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13 September 2022 [08:00 am]

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BUSINESS WORLD

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CBC NEWS

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By: Inayat Singh

Current rates of global warming have already moved the world perilously close to several tipping points that could send key global weather systems into irreversible collapse, a significant study from Europe has found.

DTE (DOWN TO EARTH NEWS)

[Southeast Asians worried about food security, extreme weather events, shows climate survey](#)

By: Susan Chacko

Citizens of southeast Asian countries are deeply worried about coal power plants, extreme weather events and climate impact on food security, according to a new survey. The member countries of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should stop building new coal plants immediately, according to more than half the respondents of Southeast Asia Climate Survey 2022. ASEAN is a political and economic union of 10 member states in southeast Asia.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[What will King Charles's reign mean for climate action?](#)

By: Jack Graham

As Britain's King Charles III begins his reign after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, environmental campaigners will be watching closely to see if he continues to advocate for climate action and is able to help drive change as monarch.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

[Innovations for a Better Built Environment](#)

On the panel track Envisioning the Homes of the Future, thought leaders agreed that the home of the future is not necessarily tech-enabled, as the common belief goes. Rather, it's highly functional, accommodating the needs of residents.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[OCD, DOST, World Bank to launch disaster rebuilding app Sept. 14](#)

Manila – The government's science and disaster response agencies together with the World Bank (WB) will launch the "PlanSmart Ready to Ready Rebuild" web application on Sept. 14.

STAR ADVERTISER (HAWAII)

[‘Clairvoyant’ 2012 climate report warned of extreme weather](#)

By: Seth Borenstein

Record high temperatures in urban Europe as heat waves bake the planet more often. Devastating floods, some in poorer unprepared areas. Increasing destruction from hurricanes. Drought and famine in poorer parts of Africa as dry spells worsen across the globe. Wild weather worldwide getting stronger and more frequent, resulting “in unprecedented extremes.”

SUNSTAR

[Finance chief urges franchisers to digitalize, climate-proof ops](#)

By: Carlo Lorenciana

Franchisers are urged to lead the charge in greening and transforming the country’s business sector by mainstreaming digitalization in their operations and embracing sustainable business practices.

THE GUARDIAN

[Reasons for \(cautious\) optimism: the good news on the climate crisis](#)

By: Adam Morton

There is no shortage of things to say about what’s going wrong. The extent of damage caused at 1.2C of global heating since pre-industrial levels is proving greater than was forecast by climate scientists not that long ago.

THE MANILA TIMES

[ECCP, Nestlé upbeat on Mindanao RE](#)

By: Eireene Gomez

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and Nestlé Philippines are upbeat on the development of renewable energy (RE) and service delivery in Mindanao as they cited the need for continuous collaboration between government and industry in driving growth in the region's shift to alternative energy.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Inflation and food shortage](#)

By: Tony Katigbak

One of the main issues we have been facing alongside navigating life with COVID-19 in this new normal is the continued issue of inflation. As the cost of everything continues to

go up and up, many Filipinos are struggling to make ends meet. Life is already highly unpredictable post-pandemic, and salaries have remained the same if not lower. There are so many who lost work, and adding higher prices exacerbates an already difficult situation.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS WORLD

[Philippines calls for 'needs-based' priority system for climate finance](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta Joson

THE Environment Secretary called access to climate finance an urgent matter and pressed the government to work towards international agreements that will unlock funding to help address the climate “emergency” faced by developing countries.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

[Do not backtrack on climate goals amid energy crunch, UN tells EU](#)

The United Nations has called on European Union countries not to resort to more fossil fuels as they face soaring energy prices amid fears of winter shortages.

Countries in the bloc are in the middle of an escalating standoff with Russia following the latter's invasion of Ukraine more than six months ago. Moscow has since reduced supplies of gas to EU members, sending prices for the fuel soaring and throwing national economies into deep uncertainty.

"In the face of soaring energy prices which threaten to impact the most vulnerable as winter approaches, some EU member states are turning to investments in fossil fuels infrastructure and supplies," Nada al-Nashif, deputy UN rights chief, told the United Nations Human Rights Council on Monday.

"There is no room for backtracking in the face of the ongoing climate crisis," al-Nashif said, warning of the long-term consequences of boosting the use of fossil fuels that contribute to global warming.

She pointed to the devastating floods affecting more than 33 million people in Pakistan as an example of what happens when the world fails to act on climate change.

"How many more tragedies of this sort do we need before the urgency of the moment jolts us into action," she said.

Speaking at the opening of the council's 51st session in Geneva, al-Nashif acknowledged that the soaring energy prices in Europe "threaten to impact the most vulnerable as winter approaches".

'Long-term consequences'

Last week, Russia caused a major scare when it halted gas deliveries to Germany via the key Nord Stream 1 pipeline for an indefinite period.

European countries accuse Russia of weaponising energy supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions imposed on it over its invasion of Ukraine.

But Moscow continues to insist that the sanctions are causing supply issues.

Before the war, about 40 percent of the EU's gas imports came from Russia. Now Germany and others are scrambling to come up with new ways to heat homes and power factories.

Al-Nashif, who is currently serving as acting high commissioner for human rights until new chief Volker Turk replaces Michelle Bachelet, called for the development of energy-saving projects and renewable energy sources to be urgently accelerated.

“I urge the EU and its member states to consider the long-term consequences of locking in more fossil fuel infrastructure,” she said.

“It is essential to accelerate the development of energy efficiency projects and renewables.”

Al-Nashif also urged all countries “to seek an ambitious outcome” at the next UN climate conference in Egypt in November.

They should seek to “address loss and damage and meet and increase climate finance commitments”, she said.

In her remarks, al-Nashif also touched on rights violations in many countries as the 51st regular session of the Human Rights Council got under way, including the persecution of war opponents and journalists in Russia.

“In the Russian Federation, the intimidation, restrictive measures and sanctions against people voicing opposition to the war in Ukraine undermine the exercise of constitutionally guaranteed fundamental freedoms, including the rights to free assembly, expression and association,” al-Nashif said.

She also said Moscow was violating the right to access information by pressuring journalists, blocking the internet and through other forms of censorship.

