



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### ABS CBN

#### [Philippines to host ASEAN Summit in 2026: Marcos Jr.](#)

By: Katrina Domingo

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### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [PBBM calls for ASEAN 'united voice' during COP28 to contain climate change](#)

By: Samuel P. Medenilla

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. called for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to have a united voice during 28th meeting of the United Nations' annual conference on climate change (COP28) in demanding for climate action.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Marcos: ASEAN needs to press rich nations on climate pledges](#)**

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. called on his fellow Southeast Asian leaders to press rich nations to fulfill their climate commitments, noting that poorer countries have been dealing with disasters that threaten their food security.

## **CNN**

### **[What happened to the G20's new world order?](#)**

By: Stephen Collinson

At the G20 summit in London in 2009, Britain's then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown heralded a "new world order" in which rich and developing nations would come together to tame the inequities and excesses of globalization. At the height of a global financial crisis, Brown declared a "new progressive era of international co-operation."

## **ECO BUSINESS**

### **[Climate projects, MSMEs, women and farmers benefit from record year for IFC in Asia-Pacific region](#)**

Climate projects, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), women and farmers in Asia and the Pacific have benefited from record amounts of funding from IFC. The funds will alleviate poverty and increase prosperity in the face of overlapping crises and challenges, including climate change, gender inequality, food and energy insecurity, and higher inflation.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Marcos urges ASEAN: Spur developing countries' climate action commitment](#)**

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has urged members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to call on developing countries to strengthen their commitment to climate action, saying climate change continues to threaten a country's progress.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[PBBM urges heightened commitment to climate action](#)**

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. urged member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to call on developing countries to strengthen their commitment to climate action.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Climate change may hamper Philippines income goals](#)**

By: Pia Lee-Brago

Climate change is exacting a heavy toll on Filipino lives, properties and livelihoods, the United Nations said, warning that it could hamper the Philippines' ambition of becoming an upper middle-income country by 2040 if left unaddressed.

### **[LPA off extreme northern Luzon becomes Tropical Depression Ineng](#)**

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The low pressure area east of extreme Northern Luzon has developed into tropical depression Ineng—the ninth cyclone in the country this year.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **Philippines to host ASEAN Summit in 2026: Marcos Jr.**

By: Katrina Domingo

The Philippines will host the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in 2026, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Tuesday, during the regional bloc's plenary session in Indonesia.

The Philippines was originally scheduled to host the ASEAN Summit in 2027, during the bloc's 60th founding anniversary, but Myanmar formally expressed that it would forego the chairmanship in 2026.

"It is my pleasure to announce that the Philippines is ready to take the helm and chair ASEAN in 2026," Marcos Jr. told other Southeast Asian leaders.

"We will fortify the foundations of our community-building and navigate ASEAN as it embarks on a new chapter," he said.

"We will count on the support of fellow member-states and continue to work with our partners to strengthen ASEAN centrality, and to promote peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the region," he added.

The Philippines last hosted the regional summit in 2017 in Manila during the administration of former President Rodrigo Duterte.

#### **'OPEN, FREE, FAIR' TRADING SYSTEM**

Marcos Jr. said the Philippines "will always continue to strive to maintain ASEAN as a competitive and integrated regional economy" through "facilitating a rules-based multilateral trading system that is open, free, and fair."

"Our strength as a regional organization is nowhere more pronounced than when we effectively deliver and follow-through on our commitments," the Filipino leader said.

"To further expand mutual trade, we should continue efforts at enhancing ASEAN connectivity and supply chains," he said.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership — a free trade agreement among the Asia-Pacific nations — "will not only widen our options to increase production and

ultimately strengthen supply-chain resiliency, but also provide a new space for our economies to participate in the global value chain,” Marcos Jr. said.

While ASEAN has a projected growth rate of 4.9 percent in 2024 and is “poised to improve its macroeconomic fundamentals in the face of a prolonged geopolitical and socio-economic challenge that impacts our region and the world,” progress in the region “only matters when it is inclusive,” he said.

“The interoperability of our systems, in terms of digital trade, digital payments, and the like, should foster a vibrant digital economy that is interconnected as it is secure,” he said.

“Let us bolster support for the increased participation of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and start-ups in the digital and creative economies,” he said.

“Creativity and innovation are the way to the future. Let us strengthen collaboration and align our policies, including establishing a regional scope of the creative economy, closing financing gaps, and managing digital readiness capacities,” he added.

