



NEWS ROUNDUP

16 September 2022 [08:00 am]

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ABS CBN

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By: Timothy James Dimacali

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By: Kristel Limpot

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DOWN TO EARTH

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More than seven in 10 people expect climate change to have a severe effect in their regions over the next 10 years, according to a new survey conducted by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and market research firm Ipsos.

GMA NEWS

Marcos to speak about climate change, rule of law, food security at UN General Assembly

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

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MANILA BULLETIN

Solar rooftop seen as solution to PH power crisis

By: Myrna Velasco

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MIRAGE NEWS

Biodiversity loss and climate change, two mutually reinforcing crises

Changes in agriculture and our food system are crucial in combatting climate change and biodiversity loss. That is the topic of the third Mansholt lecture, to be delivered by Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation professor Liesje Mommer. Each year, Wageningen University & Research presents its views on European issues within the domain of food, agriculture and sustainability during the Mansholt lecture.

NBC NEWS

Patagonia founder gives away company, ensuring profits go to fight climate change

By: Evan Bush

The founder of the outdoor brand Patagonia has relinquished his ownership in the business and directed its profits to fight climate change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

New app to boost LGUs' disaster rehab, recovery efforts

By: Priam Nepomuceno

Manila – The newly launched PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild web application of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) will allow local government units (LGUs) hit by calamities to immediately generate rehabilitation and recovery plans (RRPs).

RAPPLER

[Opinion] Global warming, climate change, and implications for the Philippines

By: Kelvin Rodolfo

The fossil fuel industry, more than a century and a half older than the nuclear industry and its self-serving propaganda, has had much more time to praise itself and defend its terrible environmental record. No other group has done more to spread confusion about CO2-induced global warming.

SUNSTAR

Negros Occidental inks MOA with environment, green tech scholars

Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with 25 grantees of Diploma in Environment and Green Technology Education (Degte) Scholarship Program.

THE MANILA TIMES

'Private sector partner in economic recovery'

By: Eireene Jairee Gomez

Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual on Thursday recognized the importance of working closely with the private sector in sustaining economic growth.

UNITED NATIONS NEWS

UN expert calls for international fund to help recovery of climate change-affected States

Dhaka/Geneva (15 September 2022) – Bangladesh should not have to carry the burden of climate change alone, a UN expert said today, calling for an international fund to help the South Asian country to recover from the impacts of extreme weather events.

ABS CBN

'We need to act now': IRRI joins UN Global Compact to improve energy self-sufficiency

By: Timothy James Dimacali

Manila - In an effort to simultaneously address both climate change food security, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has signed on to the UN Global Pact (UNGC), the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative.

With over 15,000 members in 164 countries, the UNGC works towards implementing environmentally-responsible operations in pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

At the official signing ceremony held at the IRRI headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna, on September 13, IRRI Director-General Dr. Jean Balié underscored the burden of responsibility that businesses and corporations have in addressing climate change. He said that unprecedented droughts and floods have already devastated the world's food systems, exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Business as usual' not an option

"We cannot have a business as usual approach... We need to act now," Balié warned. "We must be part of the solution. As we advocate for sustainability in our research, our institute is also prepared to practice what we preach and lead by example."

Since its founding in 1960, IRRI has been the undisputed global leader in the study, preservation, and development of rice varieties. IRRI's International Rice Genebank alone is the largest of its kind in the world, housing over 132,000 unique specimens from all 132 rice-producing countries — including cultivated species of modern rice, traditional varieties, and wild species. The immense costs of upkeep and maintenance of the Genebank's refrigeration units is something that IRRI looks forward to offsetting with help from the UNGC.

Currently, some 12% of all of IRRI's energy needs are met by solar power. However, Balié said that the Institute is looking forward to ramping up its solar energy production even as it looks to other green technologies to further minimize the carbon footprint of its operations.

International public-private cooperation

The UNGC was represented by its local counterpart, Global Compact Network (GCN) Philippines' vice chairperson, Ma. Luz Javier. On behalf of the global organization, she welcomed IRRI's entry into the fold in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic that led to extreme disruptions in business value chains.

Javier stressed the value of public-private partnerships in nation building. “The business and private sectors, including research institutions, are the strong engines for nation building and global trade. These sectors are the main partners of governments to build economies, bring jobs, create opportunities for countries to thrive, and continuously develop,” she said.

“The UNGC can be a platform for corporate citizens to move forward in sustainability and learn from each other as we navigate essential challenges of methodologies, best practices, and innovative solutions,” Balié added. “For IRRI, our participation is a key step in the Institute’s mission and our shared goals vis-à-vis our stakeholders,” he concluded.