BUSINESS WORLD

Filinvest REIT primed for the 'Green Shift' in office leasing

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“In the Philippines, we have been seeing this preferential shift to green and sustainable office spaces pre-pandemic. We believe that this is the result of the People, Planet, Performance agenda prioritization across companies worldwide. Our experience with our global client portfolio attests to a similar conclusion as JLL that the ‘green shift’ has grown considerably over the past few years. This allowed us to leverage on our strengths and further unlock value for Filinvest REIT Corp. (FILRT), the first sustainability-themed REIT listed on the local bourse,” said Maricel Brion-Lirio, Filinvest REIT president.

FILRT boasts of a portfolio that consists of 17 Grade A office buildings, which include green and sustainability-themed features. Of these, 16 are in Northgate Cyberzone in Filinvest City in Alabang. Filinvest City is the first central business district in the Philippines to receive LEED® v4 Gold for Neighborhood Development Plan certification for its township-wide green and sustainability features. Filinvest City is also the first and only CBD to receive a 3-star BERDE rating. Rounding up the portfolio is Filinvest Cyberzone Cebu, a PEZA-accredited joint-venture development with the Province of Cebu. FILRT was recently recognized by Real Estate Asia Awards as the REIT Initiative of the Year and Office Development of the Year, together with the prestigious Asia CEO Awards as a Circle of Excellence Awardee for Sustainability Company of the Year.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world created by the US Green Building Council. LEED-certified buildings save money, improve efficiency, lower carbon emissions and create healthier places for people. The BERDE (Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence) Program on the other hand was established by the Philippine Green Building Council as an appropriate response to the Philippine building industry’s need to proactively address the negative impacts of climate change.

Two other green certifications are also gaining traction globally, namely WELL and EDGE. WELL is a performance-based system by the International Well Building Institute for measuring, certifying, and monitoring features of the built environment that impact human health and well-being, through air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort and mind. EDGE or Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies is an innovation of the International Finance Corp. (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group focused exclusively on the private sector. EDGE is an international green building rating system focusing on energy, water, and embodied energy in materials. EDGE quantitatively

measures, improves, and reports efficiencies, utility savings, and environmental impacts. To date, EDGE has certified more than 876,000 sq.m. of space in the Philippines, preventing 23,000 tCO₂ per year and unlocking opportunities for key sectoral players.

“We applaud Filinvest REIT for being at the forefront of the green building movement in the Philippines through their registration of six office towers toward an EDGE certification,” said Jean-Marc Arbogast, IFC country manager for the Philippines.

Two of the properties in the FILRT portfolio, namely Axis Tower One and Vector Three, are among the country’s few LEED Gold-certified developments. More additional buildings from FILRT’s portfolio are lined up for LEED certification as well. FILRT is aiming for a triple-certified portfolio with its thrust to attain WELL and EDGE certifications for its developments in addition to LEED.

“FILRT’s green certifications complemented by our other sustainability-driven initiatives including our own District Cooling System and our shift to renewable energy sources is a proof of concept that sustainability indeed improves quality of life. It in turn affirms our development’s brand value, and ultimately enhances our land values. By investing in FILRT that have embedded sustainability principles, they are able to create an impact to the environment and society through a company that is focused on the triple bottom line of people, planet and performance. I believe that 3Ps companies like FILRT are better-positioned for the risks and opportunities of the future than those focused on profits alone,” added Ms. Brion-Lirio.

CBC NEWS

[At current rates, 5 key climate tipping points are already possible, new study warns](#)

By: Inayat Singh

Current rates of global warming have already moved the world perilously close to several tipping points that could send key global weather systems into irreversible collapse, a significant study from Europe has found.

The study builds upon the growing body of scientific research on non-linear changes in the climate — major, irreversible change that goes beyond the linear and gradual increase of average temperatures.

It found that five tipping points, including the abrupt thaw of the permafrost in the boreal forest, and the end of an ocean current system in the Labrador Sea are "possible" under current levels of global warming.

Those two tipping points are in Canada.

Climate tipping points are difficult to predict. In Canada and beyond, they might have already arrived

More alarmingly, the study published Friday in Science magazine suggests four tipping points will escalate from "possible" to "likely" at 1.5 C of global warming. These include the abrupt thaw of the boreal permafrost, the collapse of the ice sheets in Greenland and West Antarctica and a rapid die-off of coral reefs.

"What we're looking at is various negative impacts like more sea level rise, coral reef die-off and things like that becoming locked in and having to be dealt with for future generations," said the paper's co-author David Armstrong McKay, a climate and biosphere scientist and visiting fellow at the University of Exeter in the U.K.

The findings raise questions about whether the goal of the international Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming to well below 2 C and ideally below 1.5 C, is enough to stave off climate catastrophe. The study effectively warns that the planet already left a safe climate state when it passed 1 C of global warming.

These tipping points would have devastating consequences for global weather patterns, sea-level rise and biodiversity, the study highlights. Some of these, like the thawing of the permafrost, would release even more greenhouse gases, accelerating climate change even further.

But the study authors say that while understanding of tipping points has improved over the past decade, there remains uncertainty over several factors. Some tipping points could be avoided if global warming overshoots 1.5 C in the coming years but then comes back down due to rapid emissions cuts.

The tipping points also have varying timescales. Some will happen more quickly: the coral reef die-off could happen over 10 years when triggered, and the abrupt thaw of the boreal permafrost could happen over 200 years. Others, such as the Greenland Ice Sheet collapse, would happen over 10,000 years once triggered, spreading its effect on the global weather system and sea-level rise over a long period.

"Every extra fraction of a degree that we avoid above 1.5 C reduces the likelihood of further tipping points being triggered or made possible," McKay said.

"So I'd say that this is not a 'game over' situation, it just shows what the stakes are in that 1.5- to two-degree range."

Permafrost in trouble

About half of Canada is covered in permafrost, where the ground remains at a temperature of 0 C or below. McKay says the gradual thawing of this permafrost has been a concern for a while, but there is now greater awareness of a possible abrupt thaw that could leave its mark on the local landscape — and have major consequences for the global climate.

That's because the permafrost contains carbon from the remains of dead plants and animals dating back millions of years. Right now, that carbon is locked safely in the ground, but if the permafrost thaws, it could be released into the atmosphere and speed up global warming.

"Our understanding of that is only starting to evolve and we reckon that could potentially increase emissions by something like 50 to 100 per cent on top of gradual thaw emissions," McKay said.

Jennifer Baltzer has seen the changes in the northern landscape up close and stresses the importance of these soils remaining the way they are.

