



## NEWS ROUNDUP

14 September 2022 [ 08:20 am]

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- Pilipinas, dapat aksyunan ang problema sa climate Change- Climate Change Commission

### AP NEWS (Associated Press News)

#### [UN sums up climate science: world heading in wrong direction](#)

GENEVA (AP) — With weather disasters costing \$200 million a day and irreversible climate catastrophe looming, the world is “heading in the wrong direction,” the United Nations says in a new report that pulls together the latest science on climate change.

### BBC NEWS

#### [Switching to renewable energy could save trillions - study](#)

By: Jonah Fisher

Switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy could save the world as much as \$12tn (£10.2tn) by 2050, an Oxford University study says. The report said it was wrong and pessimistic to claim that moving quickly towards cleaner energy sources was expensive.

## **BLOOMBERG**

### **[Climate Change Is Making People Angrier Online](#)**

By: Laura Millan Lombrana

Climate change is making us angrier online. A lot angrier. Hateful comments spike on social media when temperatures rise above 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit), researchers at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research have found.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[PBBM expands NGP land coverage to 46K hectares](#)**

By: Samuel Mednilla

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday announced that the nationwide greening program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would cover an additional 46,000 hectares of land this year.

## **CNN NEWS**

### **[Charles will not cool on climate action, say friends](#)**

By Justin Rowlett

Will King Charles III turn his back on a lifetime of environmental campaigning?

## **GMA NEWS ONLINE**

### **[Climate impacts heading to ‘uncharted territories of destruction’ —UN chief](#)**

By: Gloria Dickie

London — The impacts of climate change are "heading into uncharted territories of destruction," UN secretary-general António Guterres warned on Tuesday on the release of a multi-agency scientific report reviewing the latest research on the subject.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **[Pakistan, PH wallow in the same boat](#)**

The whole of Pakistan is wallowing in misery now as it buries 1,400 people who have died in flooding that was so massive it covered one-third of the country, ruining agricultural crops, leveling homes and shops, eroding and destroying roads and bridges.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Hope floats: Student creates a chair that transforms into an emergency life raft](#)**

By: Jessica Pag-iwayan

Data have shown that annually, the Philippines has over 20 typhoons—five of which have the potential to be destructive. Flooding has become the most frequent and widespread natural disaster in many cities across the country and drowning accounts for 75 percent of deaths in flood disasters.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[President marks birthday with tree planting](#)**

By: Vito Barcelo and Vince Lopez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday raised the need to protect the environment as a way to promote economic growth and stability, during a nationwide simultaneous tree planting activity on his 65th birthday.

## **MONGABAY NEWS**

### **[Even without human-driven deforestation, climate change threatens some forests](#)**

By Ashoka Mukpo

When it comes to climate solutions, trees are in vogue right now. From the Trillion Tree Campaign to the stream of vigorous — if somewhat vague — promises made at last year's COP26 climate conference to halt global deforestation, harnessing the carbon-sequestering power of forests has become a goal of governments, cities, and policymakers across the world. Even oil companies are getting in on the action.

## **NIKKEI ASIA**

### **[Pakistan floods drive calls for climate justice](#)**

By Adnan Aamir

ISLAMABAD -- After four days of torrential rain, residents of Rahimabad, a low-lying neighborhood on the banks of the Kabul River, received a WhatsApp message on August 26. The deputy commissioner of the Pakistani district of Nowshera regretted to inform them that floodwaters were rising rapidly and would submerge most of their homes in the next few hours. The message urged residents to evacuate.

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[NGAs, LGUs plant trees to combat climate change](#)**

National government agencies, local government units and stakeholders have joined forces to help mitigate the impact of climate change by planting 1,600 native tree seedlings in the mountain barangay of Carcar City in southern Cebu.

## **THE DAILY TRIBUNE**

### **[Egypt readies for climate confab](#)**

The summit needs to demonstrate the damage caused by the climate crisis, particularly in developing countries.

By TDT

## **THE GUAM DAILY POST**

### **[Climate change in HK worsens housing struggle for city's poor](#)**

By: Theodora Yu and Louise Delmotte

Hong Kong — Anyone who has experienced a Hong Kong summer has a story about the oppressive heat and humidity.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Business planning key to survival - experts](#)**

By: Ed Paolo Salting

Business planning and strategy are what companies need to survive amid the current global uncertainties and the shift to digitization.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Marcos marks 65th birthday with tree-planting, gift-giving](#)**

By: Helen Flores

Manila, Philippines — President Marcos marked his 65th birthday yesterday with a tree-planting activity at an old sanitary landfill in Rizal and a gift-giving event at an orphanage in San Juan City.

**CCC IN THE NEWS:**

**SMNI NIGHTLINE NEWS**

[\[Interview Comm. Albert Dela Cruz \] Aktibidad ng tao, malaking contributor sa lumalalang climate change](#)

[Pilipinas, dapat aksyunan ang problema sa climate Change- Climate Change Commission](#)

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **AP NEWS (Associated Press News)**

### **[UN sums up climate science: world heading in wrong direction](#)**

GENEVA (AP) — With weather disasters costing \$200 million a day and irreversible climate catastrophe looming, the world is “heading in the wrong direction,” the United Nations says in a new report that pulls together the latest science on climate change.

The World Meteorological Organization, in the latest stark warning about global warming, said weather-related disasters have increased fivefold over the last 50 years and are killing 115 per day on average – and the fallout is poised to worsen.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cited the floods in Pakistan, heat waves in Europe, droughts in places such as China, the Horn of Africa, and the United States – and pointed the finger at fossil fuels.

“There is nothing natural about the new scale of these disasters. They are the price of humanity’s fossil fuel addiction,” he said. “This year’s United in Science report shows climate impacts heading into uncharted territories of destruction.”

## **BLOOMBERG**

### **Climate Change Is Making People Angrier Online**

By: Laura Millan Lombrana

Climate change is making us angrier online. A lot angrier. Hateful comments spike on social media when temperatures rise above 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit), researchers at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research have found.

“It’s an indicator of how well people can adapt to high temperatures,” said Annika Stechemesser, lead author of the study published in *The Lancet Planetary Health* earlier this month. “If temperatures go too hot or too cold, we found that there’s an increase in online hate speech, no matter the socioeconomic differences, religion or political beliefs.”

Global warming of about 1.1°C on average since pre-industrial times has unleashed all sorts of extreme weather events across the world. This summer, drought and a string of heat waves hit Europe, China and the US. For humans, heat is associated with psychiatric hospitalizations, increased rates of suicide and more domestic violence, according to research.

And aggressive behavior online has been linked to violence offline too. Incensed posts have led to more violence toward minorities, including mass shootings, lynchings and ethnic cleansing, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, a New York-based think tank.

Stechemesser and other researchers analyzed a sample of 4 billion tweets between 2014 and 2020 from users based in the US. They used artificial intelligence to identify about 75 million hate messages in English, using the United Nations’ definition of online hate, which includes racial discrimination, misogyny and homophobia. They then analyzed how the number of tweets changed when local temperatures increased or decreased.

The researchers found that online hate speech increased as daily maximum temperatures rose above 21°C (70F) — a “feel good” point. Hate messages went up as much as 22% on hot days, compared with the average online hate during times of mild weather. Across all climate zones and socioeconomic groups in the US, online tensions intensified even more significantly when temperatures exceeded 30°C. Researchers observed that online hate speech increased by as much as 24% — from the feel good point — when temperatures reached 42°C to 45°C in US regions with hot and dry climates such as parts of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California. Last year, a study by the same researchers focusing on Europe reached similar conclusions.

“When discussing climate change, it’s a point to remember that we feel the effects everywhere, not just in places with big disasters,” Stechemesser said. “There are places where the social consequences of heat have been not discussed very thoroughly,

especially around how we can live together as a society and deal with our wellbeing in the future.”

Researchers analyzed the tweets as a whole and did not look into specific incidents. That means there’s no way to know if the weather made online tensions worse following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, for instance, or in the lead up to the attack on the US Capitol in January 2021. Still, some conclusions can be reached ahead of the US mid-terms on Nov. 8.

