



NEWS ROUNDUP

07 SEPTEMBER 2023 [07:50 am]

- African leaders seek global taxes for climate change at Nairobi summit
- Climate change worsening HIV control in Asia
- PH signs MOUs on sustainable agribusiness, climate change with ASEAN members
- Focus on food security, climate change, digitalization – Marcos to Asean-Plus Three
- PBBM calls for increased climate action commitment
- Philippines, ASEAN states ink MOUs on agribusiness, climate change
- 'Protect tuna industry from overfishing'
- Southeast Asian leaders urged to prioritize clean energy shift to avoid climate 'catastrophe'

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Dela Cruz Expresses Support for Pangasinan's Green Canopy Project

AL JAZEERA

[African leaders seek global taxes for climate change at Nairobi summit](#)

African political and business leaders have adopted a declaration to address climate challenges in Africa on the final day of a major climate summit in Kenya's capital, Nairobi

ECO BUSINESS

[Climate change worsening HIV control in Asia](#)

Climate change-driven extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in temperature, and air and water pollution are impacting control of HIV in the Asia Pacific region, a science gathering heard.

JOURNAL ONLINE

[PH signs MOUs on sustainable agribusiness, climate change with ASEAN members](#)

The private sectors from the Philippines and eight other state members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Jakarta, Indonesia on Tuesday, for agriculture cooperation and small business development, seeking to boost ASEAN efforts towards economic integration.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Focus on food security, climate change, digitalization – Marcos to Asean-Plus Three](#)

By: Zacarian Sarao

The ASEAN-Plus Three (APT) should work together boost food security, climate change response, and digitalization, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Wednesday in his speech at the Jakarta Convention Center.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PBBM calls for increased climate action commitment](#)

By: Joann Villanueva

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has encouraged the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-member states to motivate developing countries to firm up their climate action commitments.

POLITIKO

[Philippines, ASEAN states ink MOUs on agribusiness, climate change](#)

By: Prince Golez

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) for agricultural cooperation and small business development was signed on Tuesday in Jakarta by the private sector from the Philippines and eight other state members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC).

THE MANILA TIMES

'Protect tuna industry from overfishing'

By: Javier Joe Ismael

With the prediction of the occurrence of El Niño in the coming months and the ill effects of global warming, Sen. Cynthia Villar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, said the tuna industry should be protected from overfishing and habitat degradation to prevent its depletion, which may lead to its collapse.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Southeast Asian leaders urged to prioritize clean energy shift to avoid climate 'catastrophe'

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Climate activists on Wednesday called on Southeast Asian leaders to ramp up the shift away from fossil fuels and the pivot toward renewable energy sources such as wind and solar to avert climate “catastrophe.”

CCC IN THE NEWS:

Dela Cruz Expresses Support for Pangasinan’s Green Canopy Project

In an effort to mitigate further flooding and safeguard the welfare of the town’s residents, Mayor Leopoldo Bataoil of Lingayen, alongside Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr., inaugurated the municipality’s waste-to-energy (WtE) garbage disposal facility. This facility aims to address the growing issue of waste management and disposal.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

[African leaders seek global taxes for climate change at Nairobi summit](#)

African political and business leaders have adopted a declaration to address climate challenges in Africa on the final day of a major climate summit in Kenya's capital, Nairobi

The adoption – announced on Wednesday by the summit's convener, Kenyan President William Ruto – proposes new global taxes and reforms to international financial institutions to help fund climate change action in a declaration that will form the basis of their negotiating position at November's COP28 summit.

The Nairobi Declaration capped the three-day Africa Climate Summit which was dominated by discussions of how to mobilise financing to adapt to increasingly extreme weather, conserve natural resources and develop renewable energy.

Ruto has been spearheading a new narrative, focusing on Africa's switch to clean energy even as the continent reels from climate-related disasters.

"In Africa, we can be a green industrial hub that helps other regions achieve their net zero strategies by 2050," he said at the summit. "Unlocking the renewable energy resources that we have in our continent is not only good for Africa, it is good for the rest of the world."

Funding for climate action

Advocates have long called for rich carbon polluters to honour long-standing climate pledges for poorer and more vulnerable nations.