"There's about twice as much carbon locked into permafrost soils as we have floating around in the atmosphere," said Baltzer, the Canada research chair in forests and global change at Wilfrid Laurier University.

"As those soils warm up and thaw, that carbon becomes available to the microbes in the soil and becomes available for decomposition and then the release of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere."

It becomes a destructive cycle.

As the permafrost thaws and carbon is released, the planet continues to warm — speeding up the thawing of permafrost, which sends more carbon into the atmosphere.

Baltzer notes that the Arctic is warming at several times the average rate of the rest of the world, and so a 1.5 C increase in global temperatures would mean a four- to five-

degree increase in the Arctic. At those temperatures, it would become difficult for the permafrost to maintain itself and hold all that carbon in, she said.

"The challenge is, with these additional Arctic contributions, it makes the whole process of trying to reach that net-zero goal even more challenging. And so the 1.5-degree mark is really, really essential for us to stay below."

Non-linear changes not easy to understand

Co-author Sina Loriani, a post-doctoral researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, said the idea of non-linear changes like tipping points, which can be uncontrollable and unpredictable, can be hard to understand.

And that can make it a difficult topic in climate negotiations.

"The essence of tipping points is there's a danger ... that you trigger something that runs on itself," Loriani said. "I would say it's not accordingly represented in climate action today."

The study indicates there are varying levels of uncertainty over each tipping point, suggesting some climate systems need more research to understand exactly how they are changing.

Some areas of the global permafrost are better studied than others, Baltzer said, such as Siberia, which is a difficult environment to work in but contains the largest area of permafrost on the planet. With the political situation due to the war in Ukraine, research in that region has been further curtailed.

The world has already reached 1.1 C of global warming and is set to hit 1.5 C by the 2030s. The net-zero pledges and climate plans of countries, if implemented, could limit global warming to just under 2 C, according to research published in Nature in April.

But current policies are actually set to result in about 2.6 C of warming. The study published Friday warns that at those levels of warming, tipping points such as abrupt permafrost thaw and collapse of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets will become "very" likely.

"Current policies leading to [about] 2 to 3 C warming are unsafe, because they would likely trigger multiple climate tipping points," the tipping point study concludes.

"Our updated assessment of climate tipping points provides strong scientific support for the Paris Agreement and associated efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 C."

DTE (DOWN TO EARTH NEWS)

[Southeast Asians worried about food security, extreme weather events, shows climate survey](#)

By: Susan Chacko

Citizens of southeast Asian countries are deeply worried about coal power plants, extreme weather events and climate impact on food security, according to a new survey. The member countries of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should stop building new coal plants immediately, according to more than half the respondents of Southeast Asia Climate Survey 2022. ASEAN is a political and economic union of 10 member states in southeast Asia.

Singapore-based ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute released the findings of its third climate survey on southeast Asians' attitudes and perceptions September 8. A total of 1,386 respondents from ASEAN member states had taken the survey over five weeks, June 8 to July 12, 2022.

Almost two-thirds respondents wanted their countries to phase out coal consumption either immediately or by 2030. However, support for eliminating new coal power plants is weaker in Myanmar (25.6 per cent), Brunei (54.2 per cent) and Indonesia (58.8 per cent).

The survey covered topics ranging from climate change impacts, coal phase-out, decarbonisation challenges to food security and the country's role in international climate action.

Coordinator of the Climate Change in Southeast Asia Programme Sharon Seah said:

Climate worries are elevating year-on-year as the region continues to face extreme weather impacts, but governments, businesses and other stakeholders are seen to be slow and ineffective in their responses.

Floods, heat waves and rainfall-induced landslides are the most serious impacts of climate change in Southeast Asia, the respondents said.

Around 22.8 per cent respondents in Laos were most concerned about droughts while respondents from the Philippines (24.8 per cent) were more worried about tropical storms, including hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons.

The differences in the country's perceptions of threat makes it clear that climate change impacts do not uniformly affect any region or country.

Extreme weather events were the main cause of food supply disruptions in their countries according to 31.2 per cent respondents. The second reason affecting food security was disruptions in global supply chain (25.3 per cent) followed by reduced food exports from producer countries (19.1 per cent).

People living in rural areas expressed stronger agreement about the threat of extreme weather events (46.8 per cent) affecting food security followed by degraded farmland (22.1 per cent).

In 2021, the region's most serious climate change impacts were floods, loss of biodiversity and sea-level rise.

Insufficient financial resources (50.9 per cent), lack of research and development, technology and expertise (50.4 per cent) and insufficient alternative resources (45.7 per cent) were the biggest obstacles to decarbonisation in the respondents' countries.

Over 90 per cent of respondents had deep concerns about climate change, the survey findings said. Respondents from the Philippines (64.3 per cent) believed that climate change posed a "serious and immediate threat to the well-being of their country."

Around 26.5 per cent respondents in Cambodia perceived climate change as a "long-term threat and will not impact them in their lifetime."

The largest proportion of respondents (21.9 per cent) think that the European Union (EU) has demonstrated climate leadership to help the world achieve the Paris-aligned goals.

Around 23.5 per cent want Japan instead of the EU to step up and play a more proactive role in sharing their climate expertise, practical ability and technical know-how in their country.

Singapore was considered to have the potential to be ASEAN's climate leader by 53 per cent respondents, followed by 11.1 per cent who think that Indonesia can fulfill this role.

Responses that suggest a concern about climate change generally increase with the level of education — the top three being those with doctoral degrees (97.8 per cent), master's degrees (94.5 per cent), and bachelor's degrees (89.7 per cent).

GMA NEWS ONLINE

What will King Charles's reign mean for climate action?

By: Jack Graham

As Britain's King Charles III begins his reign after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, environmental campaigners will be watching closely to see if he continues to advocate for climate action and is able to help drive change as monarch.

In his first speech to the nation as monarch on Friday evening, Charles warned his new role will now limit his activism.

"It will no longer be possible for me to give so much of my time and energies to the charities and issues for which I care so deeply," he said in a televised address. "But I know this important work will go on in the trusted hands of others."

Charles has been one of the highest-profile global proponents for protecting the planet in recent decades, from writing books and making speeches about nature to working with business to mobilise private finance to combat global warming.