“Our results show that if September is particularly hot, we can expect to see more hate on Twitter,” said Stechemesser. “But the research doesn’t really show what kind of hate it is or on what topics — we don’t know yet whether the hate we observe is tied to political issues.”

The direct relation between heat and online hate has also been documented in China, where researchers analyzed over 400 million tweets from a sample of 43 million users posting on the country’s largest microblog platform — Sina Weibo. They concluded that days with temperatures above 35°C, rain, higher wind speed, overcast skies and air pollution all make people grumpier online.

“Of course people can to an extent decide consciously whether they want to be nice or not, but we still find you’ll have more hateful behavior if you find yourself a certain temperature range,” Stechemesser said. “The first thing to do is limit global warming, that’s the most obvious approach to solving this.”



## BBC NEWS

### [Switching to renewable energy could save trillions - study](#)

By: Jonah Fisher

Switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy could save the world as much as \$12tn (£10.2tn) by 2050, an Oxford University study says. The report said it was wrong and pessimistic to claim that moving quickly towards cleaner energy sources was expensive.

Gas prices have soared on mounting concerns over energy supplies.

But the researchers say that going green now makes economic sense because of the falling cost of renewables.

"Even if you're a climate denier, you should be on board with what we're advocating," Prof Doyne Farmer from the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School told BBC News.

"Our central conclusion is that we should go full speed ahead with the green energy transition because it's going to save us money," he said.

The report's findings are based on looking at historic price data for renewables and fossil fuels and then modelling how they're likely to change in the future.

The data for fossil fuels goes from 2020 back more than 100 years and shows that after accounting for inflation, and market volatility, the price hasn't changed much.

Renewables have only been around for a few decades, so there's less data. But in that time continual improvements in technology have meant the cost of solar and wind power have fallen rapidly, at a rate approaching 10% a year.

The report's expectation that the price of renewables will continue to fall is based on "probabilistic" modelling, using data on how massive investment and economies of scale have made other similar technologies cheaper.

"Our latest research shows scaling-up key green technologies will continue to drive their costs down, and the faster we go, the more we will save," says Dr Rupert Way, the report's lead author from the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment.

Wind and solar are already the cheapest option for new power projects, but questions remain over how to best store power and balance the grid when the changes in the weather leads to fall in renewable output.

#### Cost of net zero

Back in 2019 Philip Hammond, then Chancellor of the Exchequer wrote to the prime minister to say that the cost of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in

the UK would be more than £1tn. This report says the likely costs have been over-estimated and have deterred investment.

It also says predictions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that the cost of keeping global temperatures rises under 2 degrees would correspond to a loss of GDP by 2050 were too pessimistic. The transition to renewables was, it says, likely to turn out to be a "net economic benefit".

The research has been published in the journal Joule and is a collaboration between the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School, the Oxford Martin Programme on the Post-Carbon Transition, the Smith School of Enterprise & Environment at the University of Oxford, and SoDa Labs at Monash University.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **PBBM expands NGP land coverage to 46K hectares**

By: Samuel Mednilla

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday announced that the nationwide greening program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would cover an additional 46,000 hectares of land this year.

He made the announcement during the kick-off ceremony of the nationwide simultaneous bamboo and tree planting initiative of DENR and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), which he led on Tuesday at the Old San Mateo Landfill in Rizal.

“This initiative will contribute to the DENR’s National Greening Program [NGP], the country’s most ambitious reforestation program yet,” Marcos said in his speech in the event.

He decided to intentionally hold the event during his birthday to raise public awareness on the importance of the said campaign.

“I told them it will make my birthday more meaningful...since it is an important issue not only in the Philippines but for the entire world,” Marcos said.

The NGP of DENR has already covered over 2 million hectares of land from 2011 to 2021.

Another 11,631 hectares of land will also undergo reforestation next year.

Marcos said the greening project is part of the priority agenda of his administration due to its economic benefits and to help address climate change.

“This program will generate jobs, will generate opportunities, and will generate livelihood for our countrymen,” Marcos said.

“More than the economic benefit of this activity, we are essentially and primarily investing in ensuring that our planet remains a safe space,” he added.

## CNN NEWS

### [Charles will not cool on climate action, say friends](#)

By Justin Rowlett

Will King Charles III turn his back on a lifetime of environmental campaigning?

As Prince of Wales he spent decades campaigning, cajoling, and convening meetings to drive action on environmental issues.

As king he is subject to different rules - the monarch is obliged to remain politically neutral.

But his friends and advisers say he will not cool on the issue of global warming.

Might urging action on key global issues like climate change or biodiversity loss be part of what a modern monarchy looks like?

King Charles' interests have ranged from tropical forests to the ocean depths, from sustainable farming practices to water security. They began long before such concerns became mainstream.

Within months of his investiture as Prince of Wales in 1969, the 20-year-old Prince Charles wrote to Prime Minister Harold Wilson worried about the decline of salmon stocks in Scottish rivers. "People are notoriously short-sighted when it comes to questions of wildlife," he complained.

Increasingly he has focused on tackling global warming, which he regards as one of the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced. He was a major presence at the COP26 global climate summit in Glasgow last year, urging world leaders to work together to save the planet during a speech at the opening ceremony.

When I interviewed him ahead of COP26 he told me "It has taken far too long" for the world to respond to the risks of climate change. I pointed out world leaders would soon be gathering to talk about the climate crisis, he responded: "But they just talk, the problem is to get action."

He even said he understood why some people felt motivated to take to the streets with organisations like Extinction Rebellion, noting "people should really notice how despairing so many young people are".

As for the risk of not taking action, he was very clear: "It will be a disaster. It will be catastrophic. It is already beginning to be catastrophic because nothing in nature can survive the stress that is created by these extremes of weather."

The veteran green campaigner Tony Juniper rates the new king as "possibly the most significant environmental figure of all time". Chairman of Natural England and a long-term adviser to Charles, Mr Juniper has spoken of the "incredible depth" of his knowledge and the "absolutely enormous" impact he has had.

The question is whether as king, Charles, will be so outspoken on this or any other issue.

"Everything we know about how he has thought about his accession, tells us he will be absolutely clear about his constitutional duties," says Jonathan Porritt, former head of Friends of the Earth and an ex-adviser to the new king.

King Charles has said as much himself. When asked in an interview in 2018 whether he would be a "meddling" king he replied "I am not that stupid" and referred to suggestions he would continue to lobby parliamentarians as "nonsense".

### **Connector of people**

When I asked him last year whether he thought the government of then Prime Minister Boris Johnson was doing enough to tackle the climate issue, he laughed. "I couldn't possibly comment."

And, last week, the new king acknowledged it would "not be possible for me to give as much of my time and energies to the charities and issues for which I care so deeply".

But his passion for environmental issues will not suddenly evaporate. Much of his work had already taken place away from the glare of publicity.

"The King is a convener, connecting people and organisations in ways that open up possibilities and create solutions," says his former press secretary, Julian Payne. Charles would invite "the best brains and the most experienced people and listen to their ideas and advice".

"I suspect it is a modus operandi that will continue as he takes on this new role," says Mr Payne..

Charles's approach to problem-solving has led to some unexpected initiatives. Look how he worked to engage the accountancy profession in tackling climate change, says Mr Porritt.

He recognised the world would need ways of calculating emissions and judging the progress of companies, says Mr Porritt. And, in 2004, he set up the Accounting for Sustainability Project, to attempt to begin to work out how that might be done.

### **Terra Carta pledges**

In recent years he has worked to encourage the business community to help lead action on climate change. More than 500 chief executives - including the heads of some of the biggest financial institutions and businesses in the world - are now part of his Sustainable Markets Initiative.

They are described as a as a "coalition of the willing" and have signed up to his "Terra Carta" pledges, agreeing to "rapidly accelerate the transition towards a sustainable future".

"We need a vast military-style campaign to marshal the strength of the global private sector," Charles said when he opened COP26.