CNN PHILIPPINES

What we know so far: Marcos' upcoming trip to US for UN General Assembly

By: Kristel Limpot

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 15) — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. will leave for New York on Sunday, Sept. 18, for the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the first to be held completely in-person since the COVID-19 pandemic.

This marks Marcos’ first engagement with the United Nations and his third official overseas trip following his state visits to Indonesia and Singapore earlier this month.

Besides the speech he will deliver at the UNGA, Marcos is expected to meet with other world leaders. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said he will also engage in business meetings to discuss ways to boost Philippine economic recovery from the pandemic.

Marcos will stay in New York for nearly a week, with his return flight scheduled on Sept. 24.

What the President’s UNGA speech will cover

Marcos will address the UNGA — the UN’s main policy-making organ — on Sept. 20 during the High-Level General Debate at around 3:15 or 3:30 p.m. in New York (or 3:15 or 3:30 a.m. Philippine time), the DFA said.

“The President’s primary objective and, in fact, his main policy in his governance in this administration is economic recovery,” Press Secretary Trixie Cruz Angeles said in a media briefing.

“So, we’re going to expect that his speech will be relating to how the Philippines will be recovering from this pandemic and where he intends to take this, and how he will do so in cooperation with other states,” she added.

Marcos will likewise outline his administration’s other priorities, including climate change, the rule of law, and food and security, as well as identify ways in which the Philippines can help address global “interlocking challenges,” said Assistant Secretary for the Office of the United Nations and International Organizations Kira Azucena.

But will the President also raise the Philippines’ arbitral win against China over the West Philippine Sea?

There was no definite answer from the DFA, but Azucena said there is a “very strong” section on the rule of law and the role of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in the draft statement which the department prepared for Marcos. She noted, however, that this will still be vetted by the Office of the President.

Former President Rodrigo Duterte raised the country's legal victory during his last two virtual addresses at the UNGA in 2020 and 2021.

Meetings with other leaders

About 152 other heads of state will participate in the High-Level General Debate, the DFA said.

According to Azucena, Marcos is already confirmed to hold talks with some leaders, including key UN officials. However, she said the DFA is "not inclined to disclose at this point" who these officials are.

"Given that we're dealing with heads of state here, sometimes, the final schedules and even whether the meeting will take place in the first place are pinned down very close to the date already," she said. "Things tend to be very fluid."

The Philippine and the United States governments are still discussing a possible meeting between Marcos and President Joe Biden, said DFA Assistant Secretary Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga.

Economic briefing, other engagements

Aside from the UNGA address, the DFA said the "other most important speech" that Marcos will deliver in New York will be at the Philippine Economic Briefing (PEB).

The briefing is likely to attract institutional investors, senior corporate executives, business analysts, academics, think tanks, and entrepreneurs.

"He gave unequivocal instructions that his meetings, whether with fellow world leaders, or with US corporations, should focus on finding necessary partnerships or synergies that will benefit the Philippine economy and the Filipino people," Gonzaga told reporters.

As such, the DFA official noted there will be around a 20- to 30-member business delegation, composed of senior Philippine corporate executives, who will accompany Marcos in New York. Heads of some government agencies will also be part of the Philippine delegation.

Marcos' keynote address at the PEB will focus on how to expand Philippine-US trade and investment relations, Gonzaga said.

On top of this, the DFA said Marcos will participate in CEO roundtables on targeted sectors and hold one-on-one business meetings with US firms that can help with the recovery of the Philippine economy, as well as in achieving food and energy security.

He is also expected to meet with the US Chamber of Commerce, the US-ASEAN Business Council, and the US-Philippines Society.

Meanwhile, Marcos may also meet with the Filipino community in New York “when the opportunity arises,” according to the press secretary.

DOWN TO EARTH

Climate change will hit us hard: 7 in 10 people express fear in WEF survey

More than seven in 10 people expect climate change to have a severe effect in their regions over the next 10 years, according to a new survey conducted by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and market research firm Ipsos.

More than half of all adults surveyed (56 per cent) said climate change had already had a severe effect in the areas where they lived. One-third (35 per cent) expected to be displaced from their homes due to climate change by 2047, according to a statement released by the WEF September 15, 2022.

The survey was conducted among 23,507 adults across 34 countries between July 22 and August 5, 2022.

