for which we could reduce the negative impacts of flood,” said Zoleta-Nantes, chairperson of NPTE and President of Southern Luzon State University (SLSU).

The NPTE was created under the Climate Change Act, tasked to provide technical advice to the Commission in areas of climate science, technologies and best practices for risk assessment and enhancement of adaptive capacity of vulnerable human settlements to potential impacts of climate change.

This policy forum is being conducted in five parts, starting with sea level rise and flooding. Experts will tackle health and climate change, integrated coastal management and blue economy, and water and human security, to further engage stakeholders in climate policy in the next discussions.

To further mainstream climate change, the NPTE forum is being held in partnerships with state colleges and universities and LGUs.

Co-organized by SLSU and the local government of Lucban, Quezon, the second NPTE forum was attended by hundreds of participants from the university and the LGU, and viewers through its livestream on Zoom and Facebook.

PTV

Net Zero Challenge' campaign, inilunsad ng Climate Change Commission sa pamamagitan ng Tree Planting Activity sa Paete, Laguna

Pagbaha, matinding pag-ulan, pagguho ng lupa at lubhang pagtaas ng temperatura ilan lang 'yan sa epekto na lumalalang climate change sa mundo na ating nararanasan sa kasalukuyan. Kaya ang Climate Change Commission at National Power Corporation at iba pang organisasyon inilunsad ang Net Zero challenge sa Laguna.



MAHARLIKA

[CCC's Dela Cruz Lauds Lower House for Amended Nationwide Tree-Planting Act](#)

Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz acclaimed the House of Representatives for its unanimous approval on the third and final reading of House Bill (HB) 8568, which aims to provide mechanisms that would ensure the effective implementation of a nationwide tree-planting program.

Authored by representatives Dante Garcia (People's Reform Party), Noel Rivera (Tarlac), Eleanor Bulut-Begtang (Apayao), Alfonso Umali Jr. (Oriental Mindoro), Ciriaco Gato, Jr. (Batanes), Gerardo Valmayor Jr. (Negros Occidental), Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (Pangasinan), Mark Go (Baguio City), Joseph Stephen Paduano (Abang Lingkod) and Manuel Jose Dalipe (Zamboanga City), HB 8568 was approved with a vote of 233 against three during last week's plenary session.

The proposed measure seeks to amend various sections of the Republic Act (RA) 10176 or the 'Arbor Day Act of 2012'.

Commissioner Dela Cruz underscored the vital role of forest areas to nature's balance that maintains and sustains ecology and biodiversity that in turn maintain and sustains our lives and livelihood.

"There is an (urgent) need for a corroborated effort to combat the loss of our natural resources and rejuvenate our environment by rehabilitating our degraded forest land areas, improving soil fertility and land productivity and reducing soil erosion, especially in the rural and upland areas. (This we can achieve by) undertaking nationwide tree-planting activities and providing effective measures for their maintenance and sustainability," the climate official quoted from the revised Section 2 of RA 10176, as proposed by HB 8568.

House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez explained the importance of the proposed measure, noting that the law is in keeping with President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr.'s National Development Plan (NDP), a portion of which aims to initiate climate action for the country to properly respond to the impacts of global warming and achieve resiliency and self-sufficiency.

"Through this bill, we recognize the vital role and importance of trees in ecological stability," Romualdez enthused even as he added that "people need trees more than trees need people."

POLITIKO

Climate body lauds House approval of Nationwide Tree-Planting Act

By: Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission has welcome the unanimous approval on third and final reading of House Bill No. (HBN) 8568, which seeks to provide mechanisms that would ensure the effective implementation of a nationwide tree-planting program.

HBN 8568 was approved with a vote of 233 against three during last week's plenary session.

The measure aims to amend various sections of Republic Act No. (RA) 10176, or the "Arbor Day Act of 2012."

In a news release, Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz emphasized the vital role of forest areas to nature's balance in maintaining and sustaining ecology and biodiversity.

"There is an (urgent) need for a corroborated effort to combat the loss of our natural resources and rejuvenate our environment by rehabilitating our degraded forest land areas, improving soil fertility and land productivity and reducing soil erosion especially in the rural and upland areas," Dela Cruz said, quoting from the revised Section 2 of RA 10176, as proposed by HB 8568.

"(This we can achieve by) undertaking nationwide tree-planting activities and providing effective measures for their maintenance and sustainability," he added.

=END=