



NEWS ROUNDUP

04 SEPTEMBER 2023 [07:30 am]

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ASIA TIMES

[Climate change withering China's food security](#)

By: Yu Sheng and Siying Jia

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BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Orla Dwyer in Carbon Brief

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MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

[Shoring up coastal communities highlights urgency of climate change mitigation](#)

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MANILA BULLETIN

[Typhoon Saola slams southern China after battering Hong Kong](#)

Typhoon Saola roared ashore in southern China early Saturday as a weakened but still dangerous threat that has lashed Hong Kong and forced millions to hunker down for one of the region's strongest storms in decades.

[\[Opinion\] What is COP28? And why does this matter to you and me?](#)

By: Johannes Chua

We find ourselves already in the first day of the “ber” months, and before long, the year will come to a close. These months are set to be filled with a series of events, deadlines, milestones, etc. For those in the environmental realm, the upcoming days and weeks are of utmost importance due to the arrival of the 28th Conference of Parties, or more known as COP28.

PANAY NEWS

[\[Opinion\] LGUs must have anti-flooding master plans](#)

Flooding is not merely an inconvenience; it is a recurring nightmare that disrupts lives, displaces communities, and inflicts severe economic losses. The Philippines, with its unique geography and climate, is especially susceptible to flooding, making it imperative for local government units (LGUs) to formulate and implement comprehensive anti-flooding master plans.

POLITIKO

[EU, World Bank, Napocor collaborate to bring solar power to underserved communities in the Philippines](#)

By: Roy C. Mabasa

In a groundbreaking initiative to promote sustainable energy solutions, the European Union (EU), the World Bank and the National Power Corporation (Napocor) have come together to inaugurate rural network solar power plants in the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Filipino fashion labels rebrand to adapt to climate change](#)

By: Deni Rose M. Afinidad-Bernardo

According to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Philippines must brace itself for the worsening effects of climate change, and these include sea level rise and hotter weather that is already felt in the country despite the typhoon season.

[Marcos to join ASEAN Summit in Indonesia](#)

By: Alexis Romero

President Marcos is traveling to Jakarta next week to join the 43rd Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) Summit and related summits, where Manila is expected to push for statements on Beijing's aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

THE MANILA TIMES

[Racing against time](#)

By: Sulaiman Alamin

Amidst the successive momentum and the direct incidents that leave no room for a sigh of relief — from international conflicts, epidemics, famines, food shortages, the war between Russia and Ukraine, tensions in the West Philippine Sea, the dominance of great powers, consecutive typhoons, this, in addition to the greatest public concern. These days, what has drawn everyone's attention to screens or led them to stadiums: the global event, the 2023 FIBA World Basketball Championship, organized by the Philippines.

[We must address climate change – envoy](#)

By: Bernadette E. Tamayo

The Ambassador of Qatar to the Philippines Ahmed bin Saad Al Hamidi stressed the importance of addressing the global challenges arising from climate change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC champions PH gender-responsive climate action in SoKor](#)

By: Jelly Musico

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) highlighted Philippine policies, partnerships and good practices that promote gender-responsive climate action during the 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Pre-Forum Discussion in Incheon, Republic of Korea on Aug. 29.

POLITIKO

[Mangrove restoration along Pasig River sought](#)

By: Prince Golez

Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. is pushing for the restoration of mangroves along the Pasig River to further invogorate its rehabilitation and protection.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

'Hanna' maintains strength, makes landfall over southern Taiwan

Typhoon Hanna (international name: Haikui) maintained its strength as it made landfall over southern Taiwan, the state weather bureau said Sunday afternoon.

In its 11 p.m. weather bulletin, PAGASA said Hanna was last located 270 kilometers northwest of Itbayat, Batanes, packing maximum sustained winds of 130 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center, with gusts of up to 160 kph.

It is currently moving west northwestward at 25 kph, and may exit the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) within the next six hours.

Tropical Cyclone Signal No. 1 remains hoisted over Batanes and the northern portion of Babuyan Islands (Babuyan Is., Calayan Is., Dalupiri Is.) where 39 to 61 kph winds could cause minimal to minor threat to life and property.

Hanna continues to enhance the southwest monsoon or habagat, which causes heavy rainfall over parts of Luzon.

The habagat will also bring occasional to monsoon rains over the western portion of Luzon and Antique in the next three days.

Ilocos region, Abra, Benguet, Zambales, Bataan and Occidental Mindoro may experience monsoon rains within the next 24 hours.

Metro Manila, Apayao, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite and Batangas, on the other hand, may experience occasional rains due to the habagat within the same period.

Meanwhile, PAGASA issued a heavy rainfall warning over northern Luzon provinces.

As of 11 p.m., PAGASA said Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, La Union, and Abra may experience heavy rains within the next two to three hours.

Flooding and/or landslides are possible in flood and landslide prone areas.

ASIA TIMES

[Climate change withering China's food security](#)

By: Yu Sheng and Siying Jia

Over the past four decades, China has made significant achievements in maintaining food security through institutional reforms, technological progress and increased investment in public agricultural infrastructure.

Between 1978 and 2022, the total quantity of agricultural output grew at the rate of 4.5% per year — more than four times the population growth over the same period. In 2022, China's total grain output reached a historical high of 686.53 million tonnes, substantially boosting its domestic food supply.

But China still faces considerable challenges in ensuring food security, with demand for high-value and high-protein products increasing along with per capita income. Constraints in land and water supply, issues with small farms, an aging rural population and extreme weather events caused by climate change can disrupt food production and distribution.

Recent studies show that extreme rainfall has led to an 8% decrease in China's rice crop yields over the past two decades, exacerbating food insecurity concerns caused by frequent pest shocks, severe droughts and rising carbon emissions.

To tackle the challenges arising from climate change, the Chinese government has implemented three sets of measures. These measures involve improving irrigation systems and other agricultural and transportation infrastructure. This includes initiatives such as channeling water from the south to the north and constructing high-standard farmland and water conservancy facilities.

The government has also invested in agricultural research and technological innovation, promoting the adoption of climate-resilient crop varieties. Additionally, efforts have been made to strengthen the insurance system for agricultural production.