In 10 countries, at least four in five of respondents expected “very severe” or “somewhat severe” impacts in the next decade. These countries were:

Portugal (88 per cent)
Mexico, Hungary (both 86 per cent)
Turkey, Chile (85 per cent)
South Korea, Spain (83 per cent)
Italy (81 per cent)
France and Romania (80 per cent)

The countries where expectations about severe climate effects in the next decade were lowest were Malaysia (52 per cent), China (55 per cent), Sweden (56 per cent), Thailand (57 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (60 per cent).

On average across all the countries surveyed, 71 per cent said they expected climate change to have a very or somewhat severe impact in their area over the next 10 years (30 per cent “very severe” and 41 per cent “somewhat severe”).

The proportion of respondents describing the effect of climate change in their areas as “very” or “somewhat” severe ranged from global lows of 25 per cent in Sweden and 38 per cent in Ireland, to highs of 75 per cent in Mexico and 74 per cent in both Hungary and Turkey, averaging 56 per cent globally.

Over half of respondents in 22 of these countries indicated that they had already been severely impacted by climate change. In nine of these countries — Mexico, Hungary, Turkey, Colombia, Spain, Italy, India, Chile and France — over two-thirds of respondents said they had already been affected.

On average across the 34 countries surveyed, just over one in three respondents (35 per cent) said it was likely that they or their families would be displaced from their

homes as a result of climate change in the next quarter of a century (of these, 10 per cent said “very likely” and 25 per cent “somewhat likely”).

The countries where climate change-induced displacement was seen as most likely were India (65 per cent) and Turkey (64 per cent). However, almost half of people surveyed in Malaysia (49 per cent), Brazil (49 per cent), Spain (46 per cent), and South Africa (45 per cent) also shared these concerns.

In contrast, fewer than one in four expected to be displaced from their homes in Sweden (17 per cent), Argentina (21 per cent), the Netherlands (21 per cent) and Poland (23 per cent).

The perceived likelihood of being displaced because of climate change decreased significantly with age. Globally, 43 per cent of those under 35 and 37 per cent of those aged 35-49 said it was likely they would need to move in the next 25 years because of climate change. However, only 25 per cent among those aged 50-74 shared these concerns.

GMA NEWS

[Marcos to speak about climate change, rule of law, food security at UN General Assembly](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is set to fly to the United States next week to participate in the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and speak before an economic briefing.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said Marcos will leave for New York on September 18.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Marcos is set to tackle food security, climate change and rule of law in his speech before the UN.

The President will deliver the Philippine national statement "at the high level general debate," said Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Kira Christianne Danganan-Azucena.

"He's speaking at approximately 3:15 in the afternoon of Day 1, that's Tuesday, September 20, 2022," Azucena said at a virtual presser.

"The theme of this year's general debate is 'A Watershed Moments: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges.' We can expect the President's statement to identify these challenges and solutions to address them, the role of the United Nations and how the Philippines intends to contribute to these efforts," she added.

"The President's statement will also articulate his administration's priorities which include climate change, the rule of law, and food security."

Azucena said more or less 152 heads of states and officials are expected to attend the general debate, in which Marcos is expected to meet some of them as well as other US officials.

She also said this trip is important as this marks Marcos' first engagement with the UN, which the Philippines considers as a significant multilateral organization.

Investments

Marcos' US trip also aims to bring investments for the country's economic recovery, according to Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Jose Victor Gonzaga.

"Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and with much uncertainty and disruption around us, the President is not sparing any effort to address the economic challenges facing the country today," said Gonzaga.

"The President has made it very clear from the initial discussions preparatory to this trip to New York that it will be more than his debut on the world stage. He gave unequivocal instructions that his meetings, whether with fellow world leaders, or with US corporations, should focus on finding necessary partnerships or synergies that will benefit the Philippine economy and the Filipino people," he added.

Gonzaga said Marcos is set to speak before an economic briefing that aims to harvest investments for the Philippines.

"As such, the other most important speech that the President will deliver in New York, aside from his UNGA address, will be at the Philippine Economic Briefing (PEB). The PEB is expected to attract institutional investors, senior corporate executives, business analysts, and even academic think tanks, and entrepreneurs," said Gonzaga.

"This briefing will be an opportunity to outline the key economic priorities of his administration with a special focus on how we can hopefully expand and strengthen Philippine-US trade and investment relations during his term."

Marcos is also expected to participate in roundtables with targeted sectors, some US companies, the US Chamber of Commerce, the US-ASEAN Business Council, and the US-Philippines Society.

"The President intends to meet with US companies that would be able to contribute to our efforts to achieve food security, energy security, and sustainable economic development, among others," said Gonzaga.

