



NEWS ROUNDUP

12 SEPTEMBER 2024 [08:00 am]

- Denmark's CIP expects \$30-M investment in PHL green energy by mid-2025
- French Chamber urges leveraging of sustainability efforts by industries
- 'Coolcation': Is climate change transforming travel?
- Philippines has highest world risk index anew in 2024 report
- Pope Francis now in Singapore with inter-faith dialogue, climate on agenda
- NEDA chief: 2024 Philippine economic growth on track despite strong typhoons
- Rains to prevail over most of PH

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- CCC, DENR boost greenhouse gas inventory capabilities

BUSINESS WORLD

[Denmark's CIP expects \\$30-M investment in PHL green energy by mid-2025](#)

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

Denmark's Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), a global investor in renewable energy infrastructure, expects its investment in the Philippines to reach \$30 million (around P1.7 billion) by mid-next year.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[French Chamber urges leveraging of sustainability efforts by industries](#)

By: Raffy Ayeng

The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines (CCI France Philippines) is urging its members and other enterprises in various industries to be serious in leveraging sustainability efforts to mitigate the ill effects of persisting climate change.

DW

['Coolcation': Is climate change transforming travel?](#)

By: Jonas Martiny

As heatwaves scorch southern Europe, some tourists are heading to colder destinations. Could vacation spots with cooler temperatures be the trend of the future?

GMA NEWS

[Philippines has highest world risk index anew in 2024 report](#)

The Philippines has for the third straight year registered the highest world risk index (WRI) in the 2024 edition of the World Risk Report, which covers 193 countries including all member-states of the United Nations and 99% of the world population.

[Pope Francis now in Singapore with inter-faith dialogue, climate on agenda](#)

By: Joshua Mcelwee

Pope Francis arrived in Singapore on Wednesday afternoon from East Timor, where he is expected to focus on inter-faith dialogue and reinforce the Catholic Church's presence in a region where it is a small minority.

MANILA BULLETIN

[NEDA chief: 2024 Philippine economic growth on track despite strong typhoons](#)

By: Ben Arnold De Vera

Despite the string of strong typhoons that battered economically-productive parts of the Philippines so far in the third quarter, the country's chief economist still expects to hit the targeted economic expansion for 2024.

POLITIKO

[Rains to prevail over most of PH](#)

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

Most areas in the country are forecast to experience rains due to a tropical cyclone outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and the southwest monsoon, the weather bureau said Wednesday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC, DENR boost greenhouse gas inventory capabilities](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Wednesday announced that it has partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to further enhance the capacity of the DENR's regional offices to conduct community-level greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

Denmark's CIP expects \$30-M investment in PHL green energy by mid-2025

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

Denmark's Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), a global investor in renewable energy infrastructure, expects its investment in the Philippines to reach \$30 million (around P1.7 billion) by mid-next year.

"Our intention until about mid-next year, when we expect the GEAP (green energy auction program) to take place, is to spend roughly \$30 million or so on development activities," CIP Partner Robert Helms told reporters late Tuesday.

He said that a portion of the estimated investment is already "contractually committed."

"We are working very hard on procurement of all the components that we will need. We are working on the geotechnical and geophysical surveys," CIP Associate Partner Przemek Lupa said.

"I think we're also contributing very much to sharpening next year's GEAP, particularly for offshore wind," he added.

In March last year, the Department of Energy (DoE) inked three offshore wind service contracts with Copenhagen Infrastructure New Markets Fund, an affiliate of CIP.

The three projects have a combined capacity of 2,000 megawatts (MW) to be developed in Pangasinan, northern Samar, and Camarines Sur. Each service contract has a 25-year operating period.

CIP is developing a 1,000-gigawatt (GW) offshore wind power project in San Miguel Bay in Camarines Sur; 650-MW wind power project in northern Samar; and 350 MW in Dagupan site in Pangasinan.

The company is also gearing up for the 300-MW onshore wind project in northern Luzon.