One senior British politician told me he could imagine Charles making a similar speech as king. "You won't hear him expressing a view on fracking," he said, "but I can imagine him making a speech on the need to take more urgent action on climate."

US President Joe Biden's climate envoy, John Kerry, agrees. He has said he hopes Charles will continue to press for action on climate.

"It is a universal issue, it is not ideology," Mr Kerry told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme, "It's about the survival of the planet. I can't imagine him not wanting to [press for action on climate] and feeling compelled to use the important role as the monarch and urge the world to do the things the world needs to do."

Tackling climate change is, after all, an obligation on governments that is enshrined in UK law.

The Climate Change Act requires the government reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

All the main parties agree it is an important priority. Prime Minister Liz Truss has already said her government will "double down" on reaching the target.

So, here's a question King Charles III will have already considered: how controversial is it for a British monarch to express general support for something that is already enshrined in law.

## GMA NEWS ONLINE

### [Climate impacts heading to 'uncharted territories of destruction' —UN chief](#)

By: Gloria Dickie

London — The impacts of climate change are "heading into uncharted territories of destruction," UN secretary-general António Guterres warned on Tuesday on the release of a multi-agency scientific report reviewing the latest research on the subject.

The report, led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), warns that the world is "going in the wrong direction" on climate change.

With greenhouse gas concentrations continuing to rise in the atmosphere and world leaders failing to adopt strategies to hold global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures, the earth is inching closer to dangerous climate tipping points, the United in Science report says.

Already, extreme weather events are more frequent and more intense.

"Heatwaves in Europe. Colossal floods in Pakistan...There is nothing natural about the new scale of these disasters," Guterres said in a video message.

Despite a dip in emissions during coronavirus lockdowns, planet-warming emissions have since soared beyond pre-pandemic levels. Preliminary data reveal that global carbon dioxide emissions in the first half of this year were 1.2% higher than during the same period in 2019, the report finds.

The past seven years were the warmest on record.

The global average temperature has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average. And scientists expect the annual average could be anywhere between 1.1°C and 1.7°C warmer up to 2026—meaning there's a chance we could pass the 1.5°C warming threshold in the next five years.

By the end of the century, without aggressive climate action, global warming is estimated to reach 2.8°C.

But even at the current level of warming we could pass several climate tipping points.

The ocean current that moves heat from the tropics into the northern hemisphere, for example, is now at its slowest in 1,000 years—jeopardizing historic weather patterns, says the report, which includes contributions from the UN Environment Programme and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Nearly half the world's population is considered highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change—floods, heat, drought, wildfires, and storms.

By the 2050s, over 1.6 billion city-dwellers will regularly swelter through three-month average temperatures of at least 35°C (95°F).

To help communities cope, the WMO has promised to put every person on earth under the protection of an early warning system within the next five years.



## MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

### Pakistan, PH wallow in the same boat

The whole of Pakistan is wallowing in misery now as it buries 1,400 people who have died in flooding that was so massive it covered one-third of the country, ruining agricultural crops, leveling homes and shops, eroding and destroying roads and bridges.

Visiting the flood-ravaged areas, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was so appalled by the devastation that he declared that “Pakistan and other developing countries are paying a horrific price for the intransigence of big emitters that continue to bet on fossil fuels.”

Guterres lamented the lack of attention the world gave to climate change, particularly industrialized nations that benefited much from this official neglect. “This is insanity, this is collective suicide,” the UN official told a news conference in Pakistan.

“From Islamabad, I am issuing a global appeal: Stop the madness. Invest in renewable energy now. End the war with nature,” he said. He hopes that his visit would galvanize support for the South Asian country which needs at least \$10 billion to repair damaged infrastructure.

In the wake of this development, we can understand why former President Rodrigo Duterte detested the idea of the Philippines’ taking up responsibility to avert global warming when the country has very little contribution to this mess. The industrialized nations are to blame and so they should take up the challenge of cleaning up, Duterte said.

We note that Pakistan is responsible for less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, but is eighth in the list of countries most vulnerable to extreme weather caused by climate change, according to Germanwatch.

In the same breath, it is relevant to note that the Philippines ranks fourth in terms of risks arising from floods and storms, according to Fitch’s Climate Change Physical Risk Exposure Heatmap rankings. The most vulnerable are Mozambique (first), Vietnam (second) and Bangladesh (third).

Just like the Philippines, Pakistan receives heavy and often destructive rains during its annual monsoon season. But downpours as intense as this year’s have not been seen for decades. This reminds us of the torrential rains of typhoon “Ondoy” several years ago when Metro Manila residents were given a taste of the biblical deluge.

The Marcos administration needs to deploy all forms of mitigative interventions that would defend Filipinos from the deleterious effects of climate change.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Hope floats: Student creates a chair that transforms into an emergency life raft](#)

By: Jessica Pag-iwayan

Data have shown that annually, the Philippines has over 20 typhoons—five of which have the potential to be destructive. Flooding has become the most frequent and widespread natural disaster in many cities across the country and drowning accounts for 75 percent of deaths in flood disasters.

This is what inspired college student Aleksander Wieneke from the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde to invent Noah—an indoor chair that can transform into an emergency life raft in case of a flood. And this project was hailed as one of the finalists in this year's national James Dyson Awards competition.

“When I was nine years old, Typhoon Ondoy hit the Philippines affecting millions. Today, flooding remains to be a problem, with low-middle income countries being most affected. Floods are the most frequent natural disaster and are expected to increase in frequency and severity due to climate change,” he says. “Drowning accounts for 75 percent of deaths due to floods, but victims also experience limited mobility, sickness, slow emergency response, damaged belongings, stranding, and so forth, yet most do not own emergency equipment. An emergency device that can better assimilate into victims' lives and help make disaster response more proactive, can save more lives.”

#### How it works

According to the project description, Noah can be used as a chair, and transformed into a raft through a simple origami technique. The seat is detached from the base and opens to become the raft. The seat is reattached inside the raft, assuring Noah's reuse after a flood.

Archimedes' principle is also applied rather than air, simplifying the assembly, and reducing the risk of puncture. The seat's center of gravity is as close as possible to the center of buoyancy. A flat hull makes it stable and ideal for the passage range and type of water it will be used in. Variations of Polypropylene are used to simplify production. It is low-cost, chemical resistant, abrasion-resistant, and anti-impact, making it stronger than an inflatable. It's recyclable, lightweight, rated for over 20,000 folds, and electrically insulated. There are handles on all four sides to grip onto, attach a cord, or link multiple rafts together. It also features storage, a paddle with a bow hook, and reflective tape for visibility.

“Most consumer flood products are inadequate for severe floods, costly, or intrusive to the home, especially for low-middle income households,” he says. “Noah is unique since it can be used like any other indoor chair but is also an emergency device that is quick to setup, lightweight, and easy to use. This makes disaster response more proactive on the household level.”

Moving forward, Weineke wants to run more comprehensive test to have Project Noah certified and validated. He's also looking forward to have it manufactured, distributed to various non-profit organizations, and even made available to the mass market.

## MANILA STANDARD

### President marks birthday with tree planting

By: Vito Barcelo and Vince Lopez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday raised the need to protect the environment as a way to promote economic growth and stability, during a nationwide simultaneous tree planting activity on his 65th birthday.

“We have to do this as a concrete step that we take so that nature is cared for because it desperately needs that care and it desperately needs that attention,” Marcos said during the National Simultaneous Bamboo and Tree Planting and Kickoff Ceremony at the Old San Mateo Sanitary Landfill in Rizal.

The tree planting program aims to plant over 8,000 seedlings and bamboo planting stocks in some parts of Calabarzon.

After delivering his speech, Marcos planted a bamboo plant stock named “Bambusa Blumeana” or “Kawayang Tinik.”

The President said he opted to spearhead the tree planting event on his birthday to raise awareness about protecting the environment, which he said was an important national and global issue.

“This initiative will greatly help in raising awareness on environmental welfare and protection,” he said.

