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MANILA STANDARD

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NIKKEI ASIA

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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THE STAR

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GMA NEWS

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By: Rey Ferrer

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[\[Opinion\] Climate Change Commission: Ipagpabawal ang campaign materials ngayong BSK elections](#)

By: Marlon Purificacion

Gusto ko itong panuakala ni Climate Change Commissioner Albert dela Cruz, Sr., na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng mga plastic na campaign materials ngayong darating na barangay at sangguniang kabataan elections.

THE DAILY TRIBUNE

[Pasig River cleanup, waste-to-energy machine use urged](#)

By: Kathryn Jose

The Climate Change Commission and the Rotary Club of Makati are urging companies to donate money for the acquisition of cleaning machines needed to rehabilitate the Pasig River and local government units to tap waste-to-energy machines for mitigating the effects of climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

[Nearly all world's population exposed to global warming over June-Sept – study](#)

Nearly all of the world's population experienced higher temperatures from June to August as a result of human-induced climate change, according to a peer-reviewed research report published late on Thursday.

The northern hemisphere summer of 2023 has been the hottest since records began, with prolonged heatwaves in North America and southern Europe causing catastrophic wildfires and spikes in mortality rates. July was the hottest month ever recorded, while average August temperatures were also 1.5 Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels.

A study by Climate Central, a US-based research group, looked at temperatures in 180 countries and 22 territories and found that 98% of the world's population were exposed to higher temperatures made at least twice more likely by carbon dioxide pollution.

“Virtually no one on Earth escaped the influence of global warming during the past three months,” said Andrew Pershing, Climate Central's vice president for science.

“In every country we could analyse, including the southern hemisphere, where this is the coolest time of year, we saw temperatures that would be difficult – and in some cases nearly impossible – without human-caused climate change,” he said.

Climate Central assesses whether heat events are made more likely as a result of climate change by comparing observed temperatures with those generated by models that remove the influence of greenhouse gas emissions.

It said as many as 6.2 billion people experienced at least one day of average temperatures that were at least five times more likely as a result of climate change, the maximum value in Climate Central's Climate Shift Index.

The heatwaves in North America and southern Europe would have been impossible without climate change, said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment.

“We have looked at isolated heatwaves,” she said. “They have not been made five times more likely. They have been made infinitely more likely because they would not have occurred without climate change.”

CNN

[G20 stops short of condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine in joint declaration](#)

By: Kevin Liptak

Leaders gathered here for the annual Group of 20 summit managed to agree on a joint statement laying out shared views on climate change and economic development but showed the fractures within the group by stopping short of explicitly condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Diplomats had been working furiously to draft a final joint statement in the lead-up to the summit but hit snags on language to describe the Ukraine war. The eventual compromise statement amounted to a coup for the summit's host, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but still reflected a position far softer than those the United States and its Western allies have adopted individually.

US President Joe Biden was hoping to convince the world's largest economies to rally behind Ukraine during his two-night stay in India for the summit. He also pressed his case for American investment in the developing world.

On Saturday, as the summit was still underway, the leaders agreed to the joint declaration acknowledging the situation in Ukraine while not papering over the group's major divides.

"All states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition," the declaration read, without explicitly singling out Russia for its invasion. The document also stated opposition to the use of nuclear weapons and highlighted the economic effects of the war.

In a reflection of the deep fractures among the G20 nations, the statement acknowledged "there were different views and assessments of the situation."

The declaration earned the praise of the United States. US national security adviser Jake Sullivan called the statement a "significant milestone for India's chairmanship and a vote of confidence that the G20 can come together to address a pressing range of issues."

[G20 Summit in India: UK to provide \\$2 billion to fight global climate change](#)

By: Nithin Belle

In its biggest single funding commitment, the UK on Sunday said it would provide \$2 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help tackle global climate change.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who is in New Delhi for the two-day G20 Summit, said the contribution would help the most vulnerable people around the globe to adapt to the impact of climate change.

"The UK is stepping up and delivering on our climate commitments, both by decarbonising our own economy and supporting the world's most vulnerable to deal with the impact of climate change," Sunak told the G20 leaders. "This is the kind of leadership that the world rightly expects from G20 countries. And this government will continue to lead by example in making the UK, and the world, more prosperous and secure."

Established by nearly 200 countries following the Copenhagen Accord at COP15, the GCF plays a key role in funding projects aimed at tackling climate change.