The projects are targeted to be completed within the current administration.

Mr. Helms said the company expects a capital expenditure of roughly \$5 billion for the offshore wind projects and about half a billion for the onshore wind project.

In July, Energy Undersecretary Rowena Cristina L. Guevara said that the department was planning to conduct a fifth round of GEA for offshore wind energy in the middle of 2025.

The GEA program aims to promote renewable energy as one of the country's primary sources of energy through competitive selection.

The program is expected to help realize the government's target of 35% renewable energy share in the energy mix by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

The DoE opened the renewable energy sector to full foreign ownership in 2022, which was previously limited to 40%.

To date, the DoE has awarded 92 offshore wind energy service contracts to 38 renewable energy developers with a total potential capacity of 66.101 GW.

Under the Philippine Offshore Wind Roadmap, the Philippines has a potential capacity of about 63 GW from tapping offshore wind resources.

Asked if CIP would be interested in other technologies, Mr. Helms said that it is open to "everything renewable" such as solar and battery energy storage systems.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[French Chamber urges leveraging of sustainability efforts by industries](#)

By: Raffy Ayeng

The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines (CCI France Philippines) is urging its members and other enterprises in various industries to be serious in leveraging sustainability efforts to mitigate the ill effects of persisting climate change.

In an interview on the sidelines of La Conference Bleue at the Ascott Bonifacio Global City, Taguig on Tuesday, CCI France Philippines president and Jewelmer CEO and executive vice president Jacques Christophe Branellec said that the inaugural sustainability conference was the chamber's commitment to a more sustainable future.

"This first sustainability conference sets to highlight sustainability not just for corporations but for individuals moving forward. We all know here in the Philippines how much we are affected by Climate Change, and weather events such as typhoons and floods. We want to use this as a platform to raise awareness on what tools and framework there are that we can use to alleviate these challenging situations that countries, such as the Philippines face," he said.

UNSDG

Branellec said the chamber wanted to drive the narrative for their members, especially with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG).

The event, which the DAILY TRIBUNE is a proud media partner being the country's only news organization that is a signatory to the UNSDG, provided a platform for knowledge-sharing, inspiration and driving collective action towards more resilient business practices.

The forum featured talks of notable guest speakers who shared their sustainability journeys, advocacies, and best practices aimed at inspiring the community to start their sustainability initiatives.

Under the segment "Walkthrough of People," Donnel Tiedra of Nestle Philippines discussed how the company uplifted the lives of coffee farmers, and how Nestle made a difference in coffee farming communities through the Nescafe Plan.

Kaye Perala, the human resource business partner of Essilor Group, spoke about the Vision for All project which involves how the OneSight Essilorluxottica Foundation made vision a reality for visually impaired kids in the Philippines.

Likewise, Christine Lei Go, director of Espoir School Life discussed her group's From Learning to Living initiative, with the Espoir School of Life's Sustainable People-centered Approach to education and community development endeavor to change the lives of in communities in Siargao.

Sustainable daily operations

For her part, SM Cares and SM Supermalls VP for Corporate Compliance and head of Sustainability and Resilience, Engr. Liza Silerio talked about the strides taken by SM Malls in the latter's quest to make the group's daily operations sustainable, such as the use of solar panels for energy conservation and water treatment facilities, making rain potable to tenants and mallgoers.

Jollibee Foods Corporation's Global Sustainability director Elise Veloso, meanwhile, discussed how their operations follow the UNSDG's mission through Jollibee's partnerships in the group's Driving Our Joy for Tomorrow Sustainability Agenda.

Other speakers who shared their efforts and insights to attain sustainability came from the Save Palawan Seas Foundation, NEO, Havas Ortega, shipping magnate CMA-CGM, Reuasia Management, Agence France-Presse, Globe Telecommunications, Acted Philippines, San Miguel Foundation, Agence Francaise de Developpement in Manila and Mad Courses.