“At the same time, it will contribute to the DENR’s (Department of the Environment and Natural Resources) National Greening Program, the country’s most ambitious reforestation program, with the goal of reducing poverty, ensuring food security, [ensuring] environmental stability, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change, and adapting to climate change,” he added.

Through the program, more than 2 million hectares of reforestation sites have been established from 2011 to 2021.

An additional 46,265 hectares will be developed this year, and the DENR is also targeting 11,631 hectares of enhanced National Greening Program sites in 2023.

The seedlings that were planted during Tuesday’s event will be significant in realizing the government’s reforestation goal, as the program generates jobs, opportunities, as well as livelihood for ordinary Filipinos, the President said.

More than the economic benefit of the activity, he said the country is essentially and primarily investing in ensuring that the planet remains a safe space, especially for the next generation that will, inherit it.

The President also said he sees some symbolism in the tree planting activity as the government turns an old sanitary landfill into a reforestation area that benefits the environment and the local community.

Government officials joined scores of supporters across the country in greeting the President on his birthday.

Among them was Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles who took her greeting to Facebook, wishing the President good health.

Cruz-Angeles assured the President that she would stand by his efforts to improve the lives of every Filipino and the living condition of the nation.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said that she and other officials are witnesses to the President's "unyielding resolve" for public service regardless of challenges he has encountered along the way.

"By embodying resilience and humility and espousing true nation-building and unity, you have truly gained the confidence and trust of the Filipino people," she said.

Pangandaman said she and members of her department would also pray for his continued success.

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Erwin Tulfo expressed support for the President's goal of helping the nation rise from the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also shared a short video clip of a birthday luncheon for the President in Malacañan Palace.

In the clip, some members of the Cabinet and political allies sang the birthday song for the President.

Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte and Commission on Higher Education chairman Prospero de Vera also expressed greetings on the President's birthday.

Duterte thanked the President for allowing her to fulfill her duties not only as a public official but also as a mother, referring to her being allowed to use an Air Force aircraft so she can go home to her kids in Davao.

In a Facebook post, De Vera commended Marcos' support in ensuring quality and accessible education for all.

Marcos, commonly referred to as Bongbong and by the initials BBM, was born on Sept. 13, 1957 in the town of Batac, Ilocos Norte.

He is the son and namesake of former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. and the third child of a former president of the Philippines to also become Chief Executive.

He became a majority president after obtaining 31,629,783 votes or 58.77 percent of the votes cast in the May 9 polls.

## MONGABAY NEWS

### [Even without human-driven deforestation, climate change threatens some forests](#)

By Ashoka Mukpo

-In a study published in Science, researchers analyzed a set of climate and ecosystem models to predict the risks that climate change poses to forests.

-The models displayed consistent risks to forests in western North America, drier tropical forests like the southeastern Amazon, and northern boreal forests.

-Researchers say their findings speak to the need to be careful when evaluating the role trees can play as a climate solution.

When it comes to climate solutions, trees are in vogue right now. From the Trillion Tree Campaign to the stream of vigorous — if somewhat vague — promises made at last year's COP26 climate conference to halt global deforestation, harnessing the carbon-sequestering power of forests has become a goal of governments, cities, and policymakers across the world. Even oil companies are getting in on the action.

But while much ink has been spilled on the potential benefits of tree planting in the fight against climate change, less is known about how the forests we already have will react to a hotter environment. Some scientists say that's a critical gap in our knowledge of how trees could figure into the global climate agenda. Sinking resources into a costly forest restoration project might not make sense, for example, if it's in a region that's likely to see climate-related die-offs or a high risk of fire during its life span.

A new study published in the journal Science aims to start filling that gap. Using a combination of ecosystem and climate models, along with satellite data on existing disturbances, its authors found that some types of forest showed up as particularly sensitive to climate risks — even when human-driven deforestation was removed as a variable. They say those findings could help policymakers develop a more nuanced understanding of what threats the planet's forests face, and what role they can be expected to play in the global climate agenda.

“The future of Earth's forests in a rapidly changing climate is incredibly uncertain. And that has enormous implications for communities, for the economy, and for the atmosphere itself,” said William Anderegg, an associate professor at the University of Utah and one of the study's authors.

The study wasn't the first to try to model forest changes under various climate scenarios, but Anderegg told Mongabay that it was one of the first that combined and compared different approaches to see where their findings overlapped.

The models that the researchers used often didn't agree — and in some instances directly contradicted each other. But overall they showed that forests in western North America, drier tropical forests like those in the southeastern Amazon, and the southern boreal forests that blanket vast swaths of northern North America and Eurasia are at risk due to climate change.

“These disturbances are things like severe wildfire, drought stress, and pests and pathogens like the bark beetle outbreak in western North America. Those are the biggest ones, but there can also be more subtle ones like changes in species or gradual die-offs and elevated mortality rates,” Anderegg said.

A firefighter battling blazes in California. Image by NOAA / Creative Commons.  
The study's findings paint a less rosy picture of the role that tree planting could play in fighting climate change than its boosters might like. A cornerstone of California's climate strategy, for example, has been a state-financed carbon offset market that included credits generated from forest conservation projects. But in just 10 years, wildfires have almost entirely wiped out the market's carbon reserve pool, destroying offsets that had been purchased by corporations like Microsoft and raising questions about the market's overall climate benefits.

If the models analyzed by the Science study are correct, California's troubles are likely just beginning. According to Anderegg, that should be a wake-up call that tree-planting and carbon offset projects have to be planned much more rigorously and with a deeper understanding of how climate change itself might threaten their viability.

“There's been this growing recognition and sense of concern in the scientific community that these carbon offsets are not necessarily based on great scientific data and that they aren't taking the risks of climate change seriously,” he said.

The potential climate benefits of reforestation and forest restoration projects remain a hotly contested subject. In some cases the science isn't even settled over whether certain kinds of forests cool their surroundings down or heat them up. But most experts say the priority should be to protect forests that already exist, which means deepening our understanding of what kind of risks they will face in the coming decades.

“We still need those forests, so we will need to protect them,” said Deborah Lawrence, a professor of environmental science at the University of Virginia, who wasn't involved in the recent study. “That means two things: first, monitor for fire, pests and drought so we can react quickly. Second, plant new forests along the borders of existing forests to buffer the impact of disturbances that march across a landscape like fire and pests.”

Still, even under the more hopeful climate scenarios, a hotter planet looks likely to be bad news for some types of forest. In the U.S. and Canada, forestry experts are now considering whether they can help accelerate the “migration” of those forests to safer



ground. But Anderegg says that in the meantime, exuberant sales pitches about what trees can do to compensate for fossil fuel emissions should be given a careful — even skeptical — eye.

“Our study and other studies like it are starting to really highlight that we need to be careful and proceed thoughtfully and based on the best available science if we’re going to use forests for climate solutions,” he said. “We don’t want to bet big on a set of forests that then goes up in flames in 20 or 30 years.”

## NIKKEI ASIA

### Pakistan floods drive calls for climate justice

#### **The rift between rich, carbon-emitting countries and the vulnerable, developing world is widening**

By Adnan Aamir

ISLAMABAD -- After four days of torrential rain, residents of Rahimabad, a low-lying neighborhood on the banks of the Kabul River, received a WhatsApp message on August 26. The deputy commissioner of the Pakistani district of Nowshera regretted to inform them that floodwaters were rising rapidly and would submerge most of their homes in the next few hours. The message urged residents to evacuate.

Moin Khan, a 42-year-old driver, discussed with neighbors whether to take the warning seriously. He is glad that he did. On the insistence of his relatives, he left with his family and moved to a temporary camp set up by the government in a local school for the next four days. He returned home the following week after the water receded, to see what was left of his two-bedroom house. Walls had collapsed, furniture was soaked in water, and nothing had been left intact. "When the rain started, we were happy for a change in weather. We could never have imagined that the rains would destroy all our material possessions," Khan told Nikkei Asia during a visit to his house.