The Philippine President also underscored the importance of “improving access to safe and secure digital learning opportunities, fostering digital literacy, and developing transferable skills in ASEAN.”

“We must continue to prepare our people, especially the marginalized and the vulnerable, such as the women and the persons with disabilities in business, for the digital future,” he said.

“The citizens of ASEAN should reskill and upskill to maintain their leading roles in our economies,” he said.

“Let us ensure that our digital infrastructure enables broad and uninterrupted access, as the provision of our public services has shifted to digital platforms.”

## MIGRANT WORKERS PROTECTION

The region should also be “ready to assist those who have toiled to contribute significantly to our economies: as our migrant workers,” said the President, whose country has been buoyed by overseas remittances for several years.

“Our policies to protect migrant workers should provide assistance across all stages of crisis preparedness, response, and recovery,” he said, noting that the Philippines

“stands ready to lead and support efforts to operationalize the ASEAN Guidelines on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situations.”

“As the Voluntary Lead Shepherd for the cooperation against Trafficking in Persons, the Philippines will continue to call for more concerted efforts in intensifying regional and international cooperation, especially in mobilizing resources to prevent and combat the abuse of technology in TIP,” he said.

#### ‘CLIMATE CHANGE IS MOST URGENT THREAT TO PROGRESS’

Meantime, Marcos Jr. described climate change as the “most urgent threat to our progress”, and urged other ASEAN nations to “call on developed countries to heighten the implementation of their commitments” to decrease emissions that worsen the effects of climate change.

“Their commitments that include climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building, in order to drive ASEAN’s capabilities to prevent, mitigate, manage, and adapt to the impacts of climate change,” he said.

“As one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Philippines will continue to prioritize international cooperation that will make ASEAN climate-smart and disaster-ready, including through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity,” he added.

Marcos Jr. also advocated for food security, saying that the regional bloc “must build on cooperation that will harness the transformative potential of our agricultural sector to ensure that food production is responsible and will be of benefit for future generations.”

As of 2020, the regional bloc houses 8.5 percent of the world’s population, and contributes 3.5 percent to the world’s economy, according to data from the ASEAN’s website.

Marcos Jr. made no mention of tensions in the South China Sea during his intervention at the plenary session, but ASEAN leaders are expected to meet with Chinese officials on September 6.

China — whose illegal activities in parts of the West Philippine Sea refuel tensions in the strategic waterway — will also attend 2 other meetings during the 3-day conference, namely the ASEAN Plus 3 Summit and the ASEAN-East Asia Summit.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **PBBM calls for ASEAN 'united voice' during COP28 to contain climate change**

By: Samuel P. Medenilla

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. called for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to have a united voice during 28th meeting of the United Nations' annual conference on climate change (COP28) in demanding for climate action.

The chief executive said the joint initiative will raise the chances for developed countries to help in addressing injustices brought about by climate change.

"ASEAN must call on developed countries to heighten the implementation of their commitments," Marcos said in his intervention during the Plenary of the 43rd ASEAN Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.

He noted among the pending commitments include climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building.

The implementation of the said measures will help ASEAN members to prevent, mitigate, manage, and adapt to the impacts of climate change, according to the President.

"The Philippines will continue to prioritize international cooperation that will make ASEAN climate-smart and disaster-ready, including through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity," Marcos said.

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity is an intergovernmental center that facilitates cooperation and coordination of ASEAN with international organizations for sustainable use of biological diversity.

COP 28 is set to be held from 30 November to 12 December this year in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **Marcos: ASEAN needs to press rich nations on climate pledges**

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. called on his fellow Southeast Asian leaders to press rich nations to fulfill their climate commitments, noting that poorer countries have been dealing with disasters that threaten their food security.

The call to action must be made at the United Nations-led climate change conference in December, Mr. Marcos said during the plenary session of the ASEAN Summit in Jakarta.

“At the upcoming COP28 (in Dubai), ASEAN must call on developed countries to heighten the implementation of their commitments,” he said. “Their commitments include climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building in order to drive ASEAN’s capabilities to prevent, mitigate, manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change.”

Mr. Marcos said his focus remains on encouraging international cooperation to make ASEAN climate-smart and disaster-ready.

Climate change is threatening Philippine agriculture, which must absorb damage from an average of 18-20 typhoons a year.