"Today's pledge represents a 12.7 per cent increase on the UK's previous contribution to the GCF for the period of 2020-2023, which was itself a doubling of our initial funding to establish the fund in 2014," according to an official UK government release.

The British government had rubbished a report a few weeks ago that the country was planning to drop its flagship climate funding pledge. Since 2011, UK climate aid spending has helped over 95 million people cope with the effects of climate change and reduced or avoided over 68 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

"This goes hand in hand with the UK's domestic leadership transitioning to clean forms of energy," said Sunak. "The UK has cut emissions faster than any other G7 country, with low carbon sources now accounting for more than half of our electricity. We saw renewables generate a record 47.84 per cent of UK electricity in the first three months of 2023 and output from wind, solar and hydro reached a record high last year. Last year, we saw the biggest increase ever in the installation of offshore wind capacity, with the UK home to the four largest working wind farms in the world."

MANILA BULLETIN

[Time to 'tap' to help the planet](#)

By: Mat T. Righter

As reported by the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines is witnessing a distressing annual loss of 47,000 hectares of its precious forest cover.

Let's face it — when we think of environmental work, our minds often conjure images of planting trees, engaging in cleanup projects, and undertaking physical tasks to picture a greener world. This can be daunting, especially for those new to eco-consciousness.

But in today's tech-driven world, advancements offer alternatives to traditional outdoor environmental actions. In fact, you can now form a significant environmental impact without leaving your digital space, even planting virtual trees!

With that said, here are some tips to help the environment virtually:

GForest

GForest, a feature within the GCash app, enables users to actively participate in reforesting the Philippines, tree by tree. Each time you engage in a Globe transaction, conduct transactions via the app, consistently log in, and undertake eco-conscious activities, you accumulate green energy points within the dedicated GForest section.

These green energy points can then be redeemed to plant trees, which represent real trees to be planted in Philippine reforestation zones.

“Our environmental conservation and awareness efforts extend toward giving back further with GForest. This also doubles as a reward system influencing our users to practice more green habits,” said GCash president and CEO Martha Sazon.

The app has already planted over two million trees nationwide, aiming to reach five million in 2025 — and it's never too late for you to join the movement of virtual planting.

Ecosia

Ecosia is an eco-friendly search engine that funds global tree-planting projects with its ad revenue. This green search engine promotes transparency by regularly publishing financial reports, displaying revenue and trees planted from user searches.

Additionally, they employ renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies to reduce their carbon impact.

“We need to plant billions more trees. If we don’t do it, we won’t be able to stop climate change, but fortunately, it’s something very concrete that we can already get started on,” shared Ecosia CEO Christian Kroll, highlighting the imperative role of tree planting.

It stands out by dedicating 80-85% of its profits to global tree planting, focusing on ecosystem restoration, deforestation prevention, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation. Ultimately, over 181 million trees have been planted since its inception.

Oroeco

Oroeco is a sustainability platform that empowers users to track and reduce their carbon footprint and adopt eco-conscious lifestyles by offering tools and minimizing environmental impact — even through gamification.

Here, users can also set personal sustainability goals and get guidance for reducing emissions and adopting eco-friendly behaviors.

“I believe the combination of life cycle sustainability science, information technology, climate-positive finance, corporate responsibility, and citizen engagement has tremendous potential to reengineer our global economy for sustainability,” said Oroeco CEO and Stanford University lecturer on renewable energy and climate change Ian Monroe.

For more than a decade, Oroeco has pioneered technology tools that transform climate action into an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

All in all, to tackle the Philippines' environmental challenges like deforestation and climate change, we need innovation and collective action. The digital era provides accessible alternatives, such as virtual tree planting and online sustainability efforts.

These tech-driven initiatives prove that eco-actions can be effective and engaging, with each little effort contributing to a greener, secure future.

[Anti-debt, climate change rally](#)

Climate activists hold a protest in front of the Ninoy Aquino Monument on Ayala Ave., Makati City, urging, among others, G20 world leaders to avert climate catastrophe by shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Anti-debt, climate change rally

ms by Manila Standard — September 8, 2023, 9:45 pm in [Gallery](#), [Photos](#)
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Climate activists hold a protest in front of the Ninoy Aquino Monument on Ayala Ave., Makati City, urging, among others, G20 world leaders to avert climate catastrophe by shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy. **APMDD photos**

[Spotlight on Bukidnon: Indigenous knowledge preserves the environment, leads to sustainability](#)

In the mountainous province of Bukidnon in the southern Philippines, local indigenous groups are being forced to adapt to the alarming impacts of climate change. With United Nations 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 (UNDP) Adaption 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.”