Thousands of houses like Khan's were damaged throughout the district. More than 52 square kilometers of crops were washed away in Nowshera alone. Most dangerous, according to Zofishan Manzoor, the CEO of the Nowshera Cantonment Board and one of the district's top officials, is the scarcity of clean drinking water, which is forcing people to drink contaminated water and putting them at risk of disease.

Across Pakistan, flooding that started in July and peaked in August has left almost 1,400 people dead, 1.7 million houses ruined and half of the country's 160 districts officially declared "calamity-hit" zones. Around 7,000 kilometers of roads were washed away and almost 250 bridges were destroyed, according to reports released by Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority.

Cotton and wheat crops have also been ruined, and the specter of hunger beckons. As waters begin to recede, it is clear to residents of Rahimabad that the flood itself was not nearly as catastrophic as the aftermath.

Every day throughout the week, neighborhood residents gathered at the small Rahimabad community center for food and drinking water handouts, brought in by supply vans. But a pack of food and two bottles of water per person does not go far in the 40-degree Celsius weather. "I only get a one-time meal from the private donors, for dinner I have to manage on my own," Khan said.

Nowshera is one of 81 districts in Pakistan classified by the government as "calamity hit" as the country emerges from one of its worst-ever natural disasters, which is also one of the worst climate change-induced catastrophes ever recorded globally.

In southern Sindh province, where about a third of Pakistan's food is grown, the damage is most severe. Imdad Ali, a farmer in Sindh province's Khairpur district, surveyed his 3-acre cotton crop, which is now underwater. "Not only have I lost the crop this year, but the water has destroyed my land and it will also be harder to cultivate crops in the year to come," he said. Ali added that, without substantial help from the government, he, along with many farmers like him, are doomed.

In Balochistan, Pakistan's largest and most impoverished province, 32 out of 36 districts have been declared disaster-hit zones. Quetta, the capital of Balochistan and home to one-quarter of the province's population, was completely cut off from the rest of the country for days. Most of Balochistan's national highways are still not fully restored to handle traffic.

Zahid Mengal, executive director of the Azat Foundation, a Balochistan-based humanitarian organization, told Nikkei that, as a humanitarian worker for more than 25 years, he has never witnessed such a huge level of loss to life, cattle, agriculture, infrastructure and property.

### **Climate change taking its toll**

Experts are virtually unanimous that the changes in the monsoon current that unleashed torrential rains across Pakistan starting in July were climate change-induced. Pakistan's floods are the latest in a string of climate-related disasters so far this year: Devastating floods hit Australia in February, and parts of Europe faced their most extreme heat wave on record in July, leading to widespread drought and wildfires throughout the summer.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, in the month of August, rainfall in Sindh and Balochistan Provinces was 726% and 590% above the annual average for August. It was the heaviest rainfall recorded in the last 100 years in those areas, said Qamar uz Zaman Chaudhry, a Pakistani climate scientist and lead author of the Pakistan National Climate Change Policy 2021.

The scale of the disaster has highlighted the emerging climate inequality that divides the rich, carbon-emitting world from poorer countries that emit little but bear the consequences of those that do. Pakistan, the world's fifth most populous country, accounts for less than 1% of global carbon emissions but ranks as the eighth most vulnerable to climate change, according to the "Global Climate Risk Index 2021," published by the nongovernmental organization Germanwatch.

Some Pakistani activists along with a few politicians have begun to moot the idea of compensation from big, carbon emitting countries -- a topic that is gathering momentum throughout the climate-vulnerable developing world.

"This whole year we have borne the humanitarian payload of other people's carbon-rich lifestyles," Sherry Rehman, Pakistan's federal minister for climate change, told Nikkei in a phone interview. "It's as simple as that. The whole of 2022 has been like a clear

message to the world, really, and it has come via Pakistan: Climate change is going to be accelerated, and the decisive decade is here, not in 2050, when many targets were set for."

Funding to address "Loss and Damage," a general term used in U.N. climate negotiations to refer to consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to, was discussed during the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in 2021 and continued at the Bonn U.N. climate negotiations in Germany in June this year. Rehman told Nikkei that "developing countries were really looking at [Loss and Damage] as their pivot to adapt to climate change."

Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, has phrased appeals for aid in humanitarian terms rather than as demands for compensation. "There is water everywhere, as far as you could see. It is just like the sea," he said on Aug. 29. "I want to give my solemn pledge and solemn commitment [that] every penny will be spent in a very transparent fashion. Every penny will reach the needy."

So far, \$610 million has been pledged, including \$350 million in emergency finance from the World Bank, \$110 million from the United Nations, \$58 million from China and \$50 million from the U.S.

People cross a river on a bridge damaged by floodwater in the town of Bahrain, Pakistan, on Aug. 30. © AP

The flooding has affected 33 million people, making it Pakistan's worst natural disaster and its worst displaced persons crisis. By way of comparison, the partition of the Indian subcontinent that created Pakistan in 1947 displaced 15 million people, which was the greatest refugee crisis the world had seen at the time.

### **The aftermath**

While the floodwaters have receded, experts warn that the danger to inhabitants of the afflicted region -- roughly one third of Pakistan -- is just beginning as the country now faces an imminent food crisis. With massive damage to crops and livestock, Pakistan will find it hard to feed itself for the next couple of years, experts say.

Rathi Palakrishnan, Deputy Country Director of UN's World Food Program (WFP) Pakistan, told Nikkei that a recent assessment by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization shows 9.4 million acres of crop area -- roughly 17% of Pakistan's cultivated cropland -- is potentially damaged, more than half of which is in Sindh. About 45% of the country's biggest cash crop, cotton, has been lost and the next wheat planting season is at risk if water levels fail to recede by October, she added.

Palakrishnan said Pakistan cannot afford a poor harvest when it is already struggling with fast-shrinking foreign exchange reserves and severe inflation, which reached 27.3% in August, a five-decade high.

"It is important to note that the levels of poverty and food insecurity were already high even before this monsoon season," she said. The WFP already classifies 38 million Pakistanis as moderately or severely food insecure, including 4 million people who are severely food insecure.

Chaudhry, the climate scientist, told Nikkei that 80% of the country's cotton and rice crops have been destroyed by the floods, and stocks of wheat, which will be cultivated in November, have also been washed away by floodwaters in Sindh and Balochistan.

"If the production of wheat is much less in the coming season, there will be a huge shortage of flour for bread making for a country with 210 million people," Chaudhry told Nikkei. He added that 40% of Pakistan's labor force works in agriculture, and damage to crops on this scale will render millions without any source of livelihood.

On Sept. 9, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited Islamabad. During a news conference, he said, "Pakistan needed massive financial support for relief, recovery and rehabilitation in the wake of the catastrophic floods," which he said had caused \$30 billion in damages.

"We have waged war on nature and nature is striking back and striking back in a devastating way," Guterres told reporters. "Today in Pakistan, tomorrow in any of your countries."

### **Hotter summers: The starting point**

Chaudhry, also a former director general of Pakistan's Meteorological Department, said many areas of the country suffered temperatures above 40 C for prolonged periods in April and May -- a precursor to the disaster to come. Meteorologists had warned earlier this year that the extreme temperatures would probably result in above-normal levels of rain.

However, the government appeared not to pay much attention to the warning due to the ongoing political crisis in the country, centered around ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan who is seeking to force early elections.

Multiple experts told Nikkei that what made this year's floods unique was that they were rain-induced, rather than being riverine floods. Far more common in Pakistan, riverine floods are caused by melting glaciers swelling rivers with heavy flows of water. The last major floods in Pakistan, in 2010, were riverine floods; they killed 1,985 people and affected 20 million more.

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, a member of Water Environment Forum Pakistan, an advocacy group, says that over the past 75 years Pakistan has prepared its infrastructure to deal with river-based floods but not rain-induced ones.

"The government knows how to deal with riverine floods," he told Nikkei. "They know the volume and the velocity of river floodwater and can evacuate the endangered communities several weeks before the floods hit them."

With this year's rain-induced floods, Sheikh added, this equation has completely changed.

How far is climate change to blame?