Super Typhoon Doksuri and the southwest monsoon have caused P1.94 billion worth of agriculture damage, with rice accounting for P950 million of the total.

“In achieving food security, we must build on cooperation that will harness the transformative potential of our agricultural sector to ensure that food production is responsible and will be of benefit for future generations,” Mr. Marcos said.

Storms, flooding, and prolonged drought may result in around \$124 billion in losses to the Philippine economy between 2022 and 2050, research firm GHD estimated last year.

Mr. Marcos, who is leading a shift towards green energy, has yet to declare a climate emergency, which would authorize the government to mobilize funds to step up climate mitigation efforts.

The House of Representative made such a declaration in 2019, but Greenpeace said last year that the National Government (NG) has yet to “follow through.”



Neither have the US or China made such declarations. The two countries account for 41.89% and 34.75% of world gross domestic product in nominal and purchasing power parity terms, respectively, in 2021.

Mr. Marcos also called on the region's leaders to maximize the benefits from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and promote digital-economy cooperation.

Terry L. Ridon, a public investment analyst and convenor of think tank Infracore, said the summit is an opportunity for Mr. Marcos to boost ties with non-traditional partners amid mounting economic challenges and in the face of an increasingly belligerent China, which has abandoned some of its commitments to the Philippines' flagship infrastructure projects.

Mr. Marcos needs to seal partnerships in rice production as the Philippines deals with the commodity's rising prices and prepares for a possible shortage during the worst of the El Niño, he said.

He said Manila can collaborate with Indonesia, which currently chairs the regional bloc, to accelerate its shift to renewable energy.

"Indonesia and the Philippines should develop a joint nickel policy to help develop and protect this shared mineral resource amid technological developments in the renewables sector," he said.

Mr. Marcos should also invite ASEAN conglomerates to join Public-Private Partnerships projects, including the rehabilitation of the Philippine capital's main airport and the development of the Metro Manila busway.

"The summit can be a platform to call on other bilateral and multilateral partners to take another look at abandoned China projects," he said, "and determine whether they can continue these projects as designed or proposed or (whether) they will require another round of design and planning."

Transport officials have said the Export-Import Bank of China (China Eximbank) has yet to confirm whether it will approve a P142-billion loan for a railway to Bicol.

The Duterte government in February 2022 awarded to China Railway Design Corp. a contract to build the Philippine National Railways (PNR) South Long-Haul project.

Transportation Undersecretary Cesar B. Chavez said the Departments of Transportation and Finance met with Chinese Embassy officials in Manila earlier this year to discuss the loan but they “were given no clear direction” on the loan’s status.

He was speaking at a House appropriations committee hearing.

There have been calls to cancel infrastructure projects that China has promised to fund in light of its aggressive actions within the Philippine exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea.

Citing the foreign-assisted projects listed in the 2024 Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing, Mr. Ridon said six major infrastructure projects are currently depending on Chinese loans, the most expensive of which is the PNR South Long Haul Project, with a price tag of P175.3 billion.

There are also several loan agreements for “flagship projects” as designated by the Department of Finance. They include the loan agreement for the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project, the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project, which had been due for completion in 2022, Mr. Ridon said.

He also cited the P20-billion Safe Philippines project aimed at installing at least 12,000 closed-circuit television cameras in Metro Manila and Davao City.

Before the Department of Interior and Local Government canceled the project, China International Telecommunications and Construction Corp. had signed a loan contract with the government in 2018.

“Now is an opportune time for Congress to review upcoming and ongoing infrastructure projects that will be largely financed by Beijing,” Mr. Ridon said. “Let the deliberations on the national budget be a venue for our legislators to show that they will not allow Beijing to continue currying favor through funding infrastructure projects, while at the same time rapidly creeping into our territory and violently driving out our fisherfolk and our Coast Guard from our seas.”

**CNN**

## [What happened to the G20's new world order?](#)

By: Stephen Collinson

At the G20 summit in London in 2009, Britain's then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown heralded a "new world order" in which rich and developing nations would come together to tame the inequities and excesses of globalization. At the height of a global financial crisis, Brown declared a "new progressive era of international co-operation."

Fourteen years later, the G20 summit in India later this week will reflect how hopes of a global order based on a Western rules-based system have splintered, the world's division into democratic and autocratic camps, and the way in which internal populism and protectionism in many states have eroded pushes for free trade.

Brave words about reforming carbon economies now face resistance as the economic price and political complications of fighting climate change emerge.