Important economy

Meanwhile, Branellec maintained that French companies consistently treat the Philippines as an important economy, as the country has shown strong growth projection in terms of gross domestic product after the Covid-19 pandemic.

DW

['Coolcation': Is climate change transforming travel?](#)

By: Jonas Martiny

As heatwaves scorch southern Europe, some tourists are heading to colder destinations. Could vacation spots with cooler temperatures be the trend of the future?

The Swedish tourism association, Visit Sweden, is confident that going on vacation in colder regions is a new trend that's here to stay.

"Gone are the days of tirelessly chasing the scorching sun and sweltering heat," proclaims the association's website. It claims a new vacation trend is developing, the so-called coolcation — a term that derives from the words "cool" and "vacation."

According to the Swedish tourism association, "this trend reflects travelers' growing desire to visit destinations with moderate temperatures." As climate change brings extreme heat to southern Europe, more and more people are opting for trips in destinations with lower temperatures, the website says.

Like Sweden, the Norwegian tourism promotion agency, Visit Norway, has also jumped on the bandwagon, urging travelers on its website to "escape the scorching sun and intense heat and head North for a refreshing summer vacation!"

In recent years, climate change is becoming increasingly noticeable in popular vacation destinations around the Mediterranean. Spain and Italy, for example, recorded the two hottest years on record in 2022 and 2023. In Greece, record temperatures and severe drought have been compounded by fierce forest fires around the country in recent summers. Even the most optimistic forecasts by climate experts suggest the heat will continue to rise in the coming decades.

Demand is rising in the North

A study carried out by the EU Commission last year found that rising temperatures are likely to affect the tourism industry. The study deals with the effects of climate change on tourism in Europe up to the year 2100.

According to the study, there is a "clear north-south pattern, with an increase in tourism demand in central and northern regions and a decrease in demand in southern regions."

The biggest loss of tourism revenue is expected in Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal, while countries expected to see the most tourism growth are Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, among others.

A recent survey by the European Travel Commission also suggests that extreme heat has a deterrent effect on tourists. According to the study, 74% of respondents stated that they are adapting to the climate crisis in part by avoiding extreme temperatures.

However, experts say it's too early to claim that tourists are changing their travel behavior — especially German tourists. "There is no trend towards cooler vacation destinations in Germany," says Martin Lohmann of the Research Association for Holidays and Travel, which studies the travel behavior of German citizens.

Last year, Germans took almost 65 million vacations, only 3.6 million of which were to northern destinations such as Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

When holidaymakers were asked about their motives for traveling, warm, sunny weather was regularly at the top of the list, says Lohmann. "If anything, this has even increased recently."

Spain, Italy, Greece, Croatia and Turkey remain the most popular destinations for German travelers.

Beach vacations still in demand

The situation is similar around the rest of Europe — southern European destinations continue to be in high demand. According to the European Travel Commission (ETC), more than 300 million travelers spent their vacations in Southern Europe last year. In Northern Europe, on the other hand, the figure was just over 80 million. According to the ETC, enjoying the "sun and beach" is by far the most frequently cited reason people in Europe travel.

Although Scandinavian countries have seen an increase in the number of holidaymakers in recent years, so have countries such as Spain and Italy — despite the heatwaves.

When asked by DW, neither the Swedish nor the Norwegian tourism promotion agencies were willing to confirm a decisive trend towards the "coolcation."

Sabine Klautzsch from Visit Sweden says it is difficult to say whether there is a growing desire for booking vacations in cooler climates. Margrethe Helgebostad of Visit Norway, on the other hand, points to other factors that entice tourists to Norway, like the favorable exchange rate of the Norwegian krone for foreign travelers and "good marketing."

Peter Zellmann, Head of the Vienna Institute for Leisure and Tourism Research (IFT), is convinced that the "coolcation" is no more than a "marketing invention."

"The wish for it to be like this has led to the idea." He says there is no evidence of a trend, although Northern Europe and the Alpine region could certainly be an alternative if it should become unbearably hot in the Mediterranean. "But we're still a long way from that," says tourism expert Martin Lohmann.