This year's floods were long ago predicted by climate change models. Anja Katzenberger, a doctoral researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, told Nikkei that the latest generation of climate models project that the Indian summer monsoon will intensify as a result of global warming.

"These projections are in line with measurements during the last [few] years and [predicted] high-impact events such as the floods occurring ... in Pakistan," she said.

According to Sheikh, the route of Pakistan's monsoons changed due to climate change. Normally, monsoon currents start from the Bay of Bengal and enter India, Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Punjab, and lastly Sindh and Balochistan. This year, monsoon currents directly entered Sindh from Rajasthan and wreaked havoc, creating the heat wave starting in March in Pakistan and India that made heavy rains more likely.

Globally, experts agree that climate change played a role. "The weather patterns [seen in Pakistan] would not have resulted in such heavy rainfall had it not been for global warming," said Seita Emori, senior principal researcher of climate change at Japan's National Institute for Environmental Studies.

Emori spoke of an "unreasonable" world in which Pakistan, a comparatively small greenhouse gas emitter, suffers such serious consequences of global warming. "The international community must seriously take this to heart," he told Nikkei, "and reaffirm the need for global efforts to decarbonize and stop global warming."

Being able to say with complete certainty that the current floods in Pakistan can be linked to climate change will take time, according to climate scientist Chaudhry, as detailed empirical research is required. "However," he said, "there is no denying the fact that climate change has caused erratic behavior of monsoon currents, which resulted in unprecedented rainfall, which caused the floods."

Flash floods of the type that caused Pakistan's 2010 disaster are also linked to climate change, said Eric Shazar, an environmentalist and lecturer in politics at Oxford University in the U.K. "Thirty-six percent of all glaciers in Pakistan are expected to melt in the coming decade, which will spark a huge climate change-induced problem in the northern areas, causing flash floods towards the south," he said.

## **Climate migrants**

"Climate refugee" is a comparatively new concept. At Sachal Goth, a suburban area located in the northwestern part of Karachi, it is a reality. The area is home to displaced persons seeking temporary asylum from the floods in Northern Sindh.

Camps have been set up for flood-affected people in schools and government buildings. Police officers are stationed outside every camp, and local volunteers provide food and water to the flood victims.

In one such camp -- a school that has been closed to students for the past two weeks and is being managed by a local charity -- 204 people were sheltering when Nikkei visited in early September. Refugees sat on cloth sheets on the ground and there were no fans available to ease Karachi's scorching heat.

Zaheer Abbas, a 34-year-old day laborer from Larkana, told Nikkei of the long journey he and his family had undertaken to the shelter. After receiving a flood warning message from local officials one night in late August, "we ran for our lives, without bringing anything from home, and walked on foot, traveled in boats and later got a ride in a vehicle to reach Karachi," Abbas said. The journey stretched to around 470 km.

For 10 days since the flash floods washed away his home in Larkana, Abbas has been living in the Sachal Goth camps. "My father is missing after the floods and I have no clue of his whereabouts," he told Nikkei.

Hameeda, 25, is a housewife from the Qambar Shahdadkot district who is sheltering in a nearby camp. She did not get any early warning alert like Abbas to flee. When the floods hit her village, her home was completely destroyed. "There was complete chaos and I lost touch with my family members," Hameeda told Nikkei. She added that she managed to flee by traveling on a boat along with her neighbors. "My husband and kids are still stranded in our village," she said, "and I have lost all contact with them," she said.

Fehmida Riaz, a social worker in Karachi, has provided rations to 1,000 flood-affected families on a self-help basis. She said the women in the temporary camps are in miserable condition and are in dire need of sanitary pads, milk and food for their infants.

Irfan Salam Mirwani is deputy commissioner of Malir, one of seven districts in the Karachi division. He told Nikkei that around 25,000 flood-affected people have been settled by the government in 39 camps in different suburbs of Karachi, including Sachal Goth.

"[The Government] has provided them with shelter and asked humanitarian organizations to provide them with rations," Mirwani said. He added that this arrangement can barely continue for the next two weeks, after which all of these people need to be moved to a government-controlled tent city, the location of which is yet to be decided. Mirwani added that it will be many months before these people can go back to their hometowns.

## The reparations debate

Climate change increasingly pits the interests of wealthy countries against those of the developing world. "Of course, it is a Global North versus Global South problem -- it has long been that," said Maira Hayat, assistant professor of environment and peace studies at the University of Notre Dame in the U.S.

Hayat explained that the U.S. has produced 25% of all carbon emissions, going as far back as the 18th century, and Europe produced more than half of the world's carbon emissions up until 1950. "Against this, consider that Pakistan contributes less than 1% [of carbon emissions] -- so of course it is [an issue of] the Global North developing and living at the expense of the Global South," she told Nikkei.

"The Global North [the wealthy carbon emitting countries] needs to own its role in creating this devastation - Europe, for example. has built its welfare institutions from the wealth of empire. So when countries of the Global South now demand compensation they are asking the Global North to pay its debt" Hayat said.

"Reparations, unlike, say, humanitarian aid, is not a handout given as charity," said Mahvish Ahmad, an assistant professor of human rights and politics at the London School of Economics. They "are a reflection of what is owed by high carbon-emitting countries and companies to those who are paying the price of climate change."

Other experts believe the situation is not so clear-cut.

"The developed countries such as the U.S. drag their feet on establishing a fund for Loss and Damages because then they have to pay a lot of money," Sheikh from Water Environment Forum Pakistan charged. "Therefore, [developed countries] avoid the liability by challenging the process of putting a figure to the loss ... and its direct links to a particular country."

At COP 26 last year in Scotland, U.S. envoy John Kerry questioned the scope of a Loss and Damage fund, and the issue remained unsettled, but discussion is likely to be renewed at the COP 27 climate summit in Sharm el Sheikh Egypt in November.

Sheikh suggested that Pakistan should ask the U.N. to convene a meeting of the world's nine-largest historical carbon emitters on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session this year. Pakistan could then make a case along with other vulnerable countries and ask for a mechanism to determine reparations, he said.

"To avert future climate catastrophes, the Global North needs to dramatically alter its carbon footprint, but this will have ramifications across the world," Adam Weinstein, a research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft in the U.S., told Nikkei.

Weinstein added that as an example, Pakistan is quite literally kept afloat by concessional Chinese loans, Western and Gulf aid, International Monetary Fund bailouts and remittances. "This is not carbon neutral money," he said, "and in an



integrated global system the necessary changes will have downstream effects for everyone."

He went on: "There are many reasons for countries like the United States and China to help Pakistan, including principles of justice and collective responsibility. But the most compelling one is that climate change presents a shared existential crisis. Today, Pakistan is suffering -- eventually, it will be the world."

## **SUNSTAR**

### **NGAs, LGUs plant trees to combat climate change**

National government agencies, local government units and stakeholders have joined forces to help mitigate the impact of climate change by planting 1,600 native tree seedlings in the mountain barangay of Carcar City in southern Cebu.

Over 300 employees and officials of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Department of Education, Police Regional Office, Philippine Coast Guard and of the City Government of Carcar trooped to Calidngan for Tuesday's nationwide simultaneous tree planting activity with the theme "Buhayin ang Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan."

Each participant planted 10 saplings of Narra, Molave, and Mountain Agoho.

The activity was initiated by DILG in support of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s priorities on environment and natural resources as mentioned in the 2022 State of the Nation Address and the Department's greening program.

Also, the reforestation initiative was part of DILG's advocacy to develop, protect, and enhance unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands which contribute to environment-related risks, such as soil erosion, landslides, and flooding.

DILG-Central Visayas Director Leocadio Trovela said the tree planting activity was a manifestation of a high degree of synergy among the NGAs, LGUs and civil society.

He stressed the significant value of trees in ensuring food security and strengthening agricultural production.

Trovela also urged the LGUs and stakeholders to help ensure that the planted trees will thrive and help ensure the sustenance of the activity.