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 livelihoods 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.”

Heavy tolls

Climate change is exacting a heavy toll on Filipinos’ lives, properties, and livelihoods. Left unaddressed, it could hamper the country’s ambition of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2040.

Many farmers have reported longer and more severe periods of drought and rainfall than previously considered normal. Floods wiped out more than a dozen houses of community members along the Pulangi River in 2012 and 2013.

“Since then, the Pulangi River has been flooding every year,” Perino said. “In 2022, the river caused so much riverbank erosion that it was widened by about 50 meters from its regular width.”

NIKKEI ASIA

[\[Opinion\] A regional Asian green standard would help unlock trillions](#)

By: Wochong Um

This year may be remembered for brutal weather that has confirmed the frightening reality of climate change. Soaring global temperatures on land and sea have unleashed wildfires, droughts, storms and floods that have upended lives and damaged economies.

As the region responsible for more than half of global carbon dioxide emissions and the one most vulnerable to climate disasters, Asia and the Pacific can make a big difference by swiftly cutting greenhouse gas emissions. But amid fears this could choke the growth that propelled the region's remarkable rise, some governments might be reluctant to make necessary changes.

They should instead look at the mounting evidence showing change can be a win-win choice. For decades, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Sweden and the U.K. have demonstrated that economies can both grow and decarbonize. Recent research suggests the economic costs of achieving net-zero could be modest for developing economies in Asia and the Pacific.

Hopes for a net-zero future hinge on raising enough green finance.

There are promising signs, particularly in emerging markets, where the issuance of bonds linked to environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria climbed from \$66 billion in 2020 to almost \$200 billion in 2021. Green bonds are a popular ESG instrument in Asia and the Pacific, with issuance reaching \$110 billion in 2022 and on track to rise further this year.

But overall climate finance needs are far greater. The McKinsey Global Institute has put the annual price tag for the world to achieve net-zero by 2050 at an eye-watering \$9.2 trillion.

Trillions could be raised by tapping the private sector's vast resources, but efforts to ramp up green finance are often hampered by a lack of clear, precise, internationally agreed-upon definitions on which uses of financing should be considered green and which should not. Such categorization systems are known as taxonomies.

A common green taxonomy for Asia and the Pacific is a key missing piece in addressing the region's climate finance needs. The existence of one would help unleash the full potential of sustainable credit and investment and bring greater transparency, uniformity

and reliability to climate finance instruments. It would also discourage the practice of greenwashing, the overpromising of green benefits.

In comparison with other emerging regions, Asian governments have made significant progress on green taxonomies. Since 2015, several countries have published national taxonomies, including China, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and South Korea, with more expected.

While this is encouraging, a proliferation of separate national green taxonomies and sustainable finance standards can create confusion and impose heavy compliance burdens on governments, businesses and investors. The financial and opportunity costs created by inconsistent definitions and reporting requirements and separate local regulatory frameworks can deter investors and weaken efforts to raise green finance.

By contrast, the European Union's taxonomy for sustainable finance, adopted in 2020, covers 27 countries. A consistent taxonomy across borders facilitates the identification of green finance opportunities in different countries, enhances market efficiency and reduces uncertainty and compliance costs across jurisdictions.

A common taxonomy also enables investors and issuers to make better comparisons of an investment's contribution to environmental public goods such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, the sustainable use of natural resources, pollution prevention or biodiversity protection.

Encouragingly, regional taxonomies are emerging in Asia and the Pacific. A sustainable finance taxonomy for ASEAN's 10 member countries was approved in 2021.

On a broader scale, global standards are being developed, such as the framework developed by the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures established by the Financial Stability Board. In 2016, the Global Reporting Initiative launched its first sustainability reporting standards. The recent publication of the first two standards from the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) is another major step toward setting a global baseline for sustainability reporting.

More harmonization and consolidation of taxonomies and standards can happen if countries adapt or adopt regional and global approaches. China recently aligned its green taxonomy with the EU's, and several countries are moving toward adopting the ISSB's sustainability disclosure standards.

As the sustainable finance market matures, further advances toward common international or regional conventions are expected. But this year's steep escalation of climate change impacts shows that faster progress is needed.