At the U.N. COP26 climate conference in Glasgow last year, he said the world needed a "war-like footing" to tackle the "existential threat" of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Britain's new figurehead has called for governments to use incentives and regulations to encourage private-sector investment in climate action, and for the value of nature to be recognised on companies' balance sheets.

However, as king under a constitutional monarchy in Britain, Charles is expected to remain politically neutral.

The Thomson Reuters Foundation spoke to several experts about what that might mean for his climate advocacy.

What did Charles do for the environment as Prince of Wales?

While heir to the throne, Charles was an active campaigner for the environment over more than five decades.

In 1970, aged 21, he gave his first major speech on the issue, warning of the dangerous effects of plastic pollution.

"He's been talking about these issues for a long time, way before they became mainstream," said Ed Matthew, campaigns director of think-tank E3G.

In this manner, Charles played a "vital diplomatic role" to raise awareness, Matthew added.

Along with speeches on the global stage, Charles has worked with actors from the public, private and non-profit sectors.

He established the International Sustainability Unit in 2010 to address challenges such as protecting rainforests and marine ecosystems, and last year launched a new charter of sustainable actions for companies to sign called "Terra Carta".

"I have laboured for so many years to bring this issue to the forefront of international consciousness – not just with words, but with practical action," said the then-prince in a speech in May in Yellowknife, Canada.

Back home, Matthew said Charles' influence has been particularly valuable because - while being apolitical - he appeals to conservatives, in a similar vein to environmentalist David Attenborough, on an issue more often highlighted by the left.

"To make sure we go for really ambitious climate action in the UK, we need the conservative case for climate change to be made," Matthew said.

During the race to become Britain's next prime minister - won by Liz Truss - activists criticised the lack of attention paid to climate issues by the ruling Conservatives.

What are King Charles' views on climate change?

Environmental campaigner Tony Juniper first met Charles in the early 1990s, and has worked with him on projects including the 2010 book "Harmony: A New Way of Looking at Our World".

"I think he probably has been about the most effective environmentalist in history," said Juniper, who chairs Natural England, the government's advisory body for the environment.

He explained that a key idea Charles has advanced is the interconnection between humans and nature, expressed in depth in the book "Harmony", which Juniper helped to write.

"One of the most important unique contributions that he's brought is this holistic perspective ... the need to keep all the different pieces of the jigsaw in view," he said.

In an interview in December 2020, Charles said humans are "a microcosm of the macrocosm" when it comes to nature.

"If we go on exploiting the way we are, whatever we do to nature - however much we pollute her - we do to ourselves. It is insanity," he told the BBC.

However, Charles has been accused of hypocrisy due to his use of private jets and helicopters, whose planet-heating emissions are much higher than other forms of transport and significantly more per passenger than commercial flights.

During the 2021-22 financial year as Prince of Wales, he took regular private flights domestically, as shown by royal financial statements.

Will Charles be able to advocate for the climate as monarch?

While Queen Elizabeth II strictly guarded her personal views, Charles has faced criticism for expressing political opinions - and analysts say he will have to be more careful now.

In the view of the media, Elizabeth was "untouchable", and it is "unknown territory" how they will react to King Charles, said Richard Black, a former BBC environment correspondent and founder of the non-profit Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit.

Black said Charles will be restricted by two main things: the pressures on his time due to the ceremonial duties of a king, and the likely scrutiny of his political neutrality.

This will make more hands-on work with businesses and in politics harder, but there are some environmental actions with little potential for controversy, he said.

For example, to mark Elizabeth's 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebrations after 70 years on the throne, the Queen's Green Canopy initiative was launched to encourage people to plant trees.

Black added that, in many ways, Charles has already done his bit in helping to build public awareness around climate and nature issues - which is now well-established.

"One thing you have to praise him for has been his courage and consistency," he said.

"Whatever he does during his time as king, there's no doubt in my view that he's made quite a contribution already."

How could Charles make a difference given the obstacles?

As king, Charles could have an even larger influence - whether through speeches and behind-the-scenes meetings with world leaders, or private audiences with the UK prime minister.

On a personal level, he could lead by example, such as with his efforts to make the royal household greener.

Charles has been tracking and publishing his carbon footprint since 2007, making several changes such as installing biomass boilers and solar panels at his homes and converting his Aston Martin to run on surplus wine and whey from cheese-making.

And to help avoid controversy, King Charles could pass some projects onto family members, with his son Prince William also expressing a keen interest in environmental issues.

How to execute the role of monarch is up to the individual, said Juniper, the environmental campaigner, so Charles might need some time to figure it out.

"As far as I know, there is no job description for king."

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Innovations for a Better Built Environment

On the panel track Envisioning the Homes of the Future, thought leaders agreed that the home of the future is not necessarily tech-enabled, as the common belief goes. Rather, it's highly functional, accommodating the needs of residents.

For RLC Residences, the priority is taking into consideration the present demands of residents, especially those that emerged from the health crisis. Ma. Czarina Theresa Lugue, Senior Business Development Director of RLC, said, "We introduced balconies, bringing in nature that gives us space for our unit owners to breathe."

Given that work has been integrated into the home, the need for visually appealing leisure spaces emerged as a key insight in The Home as a Relaxation Destination. Real estate experts noted how property seekers went after homes in vacation destinations as they faced the challenge of being cooped up at home.

"Take it from the perspective of an owner of a condo. Do you really want to be in a chicken coop? I need space. I need somewhere where I look outside my window [and] it doesn't feel like I'm locked in," Earl Fernandez, Social Media Head of Picar Development, Inc said. "You won't even need to change your background because it's pleasing to the eye."

A Premium on Green and Sustainable Developments

More than the green views, the panelists from the Residential and Office Trends Reshaping the Market track believe that the better built environment should be green, in the context of sustainability. Eco-friendly features are no longer just an option for homes and offices. It's a necessity.

Val Soliven, Executive Vice President for Residential Development of Rockwell Land, explained why there's a stronger emphasis on sustainability. She said, "In terms of design, it's the balconies, work from home spaces [that people look for]. But in terms of sustainability, a lot more are asking if we're using renewable energy—which was not in the cards before."

Meanwhile, taking into account the huge challenge of the decade-long housing crisis, the better built environment must be within the budget of everyday Filipinos, according to panelists from the track Addressing the Affordable Housing Backlog. The co-founder and CEO of CUBO Modular, Earl Forlales, said, "To meet the backlog of about 12 million by 2030, we need to produce 1.2 million houses [every year]."