There will be a series of follow-through activities to ensure the continuation of the program, such as the rollout of tree planting activities from September to December; sustained forest management initiatives where DILG and DENR will revisit the Joint Memorandum Circular 1998-01 regarding the Manual of Procedures for DENR-DILG-LGU Partnership on Devolved and Other Forest Management Functions; GCash Forest that gives GCash users the opportunity to plant and grow real trees through GCash app; and continuation of the Annual Arbor Day or Tree Planting Day.

The regional director also thanked DENR for the provision of seedlings and identification of planting sites, as well as other NGAs, non-government organizations, Cebu Provincial Government headed by Governor Gwendolyn Garcia and the City Government of Carcar led by Mayor Patricio Barcenas for supporting the cause.

Present were Carcar City Mayor Patricio Barcenas, DepEd Regional Director Salustiano Jimenez, BFP Regional Director Jaime Ramirez, BJMP Regional Director Efren Nemeño, Assistant Regional Director for technical services forester Charlie Fabre of DENR, DILG Provincial Director Ian Kenneth Lucero, and Regional Community Affairs and Development Division Chief Antonietto Cañete.

## THE DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Egypt readies for climate confab](#)

The summit needs to demonstrate the damage caused by the climate crisis, particularly in developing countries.

By TDT

Regional authorities in Egypt, the host country of the 2022 UN Climate Conference, or COP27, are ramping up initiatives designed to improve the country's environmental credentials, and speed up its transition to a low carbon economy. The event will begin on 4 November in the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh.

Several COP27-related initiatives are underway in Egypt. They include projects related to sustainable transport, waste recycling, women's health, the transition to clean energy, sustainable cities, adaptation measures in the water and agriculture sector, and the links between peace and climate.

"The Egyptian government recognizes the huge responsibility of organizing a successful conference," Dr. Samir Tantawy, a climate change expert at the United Nations Development Program, said.

"The summit needs to demonstrate the damage caused by the climate crisis, particularly in developing countries. For example, the Aswan governorate in southern Egypt has experienced storms, snow and heavy rain for the first time. Developing countries need to be properly compensated," he added.

Beyond COP27, Egypt is working toward a 2050 national climate strategy, which is based around the reduction of emissions in all sectors, and adaptation to potential changes in the climate in agriculture, water resources, coastal areas, and health.

The Egyptian governorates are witnessing workshops in preparation for the Climate Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh.

The national strategy also aims to bring civil society, the government, and citizens together at the local, regional, and national levels. A number of civil society organizations are participating in workshops and seminars to raise awareness of the summit in the hope that it will help Egypt to achieve its climate strategy goals.

In preparation for the Climate Summit, the regional authorities in the Red Sea Governorate, in cooperation with a number of other state organizations, are holding a series of events aimed at raising awareness of environmental and sustainability concerns. These workshops will continue through to November and the opening of the conference.

## THE GUAM DAILY POST

### Climate change in HK worsens housing struggle for city's poor

By: Theodora Yu and Louise Delmotte

Hong Kong — Anyone who has experienced a Hong Kong summer has a story about the oppressive heat and humidity.

This year, a heat wave has left residents sweltering more than ever. And for thousands, home is a tiny rooftop hut that offers no escape from the torrid conditions.

Au has a million-dollar view of the Kowloon skyline from the rooftop hut he calls home. But inside the metal-and-concrete structure, perched atop a 10-story building, it feels like a million degrees.

"Even when I turn on all three fans in the living room, it's still too hot," Au said, wiping sweat from his face as the mercury soared into the high 90s on a recent day.

Hong Kong's suffocating summers are often made worse by an environment of concrete towers, concrete parks and roadside emissions.

But the effects of climate change are compounded here for those of modest means. Exorbitant property prices and long waits for public housing have pushed poorer residents like Au, who spoke using only his last name for fear of humiliation, into bleak living arrangements such as subdivided apartments and illegal but widespread rooftop huts that dot the tops of tenement buildings.

On Au's rooftop in the gentrifying neighborhood of Sham Shui Po, the metal hut traps heat inside the 300-square-foot space.

The 73-year-old rigged foam to the ceiling and a canopy to his window to block the afternoon sun, but neither seemed particularly effective. He has air conditioning but can barely afford to use it; to save on electricity costs, he and his wife switch it on only when their children return from school. For most of the day, they turn on fans and eat melons to stay cool; at night, they sleep on beds laid with bamboo straw mats.

Au hopes he and his family can secure a public housing apartment soon. Inside his hut, he fanned himself with his sweat-soaked T-shirt while waiting for his children to come home from school on a recent day.

But even these circumstances are an improvement. For three decades, Au lived in a 60-square-foot hut where all four walls were made of tin. That was until he moved with his family to his current, larger hut on the same rooftop. On summer days at the old hut, he couldn't stay inside at all.

"It was like an oven up there," he said.

## Heat wave hell

Some 220,000 people, or about 3% of Hong Kong's population, live in cramped rooftop huts, subdivided apartments and cage homes, according to a 2021 government report. With the poor design of these structures, residents experience conditions that can be 9 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit (5 to 6 degrees Celsius) hotter than outdoors during a heat wave, according a July report by the Society for Community Organization, a nongovernment group focused on housing issues.

And while the warming climate makes summers worse, low-income families worry about soaring utility bills, said Sze Lai-shan, the group's deputy director.

"In the short term, provision of air conditioners and electricity fee subsidies will be helpful," Sze said. "But in the long term, provision of public housing is what they hope for the most."

Hong Kong leader John Lee, who visited tenants in subdivided apartments in July, has pledged to boost the supply of land and housing.

Climate experts, however, say bolder action on warming is needed. Hong Kong has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality before the middle of the century, though it has only a relatively modest target of reducing emissions by 26 to 36% by 2030 compared with 2005 levels.

Kevin Li, researcher at environmental organization CarbonCare InnoLab, said the government's latest climate action plan relies heavily on infrastructure projects to mitigate effects such as sea-level rise. But he said these failed to take into account the more immediate plight of disadvantaged groups, such as tenants of rooftop huts and subdivided apartments who face increasingly extreme heat waves and typhoons.

"The government departments only coordinate when large-scale extreme disasters occur, but under climate change, these events can happen anytime," Li said.

Li wants to see a climate adaptation plan to help people prepare for extreme conditions; this could involve modifying rooftop huts to improve heat dispersion, improving ventilation systems and subsidizing electricity costs.

'Most unbearable'

Atop a seven-story tenement building in the Kowloon neighborhood of Cheung Sha Wan, residents Tai Sze-lin, 52, and Hung Chi-fai, 58, each live in a small room within a 450-square-foot rooftop hut they share with four other people.

The window in Tai's room is useless for air circulation as it faces the door of another room. On hotter days, she can get some respite by spraying water on the rooftop with a hose to lower the temperature.

To escape the heat on her day off, Tai, a restaurant worker, visits air-conditioned malls. "I moved to Hong Kong many years ago. This [summer] is the hottest and most unbearable," she said.

Autumn may bring little relief, too: The Hong Kong Observatory predicts a higher chance of normal to above-normal temperatures until October.

In previous years, Tai said, soaring temperatures would often arrive in the days before a typhoon barreled through the region. But now, she said, they can go on for weeks.

"Now it's so hot that it seems my head will explode," she said.

Hung, a cleaner, moved to the rooftop hut in June. Previously, he lived in a "space capsule" pod of less than 20 square feet, one of 16 such pods in a single apartment.

Hung cools down by visiting a nearby library to pore through newspapers and magazines, before heading home for a shower. "I will stay there for hours until it closes," he said.

Not only were summers getting hotter, but "abnormal" shorter winters were becoming more common, Hung noted. He felt there was little he could do.

"It's going to get hotter and hotter," Hung said. "We can only try our best to adapt and live our lives."

In the nearby Kwai Chung area, retired painter Wong Chung lives alone in one of eight 50-square-foot rooms carved out of one apartment in a tenement building. The 70-year-old relies on government subsidies and budgets \$14 a day to live. He has an air conditioner but turns it on only for an hour before he goes to bed.

Wong said the heat wakes him several times a night, though he hangs a white T-shirt over his one window to block sunlight during the day. With many community centers servicing the elderly closed during the pandemic, he has had no choice but to swelter at home.