Multilateral institutions such as the Asian Development Bank can act as conveners and interlocutors for work on an international taxonomy and help close the global green finance gap. This can reduce risk for lenders and borrowers in green finance transactions, helping green funding to flow and green projects to go ahead.

Green investments will be more easily harmonized and implemented if countries in the region mainstream them through innovative solutions, such as digital tracking. This allows accurate and real-time data collection, processing, reporting and disclosure of essential baseline information like corporate carbon footprints, lowering due diligence and green disclosure costs.

Japan has made good progress recently in issuing digitally tracked green bonds. Its approach could be replicated in emerging Asian economies.

Streamlining green finance taxonomies and standards takes time, but that is what we do not have. We must act now to finance a net-zero world or prepare for one that will be permanently too hot to handle.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Korea hails 'milestone' FTA with PH; entry into force seen 2024](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Korean government hailed as a “milestone” the newly signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Philippines, describing it a timely development as the two states mark 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2024.

In a statement, the Korean Embassy in Manila said it expects the deal "taking effect in the first half of next year" but the timeframe would still depend on the "parliament of both countries".

“[T]he Korean government is planning to move forward in efforts to make the process run more smoothly including ratification in the National Assembly to ensure that the people and businesses of both countries can enjoy benefits soon,” it said.

The FTA will not only include tariff cuts but also expand technical cooperation on various areas such as health care and climate change.

“Based on this groundwork, the mutually-beneficial bilateral discussions will be pursued through a variety of cooperation in promising areas, including healthcare, rare metal processing, innovation Ecosystem, culture industry, film, e-commerce and intellectual property rights,” the embassy said.

Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual and his Korean counterpart Trade Minister Ahn Duk-geun signed the Philippine-Korea FTA and the Implementing Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation on the sidelines of the 43rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Jakarta on Sept. 7.

Also witnessing the signing were President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol.

Under the agreement, the Korean Embassy said Seoul will lift tariffs on 94.8 percent of Philippine products while the country will open its market on 96.5 percent of Korean products.

The FTA will immediately eliminate the tariff on cars from Korea upon the deal's entry into force while tariff on car parts will be removed in five years, it said.

Tariffs on Korean processed food (5-10 percent), ginseng (5 percent), pepper (5 percent), pear (7 percent), mackerel (5 percent) are also subject for removal within 15 years.

The embassy said the tariff for Philippine bananas will be removed within five years but a safeguard measure will be implemented to avoid a surge in imports, if required.

The FTA signing came more than a year after Manila and Seoul concluded negotiations in October 2021 and did some “legal scrubbing” on the deal’s concluded chapter texts on Trade in Goods, Trade Remedies, Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, Rules of Origin, Competition, among others.

This is the Philippines’ second bilateral FTA after signing the Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan in 2008.

South Korea is the country’s 4th major trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching USD15.44 billion in 2022.

Philippine exports to South Korea grew by 21.48 percent from USD2.57 billion in 2021 to USD3.13 billion in 2022.

Philippine imports from South Korea also expanded by 31.72 percent from USD9.35 billion in 2021 to USD12.32 billion in 2022.

Nearly 2K climate activists arrested in Netherlands

Police have detained nearly 2,000 protesting environmental activists for a roadblock in the Hague.

Under the banner of the environmentalist group "Extinction Rebellion," thousands of protesters gathered to demand an end to the use of fossil fuels.

Climate activists blocked the final stretch of the A12 main road, which serves as the city's entrance, causing traffic disruptions on connecting routes.

The demonstrators staged a sit-in protest, brandishing banners with slogans such as "Time is up, stop fossil fuel subsidies," "The system must change, not the climate," and "The fossil lobby is a criminal organization, we are the people."

The protesters vowed to maintain their blockade of the A12 main road to the Dutch parliament in the Hague on a daily basis until the government terminates the use of fossil fuel subsidies.

"We initiated this protest with just 30 participants, and now thousands of people are joining us. There is widespread support across the nation for our demand from the government," environmental activist Guus Dix told Anadolu.

"Today does not mark the end. We pledged that if detained, we would return at 12:00 p.m. tomorrow. Should further detentions occur, we will return the following day," Dix said.

"We will continue to block the road every day until our demands are met," he said.