China has instituted public policies to actively foster the transition towards a sustainable agricultural production system. In 2015, China introduced the strategy of “hiding grain in the ground and hiding grain in technology,” emphasizing the importance of capacity building rather than solely focusing on output targets in grain production.

Since implementing the “Action Plan for Zero-Growth in Fertilizer Use” in 2015, the use of fertilizers and chemicals in agriculture has reduced by one-third.

As part of its 14th Five Year Plan, China has launched a new initiative aimed at increasing domestic grain production by an additional 50 million tonnes. Several new policies have been implemented in conjunction with this campaign to enhance farmers' climate resilience.

These measures include strengthening disaster prevention and mitigation capabilities by adopting ICT technologies, better utilizing germplasm resources, constructing seed banks, implementing full-cost insurance for grain producers in food-deficient counties and preventing the use of arable land for non-agriculture purposes.

China is also considering diversifying its food sources through increasing imports of feed grains and oil crops. In 2022, China imported 91 million tonnes of soybean and 20.6 million tonnes of maize, which accounted for about 14% of its total grain consumption.

While this campaign helps mitigate potential food shortages caused by climate-related disruptions in the short run by bolstering domestic grain self-sufficiency, the long-term effects of these policies on mitigating climate change remain uncertain.

China continues to confront significant pressure in maintaining stable grain production while simultaneously promoting green development and the sustainable utilization of resources.

While efforts have already contributed to conserving resources, reducing emissions and increasing agricultural productivity, fertilizers and chemicals are still being used in agriculture at a rate far above the global average.

Looking forward, China is on the right track for setting up its policy scheme for its agriculture sector to cope with increasing environmental risks.

In the next decade, new agricultural practices, such as precision agriculture and vertical farming, are expected to play a more prominent role in facilitating the transformation of food production in China towards a sustainable path.

Yet the future of agricultural production and food security depends not only on government policies and technological advancements but also on active private sector participation in adapting to climate change. International cooperation also plays a crucial role in addressing climate change and its impacts on the global food system.

China is actively working to improve farmers' capacity to adapt by further reforming the agricultural production system. Collaborative efforts are also underway with other countries and regions in research, knowledge sharing and sustainable practices,

including enforcing its carbon emission reduction scheme to secure a stable food supply for China's population.

However, the ongoing development and implementation of strategies related to food security and climate change still have a long way to go.

BUSINESS WORLD

[MPIF urges nature-based solutions and science in mitigating climate change's impact](#)

CLIMATE change has been bringing intensifying typhoons, rising sea levels, warmer temperatures, and drought, prompting urgent action by supporting coastal communities.

This was the message of Metro Pacific Investments Foundation (MPIF) as it highlighted the critical role played by nature-based solutions and science in mitigating its effects.

MPIF President Melody del Rosario presented the vulnerability of the Philippines, a country located in the typhoon belt and the ring of fire, as well as the various risks it faces.

She delivered the message during the Dive Resort Travel international show in Manila on Aug. 18-20. She said urgent action is via an environmental program called Shore it Up.

Ms. Del Rosario said Shore it Up board of advisors sets the direction of science-based approaches and nature-based solutions.

She said the use of nature-based solutions, such as mangrove propagation and information centers, harness the power of nature to combat climate change while also enriching biodiversity, protecting ecosystems, and benefiting local communities.

By implementing these solutions, not only can global temperatures be limited, but climate-resilient communities that flourish alongside nature can also be built.

Ms. Del Rosario urged individuals and organizations to embrace and adopt sustainable solutions to protect coastal communities and build a more resilient future.

MPIF seeks to complement Metro Pacific Investments Corp.'s commitment to nation-building by implementing programs that benefit communities, organizations, and families in areas in which the group's portfolio companies operate.

ECO BUSINESS

Global warming could push tropical forest leaves past a 'critical temperature'

By: Orla Dwyer in Carbon Brief

The study, published in Nature, combines ground, satellite and modelling data to assess how close the leaves in tropical forests around the world are to reaching their heat limits.

The research finds that 0.01 per cent of upper canopy leaves already exceed a “critical temperature” for photosynthesis at least once per year – potentially resulting in a “tipping point” in their ability to function.

This could increase to 1.4 per cent under future warming conditions, the researchers say.

Although these percentages are small, the researchers write that more global warming could “tip the forest towards the death of all leaves and possible tree mortality”, if leaves die and other knock-on effects occur at high temperatures.

The “alarming” findings are tempered by the fact that “we still have the opportunity” to tackle rising temperatures, an expert who was not involved in the study tells Carbon Brief.

Absorbing CO₂

Tropical forests perform the vital roles of absorbing billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and supporting at least two-thirds of the world’s biodiversity.

Climate change and deforestation already negatively impact these ecosystems in a number of different ways.

One 2020 study found that tropical forests are losing their ability to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere. The forests face “substantial carbon loss” by the end of this century, separate research found earlier this year.

Global warming could also make it more difficult for plants to absorb CO₂, slowing rates of photosynthesis.

Through photosynthesis, plants convert CO₂, water and sunlight into the fuel they need to grow. They lock up carbon in their leaves, stems and roots in the process.

Previous research has suggested that as more CO₂ is added to the atmosphere, plants will be able to grow more quickly, an effect known as “CO₂ fertilisation”.

However, numerous other studies have called the current strength of this effect into question. And climate change negatively impacts plants in other ways, such as increasing drought, heat and risk of disease.

Dr Martijn Slot, an author of the new study and a scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, says the researchers wanted to determine whether temperature increases bring tropical leaves closer to a “hard upper limit”. He told a press briefing:

“We know that when leaves start to exceed that critical threshold, then the leaves start to die. They turn brown, they can’t contribute to photosynthesis anymore, they can’t transpire anymore. They’re basically not sweating, therefore not cooling themselves.”

The new study finds that tropical plant species could be greatly affected by even a small temperature change, as the tropics are already hot and experience little temperature variation throughout the year.

Temperatures rising further could close leaf pores, reduce transpirational cooling and expose leaves to harmful temperatures, the study adds.

Recording extremes

The study uses ground data, satellite imagery and modelling to assess current leaf temperatures and predict future global warming impacts.

They measure the average temperature of leaves in the upper canopy – the leaves, branches and organisms at the top of a forest that are exposed to direct sunlight – of tropical forests across a range of countries, such as Brazil, Puerto Rico, Panama and Australia.