G20 member Russia is a pariah over the war in Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin cannot risk travel in case he's arrested for war crimes on an international warrant.

Xi Jinping, the leader of the world's new superpower, China, likely won't even show up to the summit.

Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the joint press conference of the China-Central Asia Summit in Xian, in China's northern Shaanxi province on May 19, 2023.

China signals Xi Jinping will not attend G20 summit in India

It's unlikely that the G20 meeting will produce any consensus on the war in Ukraine, given that Russia and probably China would block it.

The biggest risk of the summit is that it could actually heighten antagonism between many of the Western and developing nations that the group was set up to bridge. Any new mistrust between Western democracies and developing states in the G20 of course plays into the hands of Putin and Xi.

Xi's reasoning is often opaque, but his no-show might be a protest at simmering border tensions and rising geopolitical angst with the great eastern Pacific superpower India, or could even be motivated by internal economic concerns over a property market crisis in China. But Xi did find time to attend an summit of the BRICS nations in Johannesburg last month.

The BRICS group – including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – welcomed new members Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates. The move was widely interpreted as another step by China toward creating its own competing world order to the US and its allies, in which it leads a group of developing states.

In that light, his absence from the G20 takes on a whole new perspective.

US President Joe Biden said at the weekend that he was disappointed that he wouldn't see Xi, after a flurry of US foreign policy and trade officials visited Beijing in a bid to slow plummeting relations.

Biden might still be able to set up a bilateral meeting with Xi at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit in San Francisco in November. But the jury is still out on whether Beijing is as keen on easing crisis-hit relations as much as Washington is.

Langur cutouts put on railings to scare off the monkeys in view of G20 Summit on August 29, 2023 in New Delhi, India.

New Delhi doesn't want its monkeys to ruin G20. But it has a plan

Xi's absence could offer Biden an opening to push forward his relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom he welcomed to a glittering state dinner at the White House in June. The US would like to nudge India closer to security arrangements and political groupings involving its allies in the Pacific, as it seeks to counterbalance rising Chinese power.

But India is likely to go only so far, as its historic non-aligned status evolves into a posture of trying to have a foot in both camps.

New Delhi has disappointed the West by failing to forcefully condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has profited from cheap Russian oil following a boycott by US-allied nations. As a rising power that is still regarded as a developing nation, India is a leading member of both the BRICS and the G20.

## ECO BUSINESS

### [Climate projects, MSMEs, women and farmers benefit from record year for IFC in Asia-Pacific region](#)

Climate projects, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), women and farmers in Asia and the Pacific have benefited from record amounts of funding from IFC. The funds will alleviate poverty and increase prosperity in the face of overlapping crises and challenges, including climate change, gender inequality, food and energy insecurity, and higher inflation.

IFC, the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets, committed a record US\$11 billion to 108 projects in Asia and the Pacific in the fiscal year ended June 30, a 10 per cent year-on-year increase. This comprised US\$4.7 billion in long-term financing from its own account, US\$3.4 billion in mobilisation, and US\$2.9 billion in short-term trade and supply-chain finance to facilitate trade flows.

Thirty-nine per cent of long-term financing from IFC's own account was invested in projects that will help tackle climate change and marine-plastic waste, critical issues in a region home to many countries that are most vulnerable to climate change and key contributors of plastic waste. Projects ranged from investments in Mongolia's first green bond and blue finance in Thailand, to electric vehicles in India and sustainability-linked finance with pricing incentives tied to supporting the energy transition in South and Southeast Asia.

A record US\$4.7 billion was committed to financial institutions in the region, which are expected to improve access to finance for MSMEs through the provision of more than 1.6 million loans, with specific targets for women-owned businesses. MSMEs are the backbone of the region's economy, accounting for more than 97 per cent of its businesses and employing over half its workforce. Improving their access to finance, particularly in a high interest-rate environment and as banks retreat from riskier lending, is critical to creating jobs, spurring economic growth, and fostering more inclusive societies.

IFC's investments in financial institutions also helped increase access to insurance for underserved people. Other projects are expected to provide more than 500,000 loans for affordable homes, many of which are for green housing, improving financial inclusion across the region.