THE STAR

[UN chief urges global action on climate financing and debt relief](#)

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized the urgent need for a robust debt workout mechanism to facilitate global climate financing, citing challenges faced by energy transition initiatives in Indonesia and Vietnam as prime examples of the critical need for action.

Guterres praised the innovative Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) that allowed Indonesia and Vietnam, both members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), to secure pledges from developed countries and international financial institutions.

The primary objective of these pledges was to help Indonesia and Vietnam shift from coal to cleaner energy sources. Speaking in Jakarta before an Asean leaders' gathering, Guterres emphasized that Asean nations, facing increased climate change risks, can play a vital role in promoting global climate justice.

Indonesia secured a USD 20 billion JETP agreement in November 2022, while Vietnam reached a USD 15.5 billion deal the following month. South Africa has also received a JETP commitment, marking a significant step forward in climate financing. A similar scheme is under discussion for India as well.

Despite the recognition and praise, the promised funds have not yet been handed out due to disagreements among negotiators regarding which projects should get the money, whether it should come from private or public sources, and what the interest rates should be. Guterres stressed the importance of aiming higher and providing more resources to developing countries.

“We need to establish also an effective debt workout mechanism to support payment suspension, longer lending terms, and lower rates to the so many developing countries that are strangled with the debt,” said Guterres.

The UN Secretary-General also called for significant changes to the way global finance schemes are operated. He stressed the importance of ensuring the global financial system reflects today's economic and political conditions and is more helpful to developing countries.

Finally, Guterres urged the Group of 20 industrial and emerging economies, which includes major polluters, to join a Climate Solidarity Pact. He made this request ahead of the G20 Summit happening in New Delhi this weekend.

He stressed the desperate need for greater international cooperation and proposed an “acceleration agenda” to intensify global efforts to combat climate change. Guterres cited the alarming statistic that the June to August period had officially become the hottest three-month period on record, underlining the urgency of the climate crisis.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

GMA NEWS

[Sparkle artists volunteer for coastal cleanup in Isla Pulo](#)

By: Bea Iglesia

Sparkle artists joined forces with employee-volunteers from GMA Network, Nestle Philippines, and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) for a coastal cleanup at the Tanza Marine Tree Park in Navotas City on Friday.

In line with the International Coastal Cleanup, this activity is part of the “Kapuso at Kasambahay ng Kalikasan” partnership between GMA Network and Nestle Philippines.

Through a closed loop cleanup initiative, the retrieved waste will be segregated and turned over to proper waste management facilities.

Sparkle artists Shuvee Entrata, Angela Alarcon, Sandro Muhlach, and Seb Pajarillo helped in collecting trash in the area.

As an island girl from Bantayan Island in Cebu, Shuvee said she also takes part in coastal cleanups in her hometown.

“I have lived near the sea all my life, and I’m an advocate when it comes to the environment. Kasi ang daming turista doon na iniwan ang mga plastic. From there, natuto ako,” Shuvee said.

Meanwhile, Angela said caring for the environment is not limited to volunteering in activities like this. It can start in one’s own household.

“Always remember, let’s reduce, reuse, recycle even as little as seeing trash outside your house or anywhere you go. Just a small thing can make a big difference,” Angela said.

For his part, Sandro said joining the coastal cleanup is a fulfilling experience.

“Very fulfilling pala talaga ang makatulong. Kahit konting bagay lang ‘yan, makapag-reduce, reuse, recycle lang tayo, malaking bagay na ito para sa kalikasan,” Sandro said.

Meanwhile, Seb encouraged his fellow youth to practice proper waste disposal.

“Mga Kapuso, ini-encourage po namin kayo na itapon nang tama ang mga basura n’yo, at gawin ang kaya n’yong gawin para mabawasan ang kalat sa ating kapaligiran,” Seb said.

Known locally as “Isla Pulo,” Tanza Marine Tree Park is a protected mangrove forest facing Manila Bay north of Metro Manila. The mangroves serve as defense from storm surges and coastline erosion, and sanctuary to water birds.

“Maganda na ang nakikita natin ay hindi mga langaw, pero mga ibon. Nakikita natin ang ating Inang Kalikasan ay umiiyak na sa ginagawa natin. Kinakailangan lahat tayo ay responsable sa ginagawa natin. In little things, big things can happen,” said Robert Borje, vice chair and executive director of the Climate Change Commission.

In an interview with GMA Integrated News, Nestle Philippines Head of Corporate Affairs Jose Uy III gave importance to the partnership between GMA Network and Nestle Philippines, in forging collective action in addressing the environmental crisis.