"It is quite possible that the topic will become more important in the future," he says. However, changes in vacation patterns due to climate change will take decades to manifest.

GMA NEWS

[Philippines has highest world risk index anew in 2024 report](#)

The Philippines has for the third straight year registered the highest world risk index (WRI) in the 2024 edition of the World Risk Report, which covers 193 countries including all member-states of the United Nations and 99% of the world population.

In the report by the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict of the Ruhr-University Bochum in Denmark, countries were assessed on their levels of exposure, vulnerability, susceptibility, lack of coping capacities, and lack of adaptive capacities to crises including extreme natural disasters, conflicts, pandemics and wars.

The model for the world risk index was developed with the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security.

The top 10 countries with the highest WRI are:

Philippines - 46.91
Indonesia - 41.13
India - 40.96
Colombia - 37.81
Mexico - 35.93
Myanmar - 35.85
Mozambique - 34.44
Russian Federation - 28.12
Bangladesh - 27.73
Pakistan - 27.02

Tables are from World Risk Report 2024

The Philippines in 2024 scored 58.07 in the lack of coping capabilities and 56.10 in the lack of adaptive capabilities.

The Philippines also topped the 2022 and 2023 editions of the report with WRI of 46.82 and 46.86 respectively.

The countries with the lowest WRI are:

Monaco - 0.18
Andorra - 0.28
San Marino - 0.35
Luxembourg - 0.61

Sao Tome and Principe - 0.67
Liechtenstein - 0.71
Belarus - 0.76
Singapore - 0.80
Qatar - 0.94
Bahrain - 0.94

According to the report, WRI is calculated per country in terms of exposure and vulnerability.

"Exposure represents the extent to which populations are exposed to and burdened by the impacts of earthquakes, tsunamis, coastal and riverine floodings, cyclones, droughts, and sea level rise," the report said.

It said vulnerability is composed of three dimensions: susceptibility, coping, and adaptation.

Susceptibility refers to the structural characteristics and conditions of a society that increase the overall likelihood that populations will suffer damage from extreme natural events and enter a disaster situation.

Coping involves various capacities and actions of societies to counter the negative impacts of natural hazards and climate change through direct actions and available resources in the form of formal or informal activities, and to minimize damage in the immediate aftermath of an event.

Adaptation refers to long-term processes and strategies to achieve anticipatory changes in societal structures and systems to counter, mitigate, or purposefully avoid future adverse impacts.

"At present, however, the hotspots remain in the Americas and Asia, as can be seen in the group of ten countries with the highest risk scores: the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Colombia, Mexico, Myanmar, Mozambique, Russia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan," the report said.

"These countries have very complex risk profiles due to the combination of diverse exposures and high intensities, as well as higher vulnerabilities," it added.

The report also referred to multiple crises which "jeopardize livelihoods and future opportunities but also have a significant impact on (mental) health."

"During the coronavirus pandemic, psychosocial and economic stress increased worldwide. In countries that were affected by extreme natural events at the same time, these burdens intensified," the report said.

"One example is the Philippines, which was hit by 22 tropical cyclones during the COVID-19 pandemic, including Typhoon Goni [Super Typhoon Rolly in late October 2020], one of the strongest storms ever recorded," it added.

The report cited the hundreds of thousands of destroyed homes, overcrowded evacuation centers, and the resulting increase in COVID-19 cases which it said "not only led to a dramatic increase in humanitarian needs, but also had a negative impact on the mental health of the population."

[Pope Francis now in Singapore with inter-faith dialogue, climate on agenda](#)

By: Joshua Mcelwee

Pope Francis arrived in Singapore on Wednesday afternoon from East Timor, where he is expected to focus on inter-faith dialogue and reinforce the Catholic Church's presence in a region where it is a small minority.

The pope is on the final leg of an ambitious 12-day journey across Southeast Asia and Oceania, the longest trip of his papacy. His two-night stay in the city-state, a global financial hub, will include a speech to the country's political authorities, where the pope may also address issues such as wealth inequality and climate change.