Housing affordability extends to the accessibility of transportation solutions in developments. With the rising inflation, panelists from Vertical Living: Where and Why shared that it's a smart move to reside and invest in 15-minute cities or transport-oriented developments.

Raphael “Pete” Felix, President and CEO of PHINMA Property Holdings, noted that vertical living did not come about by accident. “It came about because of the result of affordability. Early on, as property prices became more expensive, as things started to commercialize more, there was a move to vertical living,” he said. “Later on, with the new urbanism [and] 15 minute-city concepts, the thrust for vertical living became even more apparent.”

Emphasizing the role of innovation in propelling the real estate industry and overcoming challenges, Felix said, “Let’s keep building.”

Build, Build, Build...More Houses

The real estate market continues to address the housing backlog, supported by the current economic environment shaped by the new administration, improved interconnectivity and infrastructure in the country, and the readjusted price ceiling of economic housing.

Harping on the opportunities brought by these changes, conference keynote speaker Gino Olivares, President of the Organization of Socialized and Economic Housing Developers of the Philippines, Inc. (OSHDP), urged the government to assume and undertake a dominant and leading role in housing, particularly in production.

“Housing must be elevated near the level of importance given to the Build, Build, Build infrastructure program,” he said.

Meanwhile, Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo, former Build, Build, Build committee chair and keynote speaker at the conference, maintains a positive outlook on the real estate industry and the economy at large because of past gains and wins.

She said, “The Philippines is poised for growth. There are unlimited possibilities. We’re ready to bounce back from the pandemic. I’m very excited [about] what we’ll be able to accomplish in the next six years in all fields, from real estate all the way to trade.”

The Outlook 2022: Philippine Real Estate Conference was co-presented by KONE. Its silver sponsors were Maximus and Gorenje, and its bronze sponsors include Inventi, BDO, RCBC, BPI, Metromart, Shopee, Zalora, and CleanSource Solution.

The event’s media partners were Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inquirer Property, Business Mirror, Manila Standard, The Manila Times, Malaya Business Insight, Sunstar Cebu, Real Estate Blog PH, Negosentro, Property Finds Asia, Village Connect PH, and World Executives Digest.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[OCD, DOST, World Bank to launch disaster rebuilding app Sept. 14](#)

Manila – The government's science and disaster response agencies together with the World Bank (WB) will launch the "PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild" web application on Sept. 14.

"The PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild web app is an automated planning tool envisioned to revolutionize the disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) planning processes in the country by helping the government, especially the local government units (LGUs), to more efficiently plan for disasters, work smarter, and rebuild forward faster," the Office of Civil Defense said in a Facebook post on Sunday.

Partnering with the WB in this initiative are the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

"We developed the PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild app to become a catalyst for more efficient and effective planning. Through the app, LGUs now have tools that will enable them to access and process data-driven information relevant to DRRM planning in a timely manner. The process of creating a local RRP, which usually takes months, can now be done more swiftly and efficiently," DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. said.

The app will empower LGUs to formulate their Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (RRP) faster and improve decision-making and planning for pre- and post-disaster events.

It leverages the GeoRiskPH Integrated Platform and the Ready to Rebuild (R2R) Program, auto-generating a Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan through a pro-forma RRP document template.

"The PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild app is the first installment of PlanSmart tools that DOST, in collaboration with our partners, is currently developing. We remain committed to the vision that these automated tools will inspire a science-based and data-driven approach to governance," Solidum added.

Through the R2R Program, about 1,800 participants from 350 LGUs and national government agencies beefed up their capacity and developed their respective RRP even before natural and human-induced disasters happen.

The program covered pre-and post-disaster activities from gathering baseline disaster data, formulating an RRP and its subsequent financing and implementation, facilitating emergency procurement, crafting a communications strategy, and instituting monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

“We are committed to continuously supporting the Philippine Government in its efforts to achieve a more responsive and efficient disaster rehabilitation and recovery planning. LGUs and communities, especially those most at risk, can greatly benefit from tools like the PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild web app and be empowered to take charge of their resilient recovery from disasters,” said Ndiamé Diop, WB director for the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei.

The launch of the PlanSmart app also signals the beginning of a series of training activities designed to enable LGUs, particularly data managers, DRRM officers, planning officers, and other staff involved in disaster rehabilitation and recovery programs to learn how to use the app for the creation of their local RRP. In its pilot run, the training program will build the capacities of more than 400 individuals from 137 LGUs in the National Capital Region, Region 4-A (Calabarzon), Bicol, Central Visayas, and Caraga.

“This training program is a valuable learning opportunity for our LGUs that are at the forefront of mitigating and managing disaster risks. It is our hope that the PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild app and the complementary capacity-building program will enable local decision-makers and planners to be prepared even before calamities strike. More importantly, we hope to empower them to build back better, faster, and more resiliently,” NDRRMC executive director and OCD administrator Undersecretary Raymundo Ferrer said.

The pilot LGUs will include graduates of the R2R Program, those that have existing GeoRiskPH memorandum of agreement with DOST-Phivolcs, and those that are most vulnerable to climate change and disasters as identified by the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

STAR ADVERTISER (HAWAII)

[‘Clairvoyant’ 2012 climate report warned of extreme weather](#)

By: Seth Borenstein

Record high temperatures in urban Europe as heat waves bake the planet more often. Devastating floods, some in poorer unprepared areas. Increasing destruction from hurricanes. Drought and famine in poorer parts of Africa as dry spells worsen across the globe. Wild weather worldwide getting stronger and more frequent, resulting “in unprecedented extremes.”

Sound like the last few summers?

It is. But it was also the warning and forecast for the future issued by top United Nations climate scientists more than 10 years ago.

In a report that changed the way the world thinks about the harms of global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s special report on extreme events, disasters and climate change warned in 2012: “A changing climate leads to changes in the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration, and timing of extreme weather and climate events, and can result in unprecedented extreme weather and climate events.” It said there would be more heat waves, worsening droughts, increasing downpours causing floods and stronger and wetter tropical cyclones, and simply nastier disasters for people.

“The report was clairvoyant,” said report co-author Michael Oppenheimer, a Princeton University climate scientist. “The report was exactly what a climate report should do: Warn us about the future in time for us to adapt before the worst stuff happens. And the world proceeded to do what it usually does. Some people and governments listened, others didn’t. I think the sad lesson is the damage has to occur very close to home or else nobody pays attention now.”