According to the United Nations, the continent contributes only about 2-3 percent of global emissions but suffers the most from the changing climate. Extreme weather events like drought – in the Horn of Africa – and flood – in parts of Central and West Africa – have become more frequent in recent years.

"Renewable energy could be the African miracle but we must make it happen. We must all work together for Africa to become a renewable energy superpower," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday at the summit.

He also urged leaders at the G20 – the 20 advanced economies meeting in Delhi, India this week – to commit to reaching net zero before 2040.

Ruto says Africa is well placed to take advantage of the need to move away from carbon-spewing fossil fuels, boasting a young population, vast renewable potential and natural resources.

This includes some 40 percent of global reserves of cobalt, manganese and platinum crucial for batteries and hydrogen fuel cells.

Efforts at the summit to up investment in renewables were given a boost as the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) announced \$23bn in financing “for green growth, mitigation and adaptation efforts” to the Africa Climate Fund for the next 27 years. The UAE also pledged \$4.5bn, while Germany committed \$482.31m to help with the development of green energy infrastructure.

But there are daunting challenges for a continent where hundreds of millions lack access to electricity.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) says Africa hosts 60 percent of the world’s best solar resources, but only three percent of energy investments.

In a report published on Wednesday, the IEA and the AfDB urged donors and development finance institutions to scale up concessional funding to encourage private sector investment in Africa’s energy sector.

“Concessional capital of around \$28bn per year is needed to mobilise \$90bn of private sector investment by 2030 ... a more than tenfold increase from today,” the report said.

After the summit

Analysts and activists are split about the effectiveness of the summit and evidence of political willpower to follow through on recommendations.

“I think the political will is there, I think resource constraints are real,” Serah Mekka, Africa executive director at ONE Campaign, told Al Jazeera. “I think the impact of climate change is very real for Africa ... so there is the urgency of the situation, I think where there is a will, there is a way.”

Kevin Juma, of The Nature Conservancy, called for immediate action.

“Even before today, there were announcements made on delivering climate finance to the Global South to a tune of \$100bn per year – that was 14 years ago,” he told Al Jazeera on Wednesday. “So I think what needs to be done is to translating those commitments and announcements to tangible actions on the ground.”

Another environmental activist told summit participants on the event's final day that carbon markets are "bogus solutions".

"We reject forced solutions on our land," said Priscilla Achakpa, founder of the Nigeria-based Women Environmental Programme. She urged the so-called "Global North" to "remove yourself from the perspective of the colonial past".

Carbon markets, in which polluters effectively offset emissions by investing in tree planting or conservation initiatives, are cheaper to purchase in Africa than in many other parts of the world where schemes are more strictly regulated. African nations seek a better price to help achieve their own emission-reduction targets.

In Africa's market, the continent earns less than \$10 per tonne of carbon. Other regions can receive over \$100 for the same amount. In carbon trading, one credit issued equals one tonne of carbon dioxide or another greenhouse gas equivalent removed from the atmosphere.

The voluntary carbon market, which remains dominant in Africa, has been plagued by integrity and transparency concerns. Environmental groups are concerned it is a free pass to keep polluting.

The summit is part of Africa's preparation for the next United Nations climate change conference, which is scheduled to take place in Dubai in December. It has largely featured leaders in government, business and civil society, many of them veterans of other climate gatherings.

"Heading from event to event doesn't leave us with a lot of constructive thinking time" to bridge the gaps that still divide communities on the best ways to reduce emissions," said Simon Stiell, the executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

ECO BUSINESS

Climate change worsening HIV control in Asia

Climate change-driven extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in temperature, and air and water pollution are impacting control of HIV in the Asia Pacific region, a science gathering heard.

The warning comes amid unprecedented heatwaves, as the UN warns the world has already warmed by 1.1 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times.

“Those most affected by climate change are also those most prone to communicable diseases,” said Kiyohiko Izumi, team leader for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections in the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office.

Izumi was speaking at meeting on how climate change is impacting the control of HIV in the Asia Pacific region, organised by WHO during the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science, held in Brisbane, Australia, from 23 to 26 July.

“Climate change and related disasters as upstream factors can affect all aspects of HIV, primarily leading to the increased vulnerability to HIV and decreasing coping ability,” Izumi said.

While the overall trend of HIV infections has declined, in some countries such as the Philippines, new infections are rising. From 2001 to 2021, the number of new HIV infections in the Philippines more than tripled.