A record US\$2.4 billion of investments and 69 per cent of advisory projects included a focus on improving gender equality, against a target of 45 per cent. Women represent 69 per cent of IFC nominee directors on client company boards in the region, well

ahead of the global corporate target of 50 per cent by 2030. At the current rate of progress, it will take another 189 years to close the gender gap in East Asia and the Pacific and 149 years in South Asia, against a global estimate of 131 years[1]. With a diversity of challenges and pressures compounding, and women's workforce outcomes suffering, investments aimed at improving gender parity are critical.

Converging crises put the region's already stretched food systems under significant strain, pushing millions of people into poverty and erasing years of development gains. IFC invested in projects to improve food security in the region, including an investment to promote a resilient rice market in Bangladesh. This is IFC's first investment from its new Global Food Security Platform, a US\$6 billion global facility set up to counter the food crisis. IFC projects in the last fiscal year are expected to improve the livelihoods of over 130,000 farmers in the region, with specific targets for women farmers.

"In the face of a multitude of challenges, the vibrant private sector in Asia and the Pacific is playing an increasingly critical role in helping the region to overcome its biggest development issues," said Riccardo Puliti, IFC's Regional Vice President for Asia and the Pacific. "This record year cements our regional leadership in supporting the private sector and positions us to deliver on the aspirations of the World Bank Group's Evolution Roadmap."

Digitalisation as a driver of connectivity and inclusion in Asia and the Pacific was also a focus of investment this past fiscal year. Projects ranged from investments in the Maldives to help connect it to the internet global superhighway via a state-of-the-art submarine cable system and a social commerce startup dedicated to solving challenges facing MSMEs in Indonesia, to advising the governments of Fiji, Samoa, and Solomon Islands on building digital national payment systems.

Other projects will increase access to healthcare in Indonesia, childcare in Fiji, improve logistics infrastructure in Cambodia, and support Sri Lanka amid an ongoing economic crisis, with a cross-currency swap facility to three of the country's national banks.

## About IFC

IFC — a member of the World Bank Group — is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. We work in more than 100 countries, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities in developing countries. In fiscal year 2023, IFC committed a record US\$43.7 billion to private companies and financial institutions in developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity as economies grapple with the impacts of global compounding crises. For more information, visit [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org).

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Marcos urges ASEAN: Spur developing countries' climate action commitment](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has urged members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to call on developing countries to strengthen their commitment to climate action, saying climate change continues to threaten a country’s progress.

Marcos said this in his intervention during the ongoing 43rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits here on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

In his remarks, the President described climate change as a “most urgent” threat to progress.

“The most urgent threat to our progress is the impact of climate change. It is a looming reminder of the injustice of disproportionate impact on our people,” he said.

According to the President, the ASEAN must call on developed countries to heighten the implementation of their commitments during the COP28 in Dubai in December.

“Their commitments include climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building in order to drive ASEAN’s capabilities to prevent, mitigate, manage, and adapt to the impacts of climate change,” he said.

With the Philippines among the most disaster-prone countries in the world, Marcos said the government will continue prioritizing international cooperation that will make ASEAN climate-smart and disaster-ready, including through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

Meanwhile, regarding food security, President Marcos said the ASEAN must build on cooperation that would transform the region’s agriculture sector.

“In achieving food security, we must build on cooperation that will harness the transformative potential of our agricultural sector to ensure that food production is responsible and will be of benefit for future generations,” he said.

“The continued effectiveness of our community-building efforts rests on a clear assessment of our strengths. The Philippines will continue to champion change that will strengthen our institutions, improve our decision-making, and uphold ASEAN Centrality,” he added.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [PBBM urges heightened commitment to climate action](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. urged member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to call on developing countries to strengthen their commitment to climate action.

In his intervention Tuesday during the plenary of the 43rd ASEAN Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, the President said climate change is the most urgent threat to a country's progress.

"It is a looming reminder of the injustice of disproportionate impact on our people," President Marcos told ASEAN country members.

"At the upcoming COP28, ASEAN must call on developed countries to heighten the implementation of their commitments. Their commitments include climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building in order to drive ASEAN's capabilities to prevent, mitigate, manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change," he added.

The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) will be held at the Expo City of Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Nov. 30 to Dec. 12.

With the Philippines among the most disaster-prone countries in the world, President Marcos said the government will continue prioritizing international cooperation that will make ASEAN climate-smart and disaster-ready, including through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, which is located at the University of the Philippines Los Baños in Laguna province.

"In achieving food security, we must build on cooperation that will harness the transformative potential of our agricultural sector to ensure that food production is responsible and will be of benefit for future generations," President Marcos said.