They compare peak temperature results on a three-year, 30-minute averaged canopy temperature dataset using satellite data and ground information.

The study homes in on the observed extreme temperatures that leaves are exposed to. The authors say that these extremes are “low-probability, high-impact” events that may have a “catastrophic effect” on a leaf’s ability to function.

Dr Greg Goldsmith, a study author and associate professor at Chapman University in California, told a press briefing that “for leaf temperatures, it’s really not the averages that are important...it’s the extremes”.

The researchers take 46.7C as the average “critical temperature” beyond which a plant’s ability to photosynthesise begins to run into difficulty, according to previous studies.

The findings show that 0.01 per cent of upper canopy leaves in tropical forests rose above this temperature at least once per year.

Through leaf warming experiments, the researchers find that this percentage could increase to 1.4 per cent under future warming conditions.

This is based on three warming experiments – conducted in Brazil, Australia and Puerto Rico – where leaves and branches were heated up to assess how many leaves surpassed the critical temperature.

The study focuses on the upper canopy of the tree, which experiences strong, direct sunlight. Slot says that if this upper layer dies due to increased temperatures, it risks pushing a forest past a tipping point. He told a press briefing:

“If the critical temperature gets exceeded in the forest, that top layer is replaced by a layer underneath that has a lower heat tolerance.”

The researchers write that more global warming could “tip the forest towards the death of all leaves and possible tree mortality”, if leaves die and other knock-on effects occur at temperatures above 46.7C.

‘Non-linear’ rise

The findings show a non-linear relationship between increased air and leaf temperatures.

For example, air temperature increases of 2C, 3C and 4C show a rise in maximum leaf temperatures by 8.1C, 6.1C and 8C respectively, based on warming experiments in three different countries.

Most tropical forests can withstand around 3.9C of air temperature increase before reaching the potential tipping point, the model finds.

Such a rise is consistent with the RCP8.5 very high-emissions future pathway by the end of the century, the paper says. It also falls within the RCP6.0 scenario, a medium stabilisation pathway, towards the end of the 22nd century. In contrast, it is “out of the range” of the low-emissions RCP2.6 pathway. As a result, this study notes that it is “still within our power” to determine the future outcome for trees.

The branch warming experiments show noticeable signs of leaf damage and a 27 per cent reduction in transpiration when leaf temperatures rise above 46.7C for extended periods, the study says.

Dr Christopher Doughty, the lead study author and assistant professor at Northern Arizona University, highlights that there is a lot of “uncertainty” and variability with these temperature findings. He told a press briefing:

“There’s a lot we don’t know and what we’re saying in this paper is that we need more research to understand a lot of these key issues.”

Dr Viola Heinrich, a postdoctoral researcher in remote sensing at the German Research Centre for Geosciences, who was not involved in the research, says the findings offer an “in-depth analysis” of the effect of extreme temperatures on tropical forest leaves. She tells Carbon Brief:

“Leaves are the fundamental components of trees and forests that we rely on so heavily for forests to act as carbon sinks at large scales.”

She notes that the remote sensing and ground data “seems very robust, thus putting confidence in the overall results and their implications”.

‘Concerning’ findings

The researchers conducted three upper canopy leaf and branch warming experiments at a rise of 2C, 3C and 4C above pre-industrial levels to validate their model results.

The study authors conclude that climate change and local deforestation may already be putting the hottest tropical forest regions, such as the Amazon, “close to, or even beyond” a critical temperature limit.

Doughty says that these effects are exacerbated by deforestation. He told the press briefing that “where you have fragmentation of forests, the existing forest gets quite a bit warmer”.

There are “all sorts of potential feedbacks once you start losing bits of forest [or] even leaves on individual trees”, Doughty says.

Heinrich adds that “it would be interesting to see how results of critical temperature experienced play out in the observations in the coming years”, considering the emerging El Niño event.

The warmer conditions associated with an El Niño event can cause drought, high temperatures and increased risk of forest fires to the tropics.

Dr Stephanie Pau, an associate professor at Florida State University, who was not involved in the research, says the work is “innovative and valuable”, with a robust methodology.

She tells Carbon Brief that the “alarming” findings are tempered by the fact that 4C of warming “is on the high end” of projections and “we still have the opportunity” to avert this outcome. She adds:

“The study raises the wider question of the ability for tropical trees to acclimate to warming temperatures. There is evidence that tropical trees can acclimate, but that will have a limit as well.”

Dr Cat Scott, a Natural Environment Research Council independent research fellow at the University of Leeds, who was also not involved in the study, tells Carbon Brief:

“The fact that a fraction of the leaves in tropical forests are already regularly experiencing temperatures above which they can continue to function is concerning, particularly as temperature extremes are occurring more frequently due to climate change.”

Scott adds that there are still many unknowns about how tropical forests will respond to rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns. She says:

“For me, this [study] emphasises that the only way to ensure that we minimise negative impacts on the biosphere is to limit future warming to as low a temperature rise as possible.”

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

[Shoring up coastal communities highlights urgency of climate change mitigation](#)

During the Dive Resort Travel show international held in Manila last August 18-20, Melody del Rosario, president of Metro Pacific Investments Foundation (MPIF), delivered an impassioned talk on the reality of climate change and the critical role that nature-based solutions and science can play in mitigating its effects.

Del Rosario's talk presented the vulnerability of the Philippines, a country located in the typhoon belt and the ring of fire, as well as the various risks it faces.

The talk, titled "Shoring Up Coastal Communities in the Protection of Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystems," explored the devastating impacts of climate change, such as intensifying typhoons, rising sea levels, warmer temperatures, and drought.

Del Rosario emphasized that these impacts are becoming increasingly frequent and destructive, necessitating urgent action by supporting coastal communities through its environmental program called Shore it Up.

Del Rosario mentioned the crucial role of the Shore it Up Board of Advisors in setting the direction of science-based approaches and nature-based solutions.

Dr. Jurgenne Primavera, renowned for her studies on mangroves, provides expertise on mangroves and the reef-to-ridge approach in mitigating climate change. Biologist Dr. AA Yaptinchay, founder of Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, is an expert on endangered and threatened marine species. Romy Trono, a respected figure in the field, helps in coastal resource management and biodiversity conservation. Jake Miranda, Co-Founder of the Filipino Cave Divers, assists in protecting wet caves, springs, and aquifers including search and rescue operations. Finally, Caloy Libosada, who has authored is the expert in tourism planning.