In just the United States alone, the number of weather disasters that cost at least \$1 billion in damage — adjusted for inflation — went from an average of 8.4 a year in the decade before the report was issued to 14.3 a year after the report came out, with more than a trillion dollars in U.S. weather damage since in just the billion-dollar extremes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Unprecedented record heat hit Northern California in September and 104 degrees in England earlier this summer.

The 594-page report’s 20-page summary highlighted five case studies of climate risks from worsening extreme weather that scientists said will be more of a problem and how governments could deal with them. In each case scientists were able to give a recent example:

Flash floods in “informal settlements.” Look at flooding in poor sections of Durban, South Africa, this year, said report co-author and climate scientist Maarten van Aalst,

director of the International Red Cross and Crescent Climate Centre in the Netherlands. Or Eastern Kentucky or Pakistan this year or Germany and Belgium last year, report authors said.

Heat waves in urban Europe. “We’ve got that one in spades. That’s been consistent,” said Susan Cutter, a University of South Carolina disaster scientist. “I think every year there have been longer periods of heat in Europe.”

Increasing property losses from hurricanes in the United States and the Caribbean as storms get wetter and stronger, but not more frequent. Oppenheimer pointed to the last few years when Louisiana has been smacked repeatedly by hurricanes, last year when Hurricane Ida killed people in New York because of heavy rainfall flooding basement apartments and 2017 when record rain from Hurricane Harvey paralyzed Houston and Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico with Hurricane Irma in between.

Small islands being inundated by a combination of sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and storms. That’s tougher, but co-author Kris Ebi, a University of Washington climate and health scientist, pointed to record strong Tropical cyclone Winston striking Vanuatu and Fiji in 2016.

“Right now people are feeling it,” van Aalst said. “It’s no longer the science telling them. All those warnings came true.”

In fact, reality has likely been worse, with more and stronger extremes than the authors would have predicted when they finished writing it in 2011 and published it a year later, said co-authors Ebi and Cutter.

That’s partly because when real life played out, disasters compounded and cascaded with sometimes unforeseen side effects, like heat waves and droughts causing hydroelectric power plants to dry up, nuclear power plants unable to get cooling water and even coal power plants not getting fuel deliveries because of dried rivers in Europe, scientists said.

“Imagining something scientifically or saying this exists in a scientific assessment is a radically different thing compared to living it,” said co-author Katharine Mach, a climate risk scientist at the University of Miami. She said it was similar to the COVID-19 pandemic. Health officials had long warned of viral pandemics but when it came true, the lockdowns, school closures, economic consequences, supply chain problems were sometimes beyond what dry scientific reports could envision.

Before this report, the overwhelming majority of climate studies, official reports and debate talked about long-term consequences, the slow but steady rise in average temperatures and sea level rise. Extreme events were considered too rare to study to get good statistics and science and wasn’t seen as a big issue. Now much of the focus in science, international negotiations and media coverage is about climate change extremes.

Weather disaster deaths both in the United States and globally are generally trending lower, but scientists say that's because of better forecasts, warning, preparedness and response. From 2002 to 2011, before the report, the United States averaged 641 weather deaths a year and now the 10-year average is down to 520 on average but 2021 was the deadliest year in a decade with 797 weather fatalities. At the same time the 10-year U.S. average for heat deaths crept up a bit, from 118 to 135 a year.

"We are adapting fast enough to reduce the impacts," Cutter said. "We are not reducing greenhouse gas emissions to actually go after the cause of the warming."

Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field, who led the report project a decade ago, said the scientists got the warnings right, but "we may have been too conservative" in the language used. In addition to the dry facts and figures presented he wishes he had used wording that would be "grabbing people by the shoulders and shaking them a little bit more and saying these are real risks."

SUNSTAR

[Finance chief urges franchisers to digitalize, climate-proof ops](#)

By: Carlo Lorenciana

Franchisers are urged to lead the charge in greening and transforming the country's business sector by mainstreaming digitalization in their operations and embracing sustainable business practices.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno made this call to the members of the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA).

"I call on you, as industry leaders and business operators, to transform the Philippine business landscape, beginning with your place of work. Mainstream the use of digital technology in your business operations by digitalizing core business processes. Train and equip your workforce to become digitally-empowered employees, managers and leaders," he said in a statement.

Diokno said the pandemic experience has highlighted the importance of integrating digital technology and sustainability to ensure businesses remain viable and competitive amidst an unpredictable global business climate.

He cited how franchising contributes to the expansion of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Comprising more than 99 percent of all businesses in the Philippines, MSMEs are the country's primary employers, generating a total of 5,380,815 jobs or 62.66 percent of the country's total employment.

Dynamism

He said that the growth of the franchise sector can bring dynamism to local supply chains, given the country's large consumer market.

The Marcos administration is implementing an eight-point socioeconomic agenda that will focus on boosting job creation as a recovery strategy as well as sustaining the country's current gross domestic product (GDP) growth momentum over the medium term to achieve upper middle-income status.

The agenda contains short-term measures that aim to address the most pressing issues facing the Filipino public today, such as the rise of commodity prices, vulnerability of certain groups of the population to shocks, and the scarring resulting from the pandemic.

Diokno also urged franchisers to climate-proof their operations.

“Embrace emerging technologies. Shift to the circular economy. Green the business landscape. Do these not only to climate-proof and prepare your businesses for the new economy, but also to boost the country’s economic resurgence,” said Diokno.

Sustainable infrastructure

He said that the government aims to invest heavily in sustainable and smart infrastructure across the country while accelerating digitalization and promoting human capital development to bolster the creation of green and quality jobs.

“Our goal is to create an enabling business environment where work opportunities can flourish, and sustainable, quality, and green jobs abound,” said Diokno.

Aside from enhancing work efficiencies and improving ease of doing business in the country, digitalization is also seen to sharpen MSME competitiveness in global trade by broadening their access to international value chains.

“I am confident that the PFA will be a strong partner in realizing our shared vision for the country in the next six years. With your support, we can build a truly inclusive, resilient, and globally-competitive economy for the Filipino people,” he said.