“This is our world. Sana po magtulungan tayo because its everybody’s responsibility. Maraming maraming salamat po sa ating kasambuhay ng kalikasan,” Uy said.

RADYO PILIPINAS

CCC, nanawagan sa publiko na pangalagaan ang mangrove ecosystem laban sa banta ng climate change at plastic pollution

By: Rey Ferrer

Nangako ang Climate Change Commission (CCC) na pangalagaan ang mga mangrove ecosystem laban sa dual threat ng climate change at plastic pollution.

Ayon kay CCC Vice Chairperson at Executive Director Robert Borje, ang mga bakawan ay mga ecosystem na nagsisilbing mahahalagang carbon sink.

Nagbibigay din ito ng proteksyon sa mga komunidad sa baybayin mula sa mga storm surge, at tirahan ng iba't ibang uri ng hayop.

Samantala, ang plastic pollution ay nagdudulot din ng banta sa mga bakawan gayundin sa mga hayop na umaasa sa mga tirahan na ito para mabuhay.

Bukod pa dito, nakompromiso din ang kakayahan nitong mag-sequester ng carbon at kumilos bilang natural na depensa sa baybayin.

Samantala, sa isinagawang coastal clean-up drive sa Tanza Marine Tree Park, Navotas City, abot sa 1,320 kilo ng waste materials ang nakuha ng mga volunteer.

Bilang paggunita sa National Clean-up Month ngayong Setyembre, hinihikayat ng CCC ang mga indibidwal at komunidad na makibahagi sa coastal clean-up para protektahan at pangalagaan hindi lamang ang mga bakawan kung hindi ang lahat ng ecosystem.

JOURNAL ONLINE

[\[Opinion\] Climate Change Commission: Ipagbabawal ang campaign materials ngayong BSK elections](#)

By: Marlon Purificacion

Gusto ko itong panuakala ni Climate Change Commissioner Albert dela Cruz, Sr., na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng mga plastic na campaign materials ngayong darating na barangay at sangguniang kabataan elections.

Ayon kay Dela Cruz, plastic ang pangunahing dahilan kung bakit naapektuhan nang husto ang ating global warming.

'Top contributor' din ito sa ocean plastic pollution, maliban pa na nagging dahilan kung bakit bumabara ang ating mga kanal at imburnal.

Dahil dito, nanawagan si Dela Cruz Sr. sa Commission on Elections (Comelec) na bumalngkas ng polisiya na magbabawal sa paggamit ng mga campaign material na gawa sa plastik.

Ani Dela Cruz, mismong ang Pangulong Bongbong Marcos ang nagsabi sa unang State of the Nation Address (SONA) dahil binansagan ang Pilipinas bilang isa sa tatlong pangunahing contributor ng ocean plastic pollution.

Ngayong taon ay inilarawan pa ang ating bansa bilang No. 1 Ocean Plastic Contributor ng isang international magazine.

Dito ay inihayag ng opisyal na ang Climate Change Commission (CCC) ay binigyan ng mandato upang magsagawa ng mga polisiya na susuporta sa adhikain ng administrasyong Marcos na matupad ang pangako ng Pilipinas sa 2015 Paris Agreement at ang prayoridad nito na magsulong ng agarang climate action upang masagip ang kapaligiran at matiyak ang isang resilient future para sa susunod na mga henerasyon ng Pilipino.

"Kinikilala natin na kabilang sa mga isyu ukol sa climate change ang produksyon at paggamit ng mga plastik, partikular na ang single-use plastics (SUP) na kalaunan ay nagpapapalala ng ating garbage situation at polusyon sa ating bansa," pinunto ni Dela Cruz.

"Ito ang dahilan kung bakit welcome sa akin ang Senate Bill 264, o ang 'Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2022', ni Senadora Loren Legarda, na ang

layunin ay humantong tayo sa pag-phase-out at kalaunan pagbabawal sa paggamit ng mga SUP sa ating bansa,” dagdag pa nito.

Dahil sa adhikaing ito, iminumungkahi ni Dela Cruz ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng mga plastic campaign materials sa panahon ng pangangampanya para sa nalalapit na halalan sa barangay at gayun din sa susunod pang mga eleksyon.

“Nauso na sa ating mga kandidato—mula sa barangay hanggang sa pamahalaang nasyonal—na gumamit ng mga plastic material sa kanilang pangangampanya at mga sorty at ibang aktibidad.