The use of nature-based solutions, such as mangrove propagation and information centers, was a central theme of Del Rosario's talk. These strategies harness the power of nature to combat climate change while also enriching biodiversity, protecting ecosystems, and benefiting local communities. By implementing these solutions, not only can global temperatures be limited, but climate-resilient communities that flourish alongside nature can also be built.

Del Rosario also highlighted the importance of Marine Protection Inspection and Conservation Guardians, a program under Shore it Up, which monitors pollution, overfishing, and unsustainable tourism practices. Additionally, the talk emphasized the

need to support RAMSAR sites and marine protected areas, which play a vital role in mitigating climate change by acting as significant carbon sinks.

As the Philippines faces increased risks from climate change, Melody del Rosario stressed the significance of five key pillars: conservation and restoration of marine habitats, strengthening local capacity and awareness through education and training, implementing sustainable tourism practices, diversifying livelihoods to reduce dependence on unsustainable practices, and fostering partnerships and policy advocacy for long-term impact.

Del Rosario ended her talk by urging individuals and organizations to embrace and adopt sustainable solutions to protect coastal communities and build a more resilient future.

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) goes beyond just the interests of its firms by integrating CSR into its business model and by embracing responsibility for its companies' actions, thereby creating a positive impact through its activities on environment, employees, communities and stakeholders.

MPIF's strategic program has evolved throughout its ten years of existence and is now geared towards three fronts of Social Infrastructure: Education, Environment and Economic Empowerment. In line with MPIC's commitment to nation-building, MPIF seeks to complement MPIC's efforts on the hard front of infrastructure development. MPIF is committed to implementing all its programs – especially to benefit communities, organizations, families and individuals in the areas in which MPIC portfolio companies operate. As MPIC continues to grow and expand, so will MPIF's involvement and participation in noteworthy and transformative corporate social responsibility initiatives continue to evolve.

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MANILA BULLETIN

[Typhoon Saola slams southern China after battering Hong Kong](#)

Typhoon Saola roared ashore in southern China early Saturday as a weakened but still dangerous threat that has lashed Hong Kong and forced millions to hunker down for one of the region's strongest storms in decades.

Tens of millions of people across Hong Kong, Shenzhen and other southern Chinese megacities had braced for the menace of a cyclone rated as a super typhoon.

And while it delivered a fierce but glancing blow to the special administrative region, Saola -- now downgraded to a severe typhoon -- landed south of Hong Kong with its toughest blows.

China's National Meteorological Center said Saola made landfall at around 3:30 am Saturday (2030 GMT Friday) to the south of the city of Zhuhai in Guangdong province, south of casino hub Macau.

Over 880,000 people were evacuated across two Chinese provinces ahead of Saola making landfall, hundreds of flights were cancelled across the region, and trees were uprooted around the rain-battered streets of Hong Kong.

China's national weather office predicted Saola "may become the strongest typhoon to make landfall in the Pearl River Delta since 1949", referring to a low-lying region that includes Hong Kong, Macau and much of Guangdong province.

With a direct hit possible, authorities in Hong Kong had raised the warning level Friday evening to the city's highest -- "T10" -- which had only been issued 16 times since World War II before Saola.

By 3:40 am, after more than seven long hours under T10, Hong Kong downgraded to level T8. But with dangerous gusts up to 139 kilometers (86 miles) per hour they urged residents to remain vigilant.

"As gales and violent squalls are still occurring in places, precautions should not yet be relaxed," the Hong Kong Observatory warned in a bulletin.

Still that marked a downgrade from 11:00 pm Friday, when Saola was just 30 kilometres south-southwest of the city, and packing sustained wind speeds of 185 kilometres per hour.

Hong Kong residents struggled with flailing umbrellas as they ran under the unrelenting rainfall, while people wearing plastic bags on their heads rushed home past sandbags stacked in waterfront areas to prevent flooding.

The observatory said "the maximum water level may reach a historical record", warning that "there will be serious flooding".

The last time Hong Kong issued a T10 warning was in 2018, when Typhoon Mangkhut slammed into the city, shredding trees and unleashing floods, and leaving more than 300 people injured.

In mainland China, Mangkhut killed six people and impacted the lives of more than three million others.

Across the mainland border in neighbouring Guangdong province, authorities evacuated more than 780,000 people from high-risk areas, while eastern Fujian province saw more than 100,000 moved to safer ground.

Trains in and out of Guangdong were also suspended until 6:00 pm Saturday, while the national flood defence agency raised its emergency response for prevention to its second-highest level.

"It's going to affect our life," said Wu Wenlai, 43, who had to close his restaurant in a Shenzhen suburb.

"My eldest son was planning to fly to Chengdu today for university and his flight has been cancelled now."

- More intense typhoons -

Southern China is frequently hit in summer and autumn by typhoons that form in the warm oceans east of the Philippines and then travel west.

Climate change has increased the intensity of tropical storms, with more rain and stronger gusts leading to flash floods and coastal damage, experts say.

In Hong Kong, authorities received at least seven confirmed cases of flooding, as well as nearly 40 reports of downed trees. The city's hospital authority reported seven people seeking medical treatment during Saola.

Businesses taped up their glass displays and windows, while high-rise buildings swayed under the whipping gusts.

In eastern Heng Fa Chuen -- a coastal residential area and the site of devastation during 2018's Typhoon Mangkhut -- officers in orange vests urged storm-watchers to go home, as trees leaned sideways from the heavy gusts.

In the low-lying fishing village of Lei Yue Mun, which is prone to flooding, water seeped into shops, prompting residents to set up sandbags and board up doors.

"I hope we can save the tools needed for our business, like the fridge. We elevated them so the water wouldn't damage the (electronics)," a restaurant operator surnamed Lee told a local TV station.

[\[Opinion\] What is COP28? And why does this matter to you and me?](#)

By: Johannes Chua

We find ourselves already in the first day of the “ber” months, and before long, the year will come to a close. These months are set to be filled with a series of events, deadlines, milestones, etc. For those in the environmental realm, the upcoming days and weeks are of utmost importance due to the arrival of the 28th Conference of Parties, or more known as COP28.