THE GUARDIAN

[Reasons for \(cautious\) optimism: the good news on the climate crisis](#)

By: Adam Morton

There is no shortage of things to say about what's going wrong. The extent of damage caused at 1.2C of global heating since pre-industrial levels is proving greater than was forecast by climate scientists not that long ago.

As discussed last week, the disastrous toll of the historic flooding in Pakistan and heatwaves and droughts across the northern hemisphere summer appear signs of escalation. A peer-reviewed study found several disastrous climate tipping points, including the collapse of Greenland's ice cap and Gulf Stream currents in the Atlantic Ocean, may now be unavoidable.

But there is also evidence that action to combat the climate crisis is belatedly accelerating. Acknowledging that every fraction of a degree of global heating avoided makes a difference, here are some things to be positive about.

Falling emissions in China

While Australia's emissions increased in the most recent data, China – the world's biggest annual carbon polluter – recorded an 8% fall in the June quarter and a 3% cut year-on-year.

As reported by analyst Lauri Myllyvirta in Carbon Brief, the drop compared with the same period in 2021 was 230m tonnes – equivalent to nearly half Australia's annual emissions, and the largest cut in Chinese carbon pollution in at least a decade. It was driven by both short and long-term trends: a real-estate slump, Covid-related restrictions, weak growth in electricity use and continued renewable energy expansion.

It is too early to say whether this is a permanent decline – a recently announced stimulus package may encourage construction and both clean and dirty energy use – but it is the fourth straight quarter in which pollution has fallen.

For all the talk that China is continuing to build coal-fired power plants, electricity generation from burning the dirty fuel was down by 4% in the first six months of the year. As with most types of infrastructure, the country is building more coal capacity than it needs.

This could yet be reversed, at least temporarily – coal-fired power has rebounded in recent weeks as hydro capacity slumped due to extreme drought and heat, and China's commitment to the UN is that its emissions will peak before 2030.

Renewable energy – particularly solar – is happening

A report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) found more people are now employed in clean energy (which it defined as including renewable energy, electric vehicles, energy efficiency measures and nuclear power) than the fossil fuel industry. One small problem: clean energy jobs are not as well paid, in part because they are less likely to be unionised. But the argument that there are no jobs in clean energy has dissipated.

Clean energy investment has grown by 12% a year since 2020, in part due to the rise of public and private support for sustainable finance, especially in wealthy countries. Renewable energy, new grids and energy storage account for more than 80% of total power sector investment. The IEA estimates spending on solar, batteries and EVs is now growing at a rate consistent with reaching global net zero emissions by 2050.

In Europe, where Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upturned the energy supply, there has been a significant swing towards renewable energy even while countries offer short-term support for fossil fuels to keep lights and heating on. The British thinktank Ember found a record northern summer of solar generation meant the continent was able to avoid spending €29bn(\$A43bn) on gas. Across the EU's 27 countries, renewable energy provided 35% of electricity, compared to 16% from coal.

According to an analysis by Bloomberg NEF, manufacturing of solar polysilicon – the semiconductor used in photovoltaic panels – is happening so rapidly that the entire supply chain needed to bring emissions to a halt is already under construction. It's nearly all in China – just one of many potential complications outlined by Bloomberg's David Fickling – but it says something about what is achievable.

The rich are finally starting to step up (in some ways)

There has been no agreement at UN climate talks on the rich paying up to help the developing world deal with the unavoidable loss and damage caused by global emissions, but the wealthy are finally moving to drive a clean energy transition in some of the countries that will matter.

The goal is pretty simple – to give major rising emitters the financial and other support needed so their economic expansion steers away from fossil fuels. A template deal was announced at the Cop26 climate summit in Glasgow, when South Africa signed a partnership Germany, the UK, the US, and the EU that promises \$US8.5bn of global capital over the next three-to-five years as the country restructures its coal-dependent energy system.

In June, the G7 confirmed a larger goal – to access up to \$US600bn in public and private finance over five years for clean energy infrastructure in countries including Indonesia, India, Senegal and Vietnam. Along with other steps, such as G20 countries promising to stop financing new coal power overseas and the Asian Development Bank's energy transition mechanism, it could re-draw what is possible. Ensuring local communities are not exploited or left behind in the process will be vital for its success.

The US landed its white whale

This is arguably the greatest reason for optimism this year. After years of trying and failing, the US – the biggest historic emitter – has passed major climate change legislation through its Congress. Analysis has found the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) could propel the country to a 43% cut in emissions by 2030 compared with 2005 levels – a big leap from where it was otherwise headed. If its political system holds together it should put the national target of a 50% cut this decade, and bigger cuts beyond, within reach.

One key point to note: the US law underlines that penalising fossil fuel industries by pricing carbon is, while not dead, out of fashion. The IRA is mostly about investment – \$US370bn of it – to help clean solutions usurp the old, dirty model. Much of it will be available only to goods manufactured in the US. Experts say in addition to cutting local pollution, this could also increase competition and lower costs on international markets.

Australia is no longer a complete laggard

Compared with the US, the passing of Australia's first climate change legislation in a decade is minor news – it is a smaller country and a more modest bill – but it is still unarguably one of the positives stories of the moment.

After years of Australia being bracketed with Russia and Saudi Arabia as a global laggard, the Albanese government will win praise for its new 2030 emissions reduction target (a 43% cut compared with 2005) at the next major UN climate summit in Egypt in November.

But the Labor government can also expect questions. The most pertinent is likely to be the same one it is getting at home: will it really undermine its new commitment, and the global effort, by continuing to expand fossil fuel exports? It might need to develop a better answer.

THE MANILA TIMES

[ECCP, Nestlé upbeat on Mindanao RE](#)

By: Eireene Gomez

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and Nestlé Philippines are upbeat on the development of renewable energy (RE) and service delivery in Mindanao as they cited the need for continuous collaboration between government and industry in driving growth in the region's shift to alternative energy.

A hybrid forum held on September 8 in Davao gathered key stakeholders in the energy industry to discuss the important role of RE and service delivery in Mindanao as well as its current energy landscape.

Jose Uy 3rd, Nestlé Philippines senior vice president and head of corporate affairs, stressed that as the government develops more policies and initiatives to promote clean energy use and production, private sector players are investing in RE to decrease their impact on the environment and become more sustainable.

"As a food and beverage company, we protect nature because we depend on its gifts. This is why tackling climate change is a top priority for us with our Net Zero Roadmap focusing on sourcing responsibly, shaping a waste-free future and transforming our operations," he said.