“It’s important to note that the Philippines is not only a hotspot for HIV and AIDS, but it’s also a climate hotspot,” said Renzo Guinto, associate professor of global public health and integral director of the planetary and global health program at St. Luke’s Medical Center College of Medicine in the Philippines.

“We know that climate change impacts human health in many different ways,” he added.

In 2022, his team published a study on the connections between climate change and HIV/AIDS.

“Extreme weather events impact food security and lead to forced migration or displacement of populations and also lead to the disruption of health services,” said Guinto, a member of the national panel of technical experts of the Philippines climate change commission.

“All these three – food, mobility and health services – can then lead to indirect impacts, for instance on people living with HIV/AIDS, which then eventually can affect their overall outcomes.

“There’s still no evidence showing that HIV in itself is a climate-sensitive infectious disease, but there are many other climate-sensitive infectious diseases, such as malaria, Zika, Chikungunya, that may interact with HIV/AIDS,” he added.

Fungal infections

Warming temperatures and other climate effects are also leading to a risk of increase in some invasive fungal diseases.

“Fungal infections and HIV fungal infections are a leading cause of illness, hospitalisation and death in people living with advanced HIV disease,” said Nathan Ford, a scientific officer at the WHO.

“There is a need for a one-world approach that helps us to understand the effects of global warming on the spread of species that can serve as intermediate hosts, notably bats and birds, for fungal human pathogens,” he added.

Ford pointed to WHO guidelines to deal with HIV associated fungal infections, including Talaromycosis.

“Talaromycosis ... is the leading cause of HIV-associated deaths in China, Thailand and Vietnam, incidents increasing by up to 73 per cent in the rainy months in those countries and hospitalisations also strongly associated with humidity,” he added.

While HIV research has mainly focused on prevention, treatment, stigma reduction, and vaccine development, experts highlight the need for investment in research to explore the direct relationship between climate change and HIV.

Sindhu Ravishankar, vice president of programmes and research at Fast-Track Cities Institute, Association of Providers of AIDS Care in Washington DC, said the rapid urbanisation projected for the Asia Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa regions will create new megacities and home to large numbers of vulnerable populations.

This urbanisation can lead to heightened inequalities, affecting low-income households the most, with food insecurity being linked to HIV leading to substance use and poor mental health, Ravishankar said. Rural to urban migration also contributes to changes and expansion of sexual networks, leading to an increase in transmission, she added.

JOURNAL ONLINE

[PH signs MOUs on sustainable agribusiness, climate change with ASEAN members](#)

The private sectors from the Philippines and eight other state members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Jakarta, Indonesia on Tuesday, for agriculture cooperation and small business development, seeking to boost ASEAN efforts towards economic integration.

The MOU aims to jointly conduct “studies and mentorship channels with Filipinos for potential agriculture, agriculture technology, food security, agri-preneurship business models and value chain development among small, medium, and large farmers, enterprises, and government entities.”

Separate MOUs were signed for each cooperation with Thailand, Brunei, Singapore, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Indonesia through their respective ASEAN-BAC representatives.

The Philippines was represented by ASEAN-BAC Philippines Chairman Jose Ma. Concepcion III, the founder of Go Negosyo.

The development of trade and investment opportunities in various agricultural commodities including rubber, rice, corn, fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural services is expected to be explored under this joint cooperation.

All member-states also agreed to jointly promote effective strategies in addressing climate change and ensure a sustainable agribusiness environment.

The Philippines has already signed the same MOU with Malaysia during President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s state visit to Malaysia in July 2023.

Focus on food security, climate change, digitalization – Marcos to Asean-Plus Three

By: Zacarian Sarao

The ASEAN-Plus Three (APT) should work together boost food security, climate change response, and digitalization, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Wednesday in his speech at the Jakarta Convention Center.

The ASEAN-Plus Three consists of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam — along with East Asian neighbors China, Japan, and South Korea.

“To move the APT (Asean-Plus Three) onwards and forward — in both the strategic and economic arenas — we must stay united, take adversity in stride, and work together to focus on strengthening food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and developing the digital domain to encompass all levels of society in our countries to ensure connectivity and other cross-cutting issues,” Marcos said.

“With the future in mind, we will tighten collaboration with each other and focus on the sustainable development of our region,” he added.