Scheduled to take place from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), this edition of the conference holds exceptional significance. The effects of climate change are not only read on this paper or online but are now palpable in the scorching heat and torrential downpours we experience.

Just this week, a level 4 typhoon hit the northern parts of the country, with more such storms projected to follow, each capable of wreaking havoc on our fragile landscape. In instances without typhoons, the land is scorched by extreme heat, driving the heat index to a record-breaking 43 degrees — hot enough to fry an egg under the sun.

The significance of COP28 becomes evident when considering that it pertains to our shared home. Would you not want to engage in discussions about how our own home will survive in the years to come? We show great sensitivity toward the architecture, design, furniture, and other aspects of our own houses, yet we fail to exhibit the same level of care when addressing the ground on which our houses stand — planet earth itself.

What purpose does it serve to future-proof our houses when the earth is deteriorating due to human abuse and neglect?

A fundamental fact to recognize is that our nation is among the most climate-vulnerable globally, owing partly to our Pacific Ocean location. As such, the outcomes of COP28 will inevitably impact us directly.

According to the UN, COP is an “annual meeting where United Nations member states convene to assess progress in dealing with climate change and formulate a climate action plan within the guidelines of the UNFCCC (the formal name for the meetings is the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change or the United Nations Climate Change Conference).” The inaugural COP was held in Berlin in 1995, with last year's COP27 taking place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

According to McKinsey, the significance of COP can be summarized as follows: “COP decisions can have global authority; in the UN system, powerful nations such as the US

and Russia possess equal voting rights as tiny island nations like Vanuatu or São Tomé and Príncipe. Plus, decisions can be made only by consensus. UN member states send representatives to participate in the negotiations, (while) observer organizations, industry representatives, and lobbyists also attend.”

What happened at the last COP?

There were “significant roadblocks” that remained on the path to achieving net zero. Specifically, a 1.5°C pathway is not yet achievable, according to McKinsey. To reduce emissions to the extent required, leaders and their organizations will need to take additional, urgent action toward emissions reductions and removals.

What will happen this year?

COP28 UAE is an opportunity for the world to come together, course correct, and drive progress.

“We need everyone to be more ambitious in the fight against climate change to meet the goals and ambition of the Paris Agreement. COP28 will emphasize a ‘leave no one behind’ approach to climate action. Underscoring all efforts are the principles of transformation, solidarity, pragmatism, and inclusivity. The world needs a COP of action and a COP for all.”

By hosting COP28, the UAE is “focusing on practical and positive solutions that drive progress for the climate and the economy, as well as provide relief and support to vulnerable communities.”

The COP28 UAE Presidency believes that governments and the private sector must work closely together in order to address climate change.

Why is COP28 important for the Philippines?

According to the Climate Reality Project Philippines, one of the critical policy points in this year’s COP is the “operationalization of a loss and damage fund to finance the needs of communities disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.”

“The most contentious issues that would have to be settled are determining who pays for the funds, how much, and what will be the basis for access, reporting, and financing mechanisms.”

“At its core, the envisioned loss and damage facility requires high-emitting countries to acknowledge their historical role in the climate crisis and take responsibility for it. Ideally,

the facility is to be governed by rules and modalities that leverage the best available science and risk data and lift the burden of proof from vulnerable communities.”

Another focal point in COP28 is the progress of the Climate Finance Delivery Plan, outlining how the developed world will fulfill its promise to mobilize \$100 billion annually from 2020 onwards to address the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing nations.

Superficially, it might seem that vulnerable countries like the Philippines are driven by financial motives. However, this is far more deeper — an appeal for climate justice that has long been denied.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sums this issue very clearly: “The impacts of climate change and the resources needed to address climate change impacts are distributed unequally around the world. Low-income countries, and vulnerable populations within those countries, are more susceptible to climate-induced loss and damage. Globally, the 10 percent of households with the highest per capita emissions contribute 34 to 45 percent of global household greenhouse gas emissions, while the bottom 50 percent contribute 13 to 15 percent.”

Armed with this understanding, it becomes clear why the Philippines' voice — and your voice — must be heard at COP28. More issues will unfold in the days ahead, and the Environment and Sustainability section of this paper is committed to providing our readers with comprehensive insight into COP28 and its related subjects.

PANAY NEWS

[\[Opinion\] LGUs must have anti-flooding master plans](#)

Flooding is not merely an inconvenience; it is a recurring nightmare that disrupts lives, displaces communities, and inflicts severe economic losses. The Philippines, with its unique geography and climate, is especially susceptible to flooding, making it imperative for local government units (LGUs) to formulate and implement comprehensive anti-flooding master plans.

The foremost duty of any government is to safeguard its citizens. Floods can result in tragic loss of life, and with climate change intensifying weather patterns, the threat is growing. Anti-flooding master plans are vital for identifying high-risk areas, implementing early warning systems, and establishing evacuation plans that can save lives when disaster strikes.

But floods don't just affect lives; they also lead to substantial property damage and economic losses. By creating anti-flooding master plans, LGUs can take proactive measures such as building flood defenses, improving drainage systems, and regulating land use to reduce the impact of floods on homes and businesses.

LGUs need to consider the long-term implications of urbanization and development. Unplanned construction, especially in flood-prone areas, exacerbates flooding issues. Anti-flooding master plans provide a framework for sustainable urban development, ensuring that future growth is resilient to flooding.

Frequent flooding disrupts economic activities and hampers economic growth. By investing in anti-flooding master plans, LGUs can minimize the economic shocks that come with flooding, protecting businesses and local economies.

When flooding occurs, humanitarian resources are stretched thin. Having a well-thought-out anti-flooding master plan can reduce the need for emergency responses and humanitarian aid, ultimately saving costs and resources.

The Philippines faces the consequences of climate change. More extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall and typhoons, increase the likelihood of flooding. Anti-flooding master plans are not a luxury but a fundamental requirement for LGUs. They are essential for protecting lives, property, and livelihoods, promoting sustainable development, and addressing the challenges posed by climate change. By prioritizing these plans, LGUs can proactively mitigate the impact of flooding and build a more resilient and prosperous future for their communities.