Francis will also celebrate a Mass the Vatican expects to draw some 55,000 people, including Catholics who are travelling from Hong Kong for the event.

The Vatican is currently renegotiating a controversial deal with China over the appointment of Catholic bishops in the country, which is up for renewal in October.

Singapore, with a population of 5.92 million, is plurality Buddhist, with about 31% of people identifying with that faith. The Vatican counts about 210,000 Catholics in the country. There are also strong Muslim, Hindu and Taoist communities.

Inter-faith dialogue has been a central theme of Francis' 11-year papacy, and in Singapore he will host an inter-religious meeting with young people from various faith traditions. Wealth inequality and climate change are other frequent themes.

Singapore's government says rising sea levels due to global warming could have major implications for its low-lying coastline and it is planning to spend S\$100 billion (\$77 billion) over the course of the century on the issue.

While in the country, pope will also hold private meetings with President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, and former Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Francis is only the second pope to visit Singapore, following a brief 5-hour layover by the late John Paul II in 1986. The country counts about 210,000 Catholics among its 5.92 million people, according to the Vatican.

The pope arrived from Dili, East Timor's capital, where on Tuesday he celebrated Mass with an estimated 600,000 of the country's 1.3 million population, in one of the largest ever turnouts as a proportion of a country's population for a Mass during a papal visit.

On landing in Singapore, Francis was met by Edwin Tong, the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and received flowers from local school children. Outside the airport, local media reported that about 1,000 Catholics prayed and waved the flags of Singapore and the Vatican.

The pope's schedule for the rest of Wednesday is light, with only a private meeting with the country's community of Jesuit priests planned. The meetings with political leaders and Mass will take place on Thursday, before he returns to Rome on Friday.

Francis' 12-day tour has also included stops in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

MANILA BULLETIN

[NEDA chief: 2024 Philippine economic growth on track despite strong typhoons](#)

By: Ben Arnold De Vera

Despite the string of strong typhoons that battered economically-productive parts of the Philippines so far in the third quarter, the country's chief economist still expects to hit the targeted economic expansion for 2024.

"We're confident we'll achieve our six- to seven-percent growth target this year despite the recent typhoons," National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan told Manila Bulletin on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by an average of six percent in the first half of the year.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) earlier reported that the combo of super-typhoon "Carina" and southwest monsoon or "habagat" last July inflicted P4.73 billion in damage to the agriculture sector.

The agricultural losses caused by tropical storm "Enteng" early this month, meanwhile, amounted to P2.26 billion so far, according to the DA.

For Balisacan, "the recent fall in inflation and policy rates and the robust labor market are expected to buoy domestic demand."

Headline inflation fell to a seven-month low of 3.3 percent in August as food price hikes, especially of Filipino staple rice, eased.

As inflation returns to the range deemed manageable and conducive to economic growth, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) started its easing cycle and cut the key interest rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.25 percent last month.

The jobless rate declined to 4.7 percent in July from 4.9 percent a year ago, although higher than June's record-low 3.1 percent.

In a presentation at the 22nd International CEO Conference last Tuesday, Sept. 10, World Bank lead economist for Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand Gonzalo Varela said the threat of climate change is becoming a reality in the country.

Varela told members of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) that the Philippines should be able to adapt to climate change by putting in place shared "resilient infrastructure," something that Balisacan said the government was already doing.

"Resiliency is one of the considerations or standards for our 'Build Better More' infrastructure program," Balisacan said in a text message.

The NEDA chief was referring to the rollout of 186 infrastructure flagship projects in the medium- to long-term, with the government intending to spend P1.47 trillion, equivalent to 5.6 percent of GDP, on hard infra this year.

Varela noted that the Philippines is No. 1 in disaster risk globally and fourth-most affected by weather events, such that 82.7 percent of Filipinos are exposed and 69.1 percent vulnerable to climate change impacts, citing the World Bank's Philippines Climate Change Development Report in 2023.