According to Marcos, to ensure food security, regional mechanisms must be strengthened, including the emergency rice supply of the APT through the Asean Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR).

He also urged the nations to consider diversifying APTERR by adding other commodities and staple foods.

Such policies, he said, would enable these countries to employ sustainable agriculture and fishery practices.

“We need to mainstream sustainable agricultural and food production systems that enable us to meet the demand for food without compromising the well-being of our natural environment,” Marcos said.

“Let us forge strong partnerships with key stakeholders in the private sector, strengthen food security and self-sufficiency by upgrading and expanding the agricultural sector through investments on infrastructures, and support farmers and fisherfolks.”

Other measures to meet regional challenges include closing the digital divide and unleashing the potential of the digital economy and encouraging the transition to a circular economy.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, were present in the Summit and each expressed their full support for and cooperation with Asean.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PBBM calls for increased climate action commitment](#)

By: Joann Villanueva

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has encouraged the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-member states to motivate developing countries to firm up their climate action commitments.

He made the call during his intervention at Tuesday's plenary of the ongoing 43rd ASEAN Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, noting that "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 told chief executives and other officials of ASEAN countries.

He said ASEAN, during the upcoming COP28 "must call on developed countries to heighten the implementation of their commitment."

Among these pledges are climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building, all of which "drive ASEAN's capabilities to prevent, mitigate, manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change."

Marcos said the Philippines, being one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, will carry on with international tie-ups aimed at making the region climate-smart and disaster-ready.

"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 for change that will strengthen our institutions, improve our decision-making, and uphold ASEAN Centrality," he added.

POLITIKO

[Philippines, ASEAN states ink MOUs on agribusiness, climate change](#)

By: Prince Golez

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) for agricultural cooperation and small business development was signed on Tuesday in Jakarta by the private sector from the Philippines and eight other state members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC).

In a news release, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said the MOU aims to jointly conduct “studies and mentorship channels with Filipinos for potential agriculture, agriculture technology, food security, agri-preneurship business models and value chain development among small, medium, and large farmers, enterprises, and government entities.”

Separate MOUs were signed for each cooperation with Thailand, Brunei, Singapore, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Indonesia through their respective ASEAN-BAC representatives, according to the PCO.

The Philippines was represented by ASEAN-BAC Philippines Chairman and Go Negosyo founder Jose Ma. Concepcion III.

Under this joint cooperation, the development of trade and investment opportunities in various agricultural commodities including rubber, rice, corn, fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural services is expected to be explored.

Malacañang said all member-states also agreed to promote effective strategies in addressing climate change and ensure a sustainable agribusiness environment.

In July 2023, the Philippines signed the same MOU with Kuala Lumpur during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s state visit to Malaysia.

THE MANILA TIMES

'Protect tuna industry from overfishing'

By: Javier Joe Ismael

With the prediction of the occurrence of El Niño in the coming months and the ill effects of global warming, Sen. Cynthia Villar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, said the tuna industry should be protected from overfishing and habitat degradation to prevent its depletion, which may lead to its collapse.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 23rd Tuna Congress in General Santos City with the theme "Adapting Strategies Responsive to Global Changes" on Saturday, September 2, Villar reminded everyone that the ocean's resources are not limitless and, as such, they should be protected and sustained.

The Philippines is the second-top global exporter of tuna, next to Indonesia in Asia. Six species of tuna caught in the Philippines are in commercial quantities: yellowfin, skipjack, eastern little, frigate, big eye and bullet.

The country's major export markets are the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and the Netherlands.

Villar is the author of Republic Act (RA) 10654 in 2015, or the amendment to the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, which instituted the concept of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and set increased penalties and sanctions as a deterrent to offenders.

The IUUF law prescribes the number of licenses and permits for the conduct of fishery activities, adopts the precautionary principle, and mandates the balance between overprotection and overexploitation of fisheries resources, which necessitates the installation of a vessel monitoring system (VMS), the senator said.

The setting up of a VMS to prevent IUU fishing is a requirement by the European Union for us to avail of the inclusion with the GSP+ that allows the Philippines to enjoy zero tariffs on 6,274 products, or 66 percent of all EU tariff lines.

Last year, 2.93 billion euros worth of Philippine products were exported to the EU using GSP+.