"The continued effectiveness of our community-building efforts rests on a clear assessment of our strengths. The Philippines will continue to champion for change that will strengthen our institutions, improve our decision-making, and uphold ASEAN Centrality," he added.

Marcos is in Jakarta on the invitation of Indonesian President Joko Widodo, this year's ASEAN chair.



## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### Climate change may hamper Philippines income goals

By: Pia Lee-Brago

Climate change is exacting a heavy toll on Filipino lives, properties and livelihoods, the United Nations said, warning that it could hamper the Philippines' ambition of becoming an upper middle-income country by 2040 if left unaddressed.

Multiple indices rank the Philippines as among those most affected by extreme climate events. Over the past decade, highly destructive typhoons have hit almost every year, with related annual losses estimated at 1.2 percent of overall gross domestic product.

In July, Typhoon Egay (Doksuri) brought widespread flooding and landslides to the Philippines, killing at least 39 people and forcing 12,000 from their homes.

The UN cited the mountainous province of Bukidnon in the southern Philippines where "local indigenous groups are being forced to adapt to the alarming impacts of climate change."

With UN support, communities are making significant strides, using centuries-old knowledge to forge sustainable solutions.

Local tribal leader Jemuel Perino discussed the success of local initiatives, supported by the UN Development Program's Adaptation Fund Climate Change Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA), in educating his community on effective prevention and mitigation techniques to deal with the growing impacts of climate change.

"The indigenous cultural communities have their own centuries-old knowledge, systems and practices and have kept them alive," Perino said. "In the Philippines, the government is promoting their use in environmental protection and conservation."

As chairman of the Council of Elders of the Bukidnon Umayamnon community, Perino has seen the impact of climate change up close. Erosion, deforestation and biodiversity loss have emerged as key threats with devastating implications for the culture, youth and livelihood of his people.

"In the Philippines, most of our forest lands and headwaters fall within the ancestral domains of the various indigenous cultural communities," he said. "There is a real need for the world to fully recognize their important contributions in conserving the environment that benefits the entire population."

To combat the growing impacts of climate change in the region, Perino coordinates a locally organized project under the community-based organization, Bukidnon Umayamnon Tribe Kapu-unan To mga Datu.

Supported by the UN via an AFICIA grant, the project also seeks to tackle deforestation and pollution while generating sustainable income for indigenous peoples by promoting the planting of bamboo and cocoa by local farmers in Mindanao. That includes training people on cultivating, harvesting and marketing.

Perino explained that the initiative is slated to plant 20 hectares of vegetation along the Pulangi River. He added that bamboo is favored by the community to build houses that are more resistant to floods and storms.

After creating new bamboo and cocoa plantations in July 2022, farmers have already started to benefit. The project is currently providing income to farmers through temporary labor opportunities and is supporting families to buy food and other basic items.

## [LPA off extreme northern Luzon becomes Tropical Depression Ineng](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The low pressure area east of extreme Northern Luzon has developed into tropical depression Ineng—the ninth cyclone in the country this year.

State weather bureau PAGASA said that Ineng is not directly affecting the country, although it is slightly enhancing the southwest monsoon or habagat. Tropical Storm Haikui (formerly called Hanna) also intensifies the southwest monsoon.

Ineng was last spotted 975 kilometers east of extreme Northern Luzon. It is forecast to remain far from the Philippine landmass.

The tropical depression was packing maximum sustained winds of 45 km per hour near the center and gusts of up to 55 kph. It was heading west slowly.

Enhanced southwest monsoon

The enhanced southwest monsoon will continue to dump occasional to monsoon rains over the western portions of Luzon in the next three days.

It will also bring gusty conditions over Batanes, Ilocos provinces, the western portion of Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Kalayaan Islands, Lubang Island and Romblon on Tuesday.

“With Haikui expected to degenerate into a remnant low over mainland China and Ineng forecast to move north northeastward away from the country, the southwest monsoon is forecast to weaken within the week,” PAGASA said. Ineng may exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility Tuesday evening or Wednesday as a tropical storm.

Forecast position:

- Sept. 5, 2023 8:00 PM - 1,070 km east northeast of extreme Northern Luzon
- Sept. 6, 2023 8:00 AM - 1,290 km east northeast of extreme Northern Luzon (outside PAR)
- Sept. 6, 2023 8:00 PM - 1,620 km northeast of extreme Northern Luzon (outside PAR)

**=END=**