POLITIKO

[EU, World Bank, Napocor collaborate to bring solar power to underserved communities in the Philippines](#)

By: Roy C. Mabasa

In a groundbreaking initiative to promote sustainable energy solutions, the European Union (EU), the World Bank and the National Power Corporation (Napocor) have come together to inaugurate rural network solar power plants in the Philippines.

The ceremony, held on Thursday, August 31, 2023 here, marked the successful completion of a project aimed at delivering clean energy to underserved communities.

This remarkable endeavor, executed by Napocor under the Access to Sustainable Energy Project administered by the World Bank, has been made possible through funding from a grant provided by the EU.

As part of the EU's EUR 66 million (PHP 3.8 billion equivalent) Access to Sustainable Energy Programme, the project involved the construction of four 1MWp greenfield solar PV power plants at a total cost of EUR 4.6 million (approximately PHP 280 million).

During the inauguration ceremony, two of these solar power plants were officially connected to the distribution networks of South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative (SOCOTECO II) and Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative (SUKELCO). This connection will provide these regions with access to sustainable energy sources. The remaining two plants, scheduled to be linked to the networks of Samar I & II Electric Cooperatives (SAMELCO I, SAMELCO II), are expected to become operational by the end of September 2023.

This significant investment in solar energy not only promises to make energy consumption in these target areas more environmentally sustainable but also contributes significantly to diversifying the energy supply and mitigating climate change.

Speaking at the ceremony, Luc Véron, ambassador of European Union Ambassador to the Philippines, expressed pride in supporting the project and emphasized the EU's dedication to a greener society and climate change mitigation.

He referenced recent discussions between President Marcos and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, reaffirming the importance of such initiatives in EU-Philippines cooperation.

Ndjamé Diop, World Bank Country Director for Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, highlighted the project's significance in promoting sustainable energy solutions for inclusive growth in the Philippines.

He noted that these solar power plants set practical examples and benchmarks for scaling up renewable energy supplies among electric cooperatives.

Fernando Martin Y. Roxas, President and CEO of Napocor, expressed pride in Napocor's partnership with the EU and the World Bank in delivering renewable energy to remote Philippine communities.

He revealed that in 2022, Napocor completed the installation of 30,500 units of solar home systems for five electric cooperatives in Mindanao.

The inauguration of these solar power plants represents a significant stride towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future for the Philippines.

It signifies a collaborative effort between international organizations and local authorities to bring power and progress to remote communities, setting an inspiring example for the rest of the world in the journey towards sustainability and clean energy.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Filipino fashion labels rebrand to adapt to climate change

By: Deni Rose M. Afinidad-Bernardo

According to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Philippines must brace itself for the worsening effects of climate change, and these include sea level rise and hotter weather that is already felt in the country despite the typhoon season.

In response to reports like this, Filipino fashion conglomerate Bayo Group recently unveiled in Ayala Malls Makati its first multi-brand concept store in Glorietta mall, featuring homegrown brands Bayo, Tela, and VISEVERSA.

These newly rebranded Filipino labels still sport the same logos and still target young professionals and the older market that grew up with these brands, but are now given a more sustainable facelift to respond to wearers' needs in the face of climate change, Alyssa Lagon, Branding and Sustainability Executive, Bayo Group and Founder of Tela, told Philstar.com.

"Bayo has been there for so long and we felt that as a brand that has been around for quite some time in the industry, we have the responsibility to spark awareness and do something about it," said Lagon, who shared that their company, which used to be a supplier of Bayo and VISEVERSA, acquired the brands from their previous owner some years ago before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We didn't change anything when it comes to logos. It's all the same. I think it's the positioning lang, but that's minimal. In terms of the styles, we added more color for Bayo. For Vise, it's similar pa rin."

Included in the brand's new sustainable direction are the inclusion of more handwoven textiles by Filipino artisans; giving old mannequins a new life by wrapping them in abaca rope, a durable and sustainable indigenous material; and releasing limited-quantity and timeless pieces in comfortable and eco-friendly fabrics.

Lagon now describe their brands' clothes as "fresher, more breathable and more comfortable" than before.

"There is a need to have a clothing brand for women my age. Because I had this problem then, I couldn't find a brand that caters to my aesthetic. I found that there's a gap and I want to fill that gap by using my brand," she said of the new brand in the conglomerate, Tela.

The 22-year-old Alyssa just graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Psychology Management. She handles the Bayo Group's social media and has a say on the designs of Bayo and VISEVERSA, but has total control over Tela, including its designs.

"(Tela's) designs are mostly more for the young, so it's mostly sleeveless, backless, very hubadera," she quipped.

"In terms of Tela naman, I live in the future generation kasi and I don't want to live naman in a world that's damaged and misused," she said of the brand's conscious use of old fabrics rewoven into new ones by Filipino weavers from Pasig, Bulacan and Baguio. Lagon claimed the weavers' community is growing because the weavers are being paid well.

Although more daring in cuts and silhouettes than Bayo and VISEVERSA, Alyssa said her friends and age-mates love Tela's designs.

"They love it also. They said it's so comfortable. I'm very sensitive when it comes to the fabric. If it's a bit of itchy, I don't like it. Tela's fabrics are really comfortable and stylish."

Lagon said the brands now also shun over-production so they rarely revive styles once they got sold-out.

"For us, it's more of timeless designs. We're not so strict when it comes to seasons. (We make) pieces that you can use over time, pieces that you can pass down to the next generation."

Lagon is happy that the local shopping scene has revitalized once more after the pandemic.

"It's good! Like after pandemic, people are starting to shop again. People appreciate our sustainability efforts."

[Marcos to join ASEAN Summit in Indonesia](#)

By: Alexis Romero

President Marcos is traveling to Jakarta next week to join the 43rd Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) Summit and related summits, where Manila is expected to push for statements on Beijing's aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea.

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Daniel Espiritu said Marcos would continue to promote a rules-based international order, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), especially in the South China Sea, during the summit set on Sept. 5 to 7.

"The Philippines will continue to uphold and exercise freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea in accordance with international law," Espiritu said in a press briefing yesterday at Malacañang.