GSP+ is contingent on the implementation of core human rights, labor, governance and other sustainable development conventions. The current GSP+ is valid until the end of 2023.

The IUUF also protects the welfare of our fisherfolk inside the 15-kilometer municipal waters and prevents poverty and hunger from setting in.

The 23rd Tuna Congress has brought together experts and stakeholders to provide an avenue to address the pressing global challenges faced by the Philippine tuna industry and to promote sustainable fishing practices.

The event was spearheaded by the Soccsksargen Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries, headed by its president and National Tuna Congress chairman Dominic Salazar, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Cagayan de Oro City local government, and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Tuna Congress also gave small-scale fishermen the opportunity to voice their needs and interests.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Southeast Asian leaders urged to prioritize clean energy shift to avoid climate 'catastrophe'](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Climate activists on Wednesday called on Southeast Asian leaders to ramp up the shift away from fossil fuels and the pivot toward renewable energy sources such as wind and solar to avert climate “catastrophe.”

Campaigners across Asia said the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations should strengthen their cooperation for a just energy transition as they gather in Jakarta, Indonesia for the 43rd ASEAN summit.

Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development, stressed that a “direct, swift, equitable and just” transition to renewable energy systems will not only ensure the energy access of communities but also prevent climate catastrophe.

“[ASEAN member states] must stop the expansion of gas energy in the region and the promotion of fossil-based technologies that only serve to legitimize continued fossil fuel extraction and use of coal-fired power plants,” Nacpil said.

The Filipino climate activist also urged ASEAN to “stand up against Japan’s dirty energy and false solutions strategy for the region.”

Japan is a major investor of gas projects in Asia as well as fossil-based technologies such as ammonia co-firing that experts say prolong the use of coal-fired power plants.

Trend Asia energy campaigner Novita Indri added that the deterioration of air quality in Jakarta and extreme weather events in Asia “indicate the urgent need for the region to transition from fossil fuels like coal and gas to clean energy and keep warming within the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold.”

Vulnerable region

In a joint statement on climate change, ASEAN member states reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and 2015 Paris Agreement by “continuing to achieve substantial progress in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency.”

ASEAN also called on parties to the UNFCCC to promote the development of low emission technologies as well as promote cross-border flows of clean energy to enable just and inclusive energy transition.

In his intervention during the plenary of the ASEAN summit, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said his fellow Southeast Asian leaders should call on developed countries to deliver on their commitments to climate change at the upcoming COP28 climate talks in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

“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.

Southeast Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change, and grapples with rising sea levels, floods, intense cyclones, heatwaves and droughts.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

Dela Cruz Expresses Support for Pangasinan's Green Canopy Project

In an effort to mitigate further flooding and safeguard the welfare of the town's residents, Mayor Leopoldo Bataoil of Lingayen, alongside Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr., inaugurated the municipality's waste-to-energy (WtE) garbage disposal facility. This facility aims to address the growing issue of waste management and disposal.

Simultaneously, Commissioner Dela Cruz and Mayor Bataoil are collaborating on the establishment of a water-impounding facility for the town, which will evolve into a comprehensive water ecosystem. This aligns with the climate official's vision for addressing the consequences of climate change and global warming.

Dela Cruz emphasized that creating a comprehensive water ecosystem for Lingayen will not only bolster the town's livelihood initiatives but will also significantly contribute to its ecotourism endeavors. Furthermore, it will protect and preserve the environment, biodiversity, and ecology of the area against climate-related risks.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Dela Cruz commended Pangasinan's Green Canopy Project, which aims to plant and nurture a million trees in strategic locations throughout the province.

According to Provincial Administrator Melicio Patague, the Green Canopy Project involves planting trees falling under categories such as native, rare, endangered, and fruit-bearing. Patague stressed that the escalating carbon emissions and rapid deforestation worldwide underscore the urgency of tree-planting efforts for the environment.

Dela Cruz echoed his support for the project's mission, which not only advocates for extensive tree planting but also emphasizes the importance of caring for these trees to promote forest cover throughout the province.

"We will not simply plant them and leave them. We are committed to ensuring the growth of these trees," Patague enthused during the project's launch.

The climate official also stressed the need to water newly planted seedlings at least twice a week, especially during the scorching summer months.

=END=