World Bank estimates showed that extreme weather and rising temperatures would slash the Philippines' real GDP by four percent under a low to moderate climate scenario, and as much as 11 percent under a more severe climate scenario.

The private sector is also badly affected by weather risks, as Varela pointed out that most firms in the country are exposed to severe flooding, while businesses mainly in western Luzon island face elevated risks of drought.

It did not help that the flood risk in Metro Manila, the country's main business and economic hub, has risen by 40 percent during the last six decades, Varela added.

Citing that companies' decisions as well as performance get affected by weather risks, Varela said both manufacturers and services firms are facing bigger chances of relocation from flood-prone areas to other parts of the country with reduced precipitation.

"Increased precipitation reduces productivity, sales and investment for services firms," Varela noted.

POLITIKO

Rains to prevail over most of PH

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

Most areas in the country are forecast to experience rains due to a tropical cyclone outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and the southwest monsoon, the weather bureau said Wednesday.

The trough of Tropical Storm Bebinca last tracked 2,070 km. east of Eastern Visayas will bring scattered rains and thunderstorms over Eastern Visayas, Caraga, Sorsogon, and Masbate.

Moderate to heavy rains in those areas could result in flash floods or landslides, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned.

PAGASA forecaster Obet Badrina said the tropical cyclone could possibly enter PAR but has a slim chance of making landfall on any part of the country.

"However, it would enhance the southwest monsoon," he said.

Isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to Bebinca's trough are also likely in Cagayan Valley, Aurora, Quezon, and the rest of Bicol Region.

The same weather will prevail over the rest of the country due to the southwest monsoon.

Light to moderate winds and slight to moderate seas will prevail across the archipelago, PAGASA said.

'Enteng' deaths climb to 21

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Wednesday the number of deaths from the effects of Severe Tropical Storm Enteng and the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat) has climbed to 21.

Twelve deaths were recorded in Calabarzon, four in Bicol, two in Central Visayas, two in Eastern Visayas and one in Western Visayas, according to the agency's latest situation update.

All, except the fatality from Western Visayas which has been confirmed, are still undergoing evaluation, the NDRRMC added.

Some 26 missing persons have also been reported.

Meanwhile, two of the 22 reported injured persons have been confirmed.

The weather disturbances have affected 754,007 families or 2,834,721 persons living in 2,574 villages in 10 regions.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC, DENR boost greenhouse gas inventory capabilities](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Wednesday announced that it has partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to further enhance the capacity of the DENR's regional offices to conduct community-level greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories.

The CCC served as the primary resource agency during the in-person training of trainers sessions organized by DENR for its climate change focal persons.

Throughout the training, the CCC provided technical guidance on sectoral data requirements for the simplified community-level GHG Inventory Toolkit.

The CCC also facilitated workshops where participants engaged in hands-on exercises using proxy data, demonstrating how to link GHG inventory results to mitigation actions.

The sessions highlighted the connection between GHG inventories, Local Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET), and the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), ensuring that local actions align with national climate goals.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje stated that the collaborative initiative underscores the government's commitment to build local capacity for climate action.

"Strengthening the ability of DENR's regional climate change focal persons to conduct GHG inventories is crucial to enable local government units to effectively incorporate mitigation strategies into their development plans," Borje added.

Borje mentioned that the CCC, in collaboration with DENR regional offices, will continue to provide technical assistance to LGUs in developing community-level GHG inventories.

"This initiative aims to ensure that local climate action is data-driven, responsive to community needs, and aligned with national and global climate mitigation efforts," he added.

Meanwhile, Borje noted that the training is a step forward in supporting LGUs in their efforts to reduce emissions and address climate change at the local level, contributing to the Philippines' broader climate objectives.

The CCC is the lead policy-making body of the government tasked with coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating government programs and ensuring the mainstreaming of climate change in national, local, and sectoral development plans towards a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines.

=END=