The summit will be held as tensions grip the region over China's recent maneuvers in the West Philippine Sea, including resorting to water cannon attacks to drive away Filipino ships on resupply mission to Ayungin Shoal, within Manila's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone. China also released recently a new map with a ten-dash line that covered parts of Taiwan and most of the West Philippine Sea, the part of the South China Sea inside the Philippines' EEZ and continental shelf, prompting the Philippines to file a diplomatic protest.

Asked if the Philippines would push for the inclusion of a statement on China's actions in ASEAN's joint communiqué, Espiritu replied: "The Philippines is definitely pushing for statements in that regard. But, of course, I cannot give you yet the final text of that because it's still being negotiated."

"There are ten countries and, in other statements there are external partners involved and it only takes one to object and you lose consensus. So, I cannot predict at this point," he added.

Espiritu, who handles ASEAN affairs, said there are external partners who support the Philippines' stance on the issue but could not say if it would be at the level of consensus.

"I cannot predict at this point what would be the outcome. It will change many times, depending on the compromise and the discussions," he added.

In 2016, a Hague-based arbitral court ruled that China's historic claims in the South China Sea, which covers about 90 percent of the strategic sea lane, have no legal basis.

China has refused to recognize the landmark decision, which also affirmed the Philippines' sovereign rights over its EEZ. Under the UNCLOS, states have sovereign rights to explore, exploit, and conserve and manage natural resources within their EEZ.

Calls for the completion of a binding code of conduct for South China Sea claimants have mounted in the wake of reports about Chinese ships driving away Filipino fishermen and harassing Philippine vessels in the area. But Espiritu admitted that the upcoming ASEAN summit may be too short to complete the COC.

"Most probably, we will have to wait, because we do not know yet the actual content of the COC and whether it's good for all of us for it to be legally binding or not," the DFA official said.

"Well, at most, there will be a report on what happened during the last meeting in the Philippines on the joint working group on the COC (code of conduct). But, nothing definitive yet in terms of whether it will be legally binding or non-legally binding, and other issues. It's a very methodical process. We should not rush it," he added, referring to the meeting hosted by the Philippines from Aug. 22 to 24.

Espiritu said ASEAN member countries would have to come up with a compromise every step of the way as they tackle the code of conduct.

"It has been happening for already a long time. So, I think it will take a little bit longer for it to be completed," he added.

Philippines advocacies

Espiritu said the summit in Jakarta would include meetings with several of the regional bloc's dialogue partners and summits of ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the East Asia Summit. Marcos is also expected to participate in the opening of the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum, which will serve as a platform to tackle infrastructure projects and programs and priority cooperation areas.

According to Espiritu, Marcos is expected to attend 13 leader's level engagements, 12 of them summit sessions with other leaders, including the plenary session, retreat session and separate meetings with China, South Korea, Japan, US, Canada, India and Australia.

"In these engagements, the President will continue to uphold and promote Philippine interests in ASEAN," Espiritu said.

"He (Marcos) will highlight our advocacies in strengthening food and energy security, harnessing the potential of the digital and creative industries and MSMEs (micro, small

and medium enterprises) and addressing the impacts of climate change among others,” he added.

Marcos is also expected to emphasize efforts to protect migrant workers in crisis situation and to combat human trafficking. International issues will also be tackled, including the situation in Myanmar, the conflict in Ukraine and geopolitical rivalries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Espiritu said over 90 outcome documents are being targeted to be issued, adopted or noted during the summits. They include the ASEAN leaders’ declaration on strengthening food security and nutrition in response to crisis; individual joint statements on strengthening cooperation on food security between ASEAN, Australia, Canada and India; guidelines on the protection of migrant workers and family members in crisis situation; ASEAN leaders’ statement on the development of the digital economy framework agreement and a joint statement on climate change to the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

THE MANILA TIMES

Racing against time

By: Sulaiman Alamin

Amidst the successive momentum and the direct incidents that leave no room for a sigh of relief — from international conflicts, epidemics, famines, food shortages, the war between Russia and Ukraine, tensions in the West Philippine Sea, the dominance of great powers, consecutive typhoons, this, in addition to the greatest public concern. These days, what has drawn everyone's attention to screens or led them to stadiums: the global event, the 2023 FIBA World Basketball Championship, organized by the Philippines.

With its dazzling beginnings and records in attendance and viewership, all wishes for the Philippines in organizational success, regardless of the team's results. Perhaps, hopes extend that the State of Qatar will repeat the unique experience by hosting the next session of FIBA in 2027, as it surprised the world with its dazzling in the 2022 World Cup.

In the midst of all this, there are those who calmly think outside the box, separate from following the herd, and look at the danger that threatens humanity, not only the Philippines but the world at large: climate change. The Philippine Climate Change Commission launched its second initiative in Paete, Laguna. The initiative, led by Secretary Robert Borje, Executive Director and Vice Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission, invited active partners, including the Ambassador of the State of Qatar His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed bin Saad Al-Hamidi, and the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates His Excellency Ambassador Muhammad Obaid Al-Qattam Al-Zaabi. It was essential for Al-Hamidi to travel at night, accompanied by the Second Secretary at the embassy Saeed Al-Qathiani the day before and spend the night there. They had to be at the site of the celebration activities by 5:30 in the morning in Paete, Laguna, with the journey from Manila to Paete taking approximately three hours.

The program began with a visit to the city's municipality, where they were received by Secretary Robert Borje and Mayor Ronald Cosico, the event's host. A musical performance by a folk band using local bamboo wood instruments called "Bandang Kawayan" was very impressive, as was the tour of the ancient city church with its precious original murals. The Ambassador addressed the audience, expressing gratitude for the warm reception and praising the diversity and richness of Philippine heritage.

And on top of the mountain and the breathtaking ascent was the main event attended by relevant institutions such as the Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, activists from voluntary associations, and companies supporting the initiative. In his speech, Secretary Borje stressed that the move is consistent with its mission of creating an enabling environment and promoting broader participation of multiple stakeholders in the field of climate action.

The Ambassador stressed the importance of addressing the global challenges arising from climate change, and the State of Qatar's keenness and continuous support in its efforts to combat the effects of climate change, locally and internationally. These efforts aim to enhance climate sustainability by improving air quality, increasing green areas, and reducing gas emissions.