"I hope the government will help tenants, especially families with kids who had to study in such cramped, stuffy spaces," he said. "It's so sad."

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [Business planning key to survival - experts](#)

By: Ed Paolo Salting

Business planning and strategy are what companies need to survive amid the current global uncertainties and the shift to digitization.

During the 20th MAP (Management Association of the Philippines) International CEO Conference 2022 titled "The Wins of Change: Thriving in a World of Betweens" on Tuesday, OpenSpace Ventures Plus adviser Stephen CuUnjieng stressed that business planning is key to a company's survival, even more than ever, in this age of digitization and exiting the pandemic.

"The companies that thrived in the pandemic already had sound strategies in place, which they then adapted, modified, or accelerated them to protect and enhance their position," CuUnjieng, also a columnist of The Manila Times, said.

He explained that companies need to be proactive with their business strategies and not be reactive in order to be adaptive to sudden changes, such as the pandemic, which caused business priorities to change and new trends to emerge.

"Microsoft is one of the companies that prepared well and bet on the right technology as cloud-based programs are in demand. Compounded with its subscription model, they are now one of the companies like Amazon, who are reaping the benefits," CuUnjieng reiterated.

He presented two strategies that stress sound strategies. One can either become an innovator (a trendsetter) or a fast follower (one immediately copying the trendsetter), but never both or in between.

"This can be applied to other situations as well, such as niche and scale markets, and it all starts with the right strategy. You can adjust it, move it, but you cannot discard it midway and pivot to another," CuUnjieng pointed out.

He concluded that planning indeed is important despite several unknown factors that could interrupt a business as it helps to blunt its possible negative effects.

For their reactions, MAP Governor and Brain Trust Inc. Chairman Dr. Cielito Habito agreed on CuUnjieng's statement and stressed extra planning is needed for both businesses and government, especially for dealing with global headwinds such as the pandemic, geopolitical tensions, inflation and effects of climate change.

"As VUCA (volatile, uncertainty, complex, ambiguous and hostile) is very rampant, business plans need to be flexible. Unidirectional planning is no longer the way to go, but scenario planning instead," Habito explained.



For his part, Jesus Carlos "Charlie" Villasenor, Procurement and Supply Institute of Asia chief executive officer, said that strategies and planning are crucial for business supply chains as well. He added that if one section fails, the whole structure will suffer.

"On the side of logistics and the supply chain, the government and businesses must put more effort into planning for this as well," Villasenor said. "The supply chain is not simply logistics, but rather the opposite as logistics is actually part of the supply chain as a whole and is very crucial for businesses to function," he added.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Marcos marks 65th birthday with tree-planting, gift-giving](#)

By: Helen Flores

Manila, Philippines — President Marcos marked his 65th birthday yesterday with a tree-planting activity at an old sanitary landfill in Rizal and a gift-giving event at an orphanage in San Juan City.

In his message at the nationwide simultaneous tree-planting activity at the Old San Mateo Sanitary Landfill, Marcos urged Filipinos to take concrete measures to protect the environment amid the devastating effects of climate change worldwide.

The President said he opted to spearhead the government's greening program on his first birthday as Chief Executive to raise awareness about environmental protection, which he said "desperately needs" care and attention.

"We have to do this as a concrete step that we take so that nature is cared for because it desperately needs that care and it desperately needs that attention," Marcos said.

"The challenges we hurdled in recent years highlighted the fact that we have one Earth. We must spare no effort to ensure that it survives in the years to come," he said.

The Chief Executive planted an Indonesian bamboo or kawayang tinik, which environment officials said has the potential to absorb heavy metals.

Marcos, accompanied by Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos and Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga at the event, described the nationwide simultaneous tree planting as a "simple" yet "impactful undertaking."

Marcos said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under its National Greening Program, established more than two million hectares of reforestation sites from 2011 to 2021.

The DENR is targeting to develop additional 46,265 hectares this year and 11,631 hectares more reforestation sites in 2023, he said.

"The seedlings that we will plant today will be significant in realizing this goal. This program will generate jobs, will generate opportunities and will generate livelihood for our countrymen," he said.

#### Symbolism

Marcos also said he sees some symbolism in the tree-planting activity as an old sanitary landfill becomes a reforestation area beneficial to the environment and the local community.

“In a way the symbolism is extended, because what we are doing now is – with what happened in the pandemic, with the many problems that the Philippine economy is facing, it is as if it has now gone to sleep and can no longer be used,” he said in mixed Filipino and English.

“Now, this is what we will do in the economy as well, we will revive different things that are dormant and unused. It’s like growing the trees we’re going to plant today,” Marcos said.

As part of his birthday celebration, the President also hosted a lunch yesterday for some officials at the Rizal Hall in Malacañang.

In a video posted by Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo on Facebook, the guests, including Vice President Sara Duterte, Speaker Martin Romualdez and former president and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, were seen singing the birthday song for Marcos.

Marcos was also seen making a single clap to extinguish the candles on his cake.

Marcos also led a gift-giving activity at the White Cross Orphanage in San Juan City in the afternoon. The birthday luncheon and the gift-giving events were not opened to the media.

**Grateful Sara**

In her birthday greetings to President Marcos, Duterte also included a message of gratitude.

Duterte posted on her social media accounts a photo with Marcos, as well as with a presidential chopper that she said the President allowed her to use to ensure that she is home in time to tuck her children in bed.

“Thank you for putting a premium on the desire of a working mother to be present in her children’s lives,” she told Marcos.

“I wish God’s favor upon you as you celebrate your birthday and pray that you are given the strength and wisdom for the difficult road ahead,” she added.

Duterte, who is also education secretary, attended the Cabinet meeting in Malacañang on Monday.

“Thank you, PBB (President Bongbong), and your 250th PAW for ensuring that wherever I may be found in the country during the day, I am home in time to tuck my children to bed,” Duterte said, referring to the Presidential Airlift Wing of the Philippine Air Force.

The 250th PAW “Bluebirds” is a PAF unit mandated to provide air transport for the President, the immediate members of the Chief Executive’s family, visiting heads of state and other local and foreign VIPs.

“Warmest greetings on the occasion of your 65th birthday! Upon your shoulders lay the hopes and dreams of 112 million Filipinos,” Romualdez, for his part, said.

“We, the members of the House of Representatives of the 19th Congress, are behind you all the way as we work together to uplift the lives of our countrymen. Proceed in this noble endeavor with our fervent prayers and wholehearted support for your continued success,” he said. Romualdez is a maternal cousin of the President.

House Deputy Speaker Ralph Recto of Batangas and Reps. Fidel Nograles of Rizal, Mikee Romero of 1Pacman party-list, Salvador Pleyto Sr. of Bulacan and Arnolfo Teves Jr. of Negros Oriental also wished Marcos well.

“What I would wish the President on his birthday are what every Filipino like him would want in life – health, hope and happiness. At an age when people retire, he is just getting started in the toughest job he has saved for last,” Recto said.

“The presidency is hard labor that requires great health, sharp mind and a kind heart. May he have all of these so the greatness he dreams for the country, which is what the people want for themselves, would come true,” Recto added.

Nograles, chairman of the House committee on labor and employment, vowed to help Marcos with his advocacy in improving the working conditions of underpaid and overworked nurses, both in private and public sector.

“We in the legislative will look at how we can intervene to establish a better working environment for our nurses. We have to find out what we can do to avoid the impasse and avoid crippling our health care system because our nurses do not wish to work here,” he said.

“We will give him all the support that his administration needs by way of legislative agenda that he set out for his six-year term. We’re also looking forward to reducing poverty level by 2028,” Romero, chairman of the House committee on poverty alleviation, said.

Meanwhile, various militant groups protesting outside the Department of Agriculture (DA) office in Quezon City yesterday scored what they called thea lavish celebration of Marcos’ birthday.

“Marcos had the gall to party on his birthday while Filipinos suffer from hunger and poverty,” the Kilusang Mayo Uno said in a statement in Filipino.

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