Ilang halimbawa ng mga ito ay ang mga tarpaulin, handouts at flyers at maging ang mga banderita,” aniya.

Nagpaalala ang opisyal na ang plastic-made campaign material ay nakakapagpalala ng problema ng dumaraming basura na dahilan ng polusyon hindi lamang sa ating kapaligiran kundi maging sa ating mga kanal, ilog, lawa at karagatan.

“Ito ang dahilan kung bakit binibigyan ko ng halaga ang pagpapalabas ng polisiya na magbabawal sa paggamit ng mga plastic campaign material para nang sa gayo’y maaalis nating ang posibilidad ng karagdagan panbg polusyon sa ating kapaligiran,” kanyang pagtatapos.

Sa ganang akin, napapanahon ang panukalang ito ni Dela Cruz na dapat ay pagtuunang pansin agad, hindi lamang ng Comelec kundi maging ang ating mga mambabatas.

Magandang panimula na gawin ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic ngayong BSK elections upang sa darating na midterm elections sa susunod na taon ay gawin na ito hanggang sa mga darating pang halalan.

THE DAILY TRIBUNE

[Pasig River cleanup, waste-to-energy machine use urged](#)

By: Kathryn Jose

The Climate Change Commission and the Rotary Club of Makati are urging companies to donate money for the acquisition of cleaning machines needed to rehabilitate the Pasig River and local government units to tap waste-to-energy machines for mitigating the effects of climate change.

During the Rotary Club of Makati at Chef Jessie's in Rockwell Club last Tuesday, 15 August 2023, RC Makati district officer and Climate Change Ambassador Marichelle Torres-Ackerman asked private individuals and businesses to share P350,000 for the purchase of one machine to help clean up the 25-kilometer Pasig River, starting with the area near Malacañang Palace.

She said 10 machines per area along the Pasig are needed to bring the river back to life. According to the World Economic Forum, Pasig River contributes 6.43 percent of plastic pollution to the world's oceans and fills 80 to 100 sacks of trash each day.

"The government cannot do it alone. To show you that we can walk the talk, we're cleaning up Malacañang's own backyard. We need to bring back fishing in Ilog Pasig and continue to make it a part of our national heritage," Ackerman said.

She added that the Rotary Foundation has offered to pool financial resources for bulk purchase of the machines which sell for P1 million per unit to individual companies.

To stop the dumping cycle in the river, she said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the National Housing Authority to find relocation sites for informal settlers along the river and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to strictly enforce environmental regulations on nearby factories.

"Factories and communities along the river will be obliged to adopt cleanup projects for the river," Ackerman said.

To increase further appreciation for the Pasig River, Ackerman added that those who will donate for the river's clean-up will be recognized through a walk of fame-like walkway on the river's promenade.

"For the river's beautification, we suggest that your names will be part of the walk-of-fame on the pathway along the river and we hope that the design of noted urban

architect Jun Palafox will be approved and become a reality as we want the beautification of Ilog Pasig to be a symbol of our national heritage,” she said.

Waste, especially plastics emit climate change-inducing carbon dioxide as they break down. To reduce plastic waste and make them useful, Climate Change Commissioner Albert dela Cruz urged local government units to use locally-made waste-to-energy machines.

He said these will reduce carbon emissions by up to 75 percent by 2030, preventing more frequent occurrences of extreme typhoons and drought from climate change and food shortage worldwide.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, parts of the world will experience food shortages by 2030 and famine by 2050 if countries ignore recycling and other environment-friendly activities.

“Humanity is standing on thin ice that is melting. We are waiting for a climate time bomb. The planet will survive but humans cannot,” Dela Cruz said.

In June, the Climate Change Commission and the Rotary Club of the Philippines opened a waste-to-energy facility in Pagsanjan, Laguna whose local officials aim to save landfills for planting more trees to absorb carbon emissions and protect its river from waste pollution.

Dela Cruz said the waste-to-energy machines still emit substances but their emissions levels comply with standards set by the DENR and global recommendations for climate change mitigation.

“Humanity is standing on thin ice that is melting. We are waiting for a climate time bomb. The planet will survive but humans cannot,” was the impassioned message Climate Change Commissioner Albert dela Cruz imparted to Rotary Club of Makati members. Dela Cruz was guest speaker of the Club during its weekly meeting last 15 August 2023.

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