Supportive messages of solidarity were conveyed via video from Muhammad Obaid Al-Qattam Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Philippines, and a brief speech by Mr. Obaid Al-Shahid, First Secretary at the UAE embassy, along with other messages of support from several Members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

And across the slippery, muddy ground and steps dug into the mud due to heavy rains, the Ambassador cautiously took each step, while others carried saplings to be planted. A sign bearing the name was fixed in front of each sapling, and a symbolic memorial photo was taken behind the ambassador and included the Secretary, the Mayor, and the two diplomats, Al-Qathiani and Al-Shahid. This symbolized three countries – the Philippines, Qatar, and the UAE – standing together in the face of climate change. An alliance with such strength and credibility will certainly succeed.

Following the activities, a meeting was held with Secretary Borje and Mayor Cosico, attended by the representative of the UAE Embassy, Mr. Obaid. During the discussion, Secretary Borje expressed gratitude for the attendance and participation. The CCC Vice Chair thanked the State of Qatar, and he wished to learn and benefit from the plans and experience of the State of Qatar, as it has extensive experience and plans. He hopes that the meeting will result in mechanisms for permanent cooperation. Hoping as well to be in the delegation of President Ferdinand Marcos, to the climate summit in Dubai, UAE, next November.

We must address climate change – envoy

By: Bernadette E. Tamayo

The Ambassador of Qatar to the Philippines Ahmed bin Saad Al Hamidi stressed the importance of addressing the global challenges arising from climate change.

The Ambassador was recently invited by the Climate Change Commission to grace the launch of its project in Laguna related to reducing carbon emissions.

Al Hamidi, in his speech, expressed Qatar's "keenness and continuous support in its efforts to combat the effects of climate change, locally and internationally."

Qatar's support for programs addressing climate change was "aimed at enhancing climate sustainability by improving air quality, increasing green areas, and reducing gas emissions."

The Ambassador praised the "diversity and richness" of Philippine heritage, the Embassy of Qatar said in a statement.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to Manila Mohamed Obaid Alqattam Alzaabi was also invited, but he could not make it. He sent a video message instead. UAE Embassy First Secretary Obaid Al Shahid gave brief remarks.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje said that the project is "consistent with its mission of creating an enabling environment and promoting broader participation of multiple stakeholders in the field of climate action."

The Qatari Embassy said Borje "wished to learn and benefit from the plans and experience of Qatar as it has extensive experience and plans."

The CCC Vice Chair hopes that his meeting with the Ambassador will result in "mechanisms for permanent cooperation."

Borje also hopes that he will be part of the delegation of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to the climate summit in Dubai, UAE, in November.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC champions PH gender-responsive climate action in SoKor](#)

By: Jelly Musico

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) highlighted Philippine policies, partnerships and good practices that promote gender-responsive climate action during the 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Pre-Forum Discussion in Incheon, Republic of Korea on Aug. 29.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera gave the country's perspectives and experiences on integrating gender in climate action in the Philippines.

The panel discussion, organized by the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), convened adaptation practitioners and policymakers in the Asia-Pacific region to share practical solutions and explore partnerships for advancing feminist action for climate justice.

“Climate impacts aggravate existing general inequalities, and societal and cultural norms for women affect our ability to respond and cope with climate impacts, which give rise to issues on access to basic resources and services, as well as decision-making,” Herrera said.

She provided insights on landmark laws that mainstream gender in the country’s policies and programs, including the Magna Carta of Women, which sets gender mainstreaming as the national strategy for gender and development; the Climate Change Act, which upholds gender-sensitive considerations in climate change plans, policies, programs, and projects; and the 5 percent mandatory appropriation of agency national budgets for gender and development.

She underscored enabling policies and programs, such as the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), which aims to build the adaptive capacities of both women and men and optimize mitigation opportunities towards gender-responsive and rights-based sustainable development; the CCC Resolution to mainstream gender and development in all government actions related to climate change; and the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET), which tracks and monitors climate-related projects and programs, including those for gender and development.

Best country practices that Herrera shared included the establishment of Climate Resiliency Field Schools, which reinforce the adaptive capacity of both men and women in the farming and fisheries sectors; the Women-Managed Marine and Coastal Areas Program, which established database information, documented success stories of

women fisherfolk, provided technical assistance for women's participation, and forged partnerships with stakeholders in the conservation and management of natural marine habitats; and the Gender-Responsive Livelihood Assistance, which provides employment that promotes climate- and community-friendly projects.

Herrera called for "investing in women's climate resilience" and urged participants to continue empowering more women to meaningfully participate in climate actions.

"Support women's access to renewable energy and low-carbon technologies and build infrastructure and facilities that cater to the needs of women and girls in times of disaster," she said.

As gender gaps and violence are magnified during times of disasters and extreme weather, she said local government units should enhance their disaster response and management by anticipating their needs and investing in infrastructure and facilities, including separate comfort rooms, changing rooms, and other amenities for maternal healthcare and wellness needs.

Herrera said women's active participation in climate change policy and programming should be made accessible to them.

"Ease the burdens that women face. A climate resilient world would have women placed at the table as visionaries and leaders so that our effective strategies for transformational adaptation are fulfilled," she said.

POLITIKO

Mangrove restoration along Pasig River sought

By: Prince Golez

Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. is pushing for the restoration of mangroves along the Pasig River to further invogorate its rehabilitation and protection.

Restoring the mangroves along the river will ensure the sustainability of the Pasig River's rehabilitation as this would enhance its conservation and protect the river's biodiversity and ecosystem, Dela Cruz said in a statement.

He also urged for a total water ecosystem approach like planting bamboo with mangrove trees, as well as implement a water river reverse osmosis program for water priming.

The Climate Change Commission official issued the comment after First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos expressed her desire to bring back the beauty of the historic river after the Inter-Agency Council for the Pasig River Urban Development (PRUD) presented its master plan of restoration and rehabilitation.

Thr Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development also said the initiative would restore its status as a commercial, lifestyle, tourism and cultural hub of the country.

The "Pasig Bigyan-Buhay Muli" project, which will be headed by the PRUD, was formed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. through Executive Order No. 35 signed in July.

The project aims to put in place mixed-use commercial areas, including tourist spots, and open public parks along the 25-kilometer stretch of the Pasig River, from Manila Bay to the Laguna de Bay.

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