"Business-wise, switching to renewables is advantageous because it saves on energy costs, strengthens stakeholder relations and enhances corporate sustainability," Uy noted.

"We can, as companies, reduce our GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions by scaling up our clean energy competitiveness and innovations for a more sustainable environment. In doing so, we will help to harness the potential of renewable energy and contribute to the growth of the energy sector. It is a win-win proposition both for businesses and the planet. There is great potential for renewable energy in Mindanao, offering timely opportunities for the energy industry. That is why we are holding this forum," he explained.

Nestlé Philippines, a major food and beverage manufacturer, operates its factories in Luzon and main office in Makati on 100-percent RE. This is in line with its commitment to achieve Nestlé's global ambition of net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. To further expand its RE program, it aims to run its Cagayan de Oro factory, its only manufacturing facility outside Luzon and the hub of Nescafé production in the country, on RE.

The forum was held under the ECCP's REPH100 Initiative, a private sector-driven effort supporting the Green Energy Option Program of the Department of Energy.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Inflation and food shortage

By: Tony Katigbak

One of the main issues we have been facing alongside navigating life with COVID-19 in this new normal is the continued issue of inflation. As the cost of everything continues to go up and up, many Filipinos are struggling to make ends meet. Life is already highly unpredictable post-pandemic, and salaries have remained the same if not lower. There are so many who lost work, and adding higher prices exacerbates an already difficult situation.

And it's all a domino effect too. As more people need to focus and hustle round the clock, there is less time to be mindful of health and safety protocols. A recent surge in cases could easily be attributed to more people surging into the streets and even to them chucking social distancing in the mad rush to make a living. It's the age-old dilemma of health and wellness taking a backseat to earning enough to put food on the table at the end of the day.

What's most frightening is that there doesn't seem to be an end in sight. Prices continue to go up, and the peso hit an all-time low against the US dollar recently, which caused panic and concern among investors and the business sector. And rightfully so. We can't just continue to hope things will improve. We need to take concrete steps to fight inflation and put foundations into place to improve over the next few months.

One of the issues that have been fanning the inflation flame is the ongoing food shortage in the country. We see it in the news daily – sugar, salt, and onion shortage. This highlights our current dependence on food importation and showcases the cost pressures pushing inflation.

And it's not just the sugar, salt, and garlic we get from abroad, but also other commodities like rice, wheat, corn, and more. While this may have worked for a while as a short-term solution, the truth is it's not sustainable. Especially after global prices surged, caused by environmental factors and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

We need to find ways to be more sustainable. That's the only way we can battle inflation in the short and long term. We have to carve out a path forward that will be better for Filipinos and all businesses operating in the Philippines. But what does this mean for right now? It means re-assessing our agriculture and food policy priorities and taking steps to bolster and improve them.

Fortunately, agriculture is one of the government's top priorities, alongside education, infrastructure, health, and social protection. We must give food production the attention it deserves because it's not just families impacted by the food shortage – businesses and, by extension, jobs are too.

While funding hikes for agriculture are welcome, this needs to go beyond that. We must look more closely at how natural disasters also impact food production. Many point to climate change as one of the chief reasons we suffer food losses, and farmers have a hard time determining crop production.

We've seen it more and more recently. While farmers in Batanes and Benguet were told that lack of crop planning led to them being unable to sell the oversupply of garlic and cabbage in their provinces, the reality is that is just a tiny piece of the puzzle. While crop programming would be an excellent addition to the farming sector – and something the Department of Agriculture should teach at a grassroots level– the reality is that it goes far beyond just planning.

Contingencies must also be in place for things out of farmers' control. Typhoons, flash floods, lack of infrastructure, and transportation challenges are all factors impacting the agriculture community. The Agriculture department should work closely with local governments to support farmers with the right tools and tech to bolster food production instead of looking to importation as a solution to our problems.

The country once had a strong agriculture industry, and we have the factors we need to get back to that again if we invest now and continuously invest. This isn't a one-stop solution, but should be approached in terms of long-term sustainability. How we put food on our tables will impact every sector in the country, and if we can get this to a point where we can be more self-sufficient, everyone will benefit.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

[Philippines calls for 'needs-based' priority system for climate finance](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta Joson

THE Environment Secretary called access to climate finance an urgent matter and pressed the government to work towards international agreements that will unlock funding to help address the climate “emergency” faced by developing countries.

“Without global transformation and adequate financial resources dedicated to solving the climate change problem, which has reached emergency status, any agreement will be meaningless,” Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Y. Loyzaga said in a statement issued by the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the CCC has engaged technical experts in a dialogue that hopes to address the needs of developing countries for lowering greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

The previous administration has staked out a position that the developed world, which has produced the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions as it industrialized, must provide aid to developing countries facing most of the consequences of climate change.

“Urgent delivery of needs-based climate finance on loss and damage is crucial to transformative climate actions by at-risk developing nations. Gone are the days of empty commitments, now is the time to implement, to deliver action with results,” CCC Vice Chair and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

Mr. Borje said the dialogue is an “opportunity to advance inclusive climate finance, driven by a process that ensures balanced geographical participation, particularly of developing states in the Asia-Pacific region.”

He said the dialogue also allows participants “to be influenced by the best available science, to rectify past mistakes on not considering uncertainties, costing for externalities, and affording ample space to innovate, so that rehabilitation is not the norm.”

Mr. Borje said President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has declared climate change a priority and expressed his support for climate-mitigation efforts.

“Under Mr. Marcos’ administration, there is a proposal to increase national budget allocation for climate change-related programs, projects and activities,” Mr. Borje said.

“The Philippines will continue to do its part, while pursuing stronger collaboration with partners and stakeholders toward climate justice,” he added.

Mr. Borje called for pragmatic solutions, noting that the Philippines is expected to be one of the countries bearing the brunt of the climate crisis.

The Philippines is considered the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

“This is what we mean by build right at first sight: to build justly and efficiently at first sight, with a long-term horizon in mind. Our discussions will go beyond dollars and cents,” Mr. Borje said.

“There will be recommendations for actions that will affect the lives and livelihood of nations. Today is an opportunity to get things right. To secure climate equity and justice for all,” he added.

The Ad Hoc Work Programme on New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance created under the Paris Agreement is tasked to conduct four technical exchange dialogues annually until 2024.

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