Cruz-Angeles, meanwhile, said Marcos would only visit the Filipino community in New York when "the opportunity arises."

South China Sea

When asked if the South China Sea issue would be raised by the President during the US visit, Azucena said the draft statement includes the rule of law and the role of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

She said Marcos' final speech would be vetted by the Office of the President.

"In the draft statement that we have prepared for the President, there is a very strong mention of the rule of law and the role of the UNCLOS but of course... the statements and speeches of the President are usually vetted by the Office of the President. Beyond that, I cannot offer further comment," Azucena said.

Marcos will leave Manila on September 18 and will be back on September 24

MANILA BULLETIN

Solar rooftop seen as solution to PH power crisis

By: Myrna Velasco

The installation of solar rooftops on homes as well as businesses is seen as a key solution to the recurring power crisis that has been tormenting the country's power grids, according to the Philippine Solar and Storage Energy Alliance (PSSEA).

The organization said commercial and industrial (C&I) users as well as Filipino homes can be spared from experiencing distressing rotational blackout if they would opt for solar rooftop as alternative source of their electricity services.

PSSEA emphasized "encouraging homes, offices and factories to install solar on their roof will accelerate the generation of more clean electricity."

With solar rooftop installation, these consumers generating their own power supply – or the so-called 'prosumers' can depend on their generated electricity when the sun shines; while on periods when the skies are overcast or at night time, they can draw electricity service from the grid.

If there is battery storage supporting their solar rooftop facilities, the consumers would be able to gain further leverage because they can tap into that stored electricity at sundown or even during rainy days.

Solar rooftop installations could shave off power demand in the grid – especially during the peak demand-months of summer because that is when solar generation would also be optimized. On that premise then, the available supply in the grid can be re-channelled to other users; because the 'pro-sumers' can already provide for their own power needs.

As illustrated by PSSEA, "if government targets solar rooftop in 5.0-percent of households, a potential of 673 megawatts can come online within 12 months. This will provide relief to the grid and is certainly an immediate solution compared to the development of utility scale solar which takes three (3) years to deploy."

The group, in particular, has unveiled its four-point policy agenda to accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar – and such include: the removal of the 100-kilowatt cap for net-metering; simplified application of incentives; standardized protocol for LGU permit issuance; and access to financing."

It qualified that "the continuous decline in the cost of solar panels shortens the payback period of rooftop solar to four (4) years."

PSSEA added "no other financial instruments promise such returns considering the savings to be generated for the remaining 20-year life of the solar panel after payback."

MIRAGE NEWS

Biodiversity loss and climate change, two mutually reinforcing crises

Changes in agriculture and our food system are crucial in combatting climate change and biodiversity loss. That is the topic of the third Mansholt lecture, to be delivered by Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation professor Liesje Mommer. Each year, Wageningen University & Research presents its views on European issues within the domain of food, agriculture and sustainability during the Mansholt lecture.

Ecosystems with low biodiversity are less resilient and ill-equipped to mitigate the effects of climate change. At the same time, climate change is the key cause of biodiversity loss. This makes biodiversity loss and climate change two mutually reinforcing crises. When the effect of climate change worsens, biodiversity loss increases; when biodiversity loss occurs, ecosystems are less able to adequately regulate the impact of climate change.

These interlinked crises result mainly from the way in which humans produce food: the food system. At the same time, our food system will be one of the key victims of the exacerbated effects of climate change, such as floods, drought, heat, plagues and diseases. The food system thus has considerable influence on changes in life on our planet. Hence, in her lecture this year, Liesje Mommer calls for the reintroduction of biodiversity in our food system for a more sustainable, healthier and more resilient planet.

Liesje Mommer stands up for biodiversity

Liesje Mommer is a Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation professor at Wageningen University & Research (WUR). She developed a molecular method to identify plant roots and study their interaction. More diverse plant communities repeatedly proved to store water and carbon better and to be more resilient against disease. In other words: more diverse plant communities are better equipped to regulate the effects of climate change. This knowledge, and the news that one million species across the globe are threatened with extinction, motivated Mommer to speak up: scientists must collaborate even more to combat biodiversity loss.

The Mansholt lecture focuses on how the food system can be shaped to contribute to a sustainable and healthy planet. WUR presents its views and recommendations for the roles of agriculture and the food system in mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss. What changes are needed, and how can we ensure that the transition to new systems is sustainable, fair and equitable?

NBC NEWS

[Patagonia founder gives away company, ensuring profits go to fight climate change](#)

By: Evan Bush

The founder of the outdoor brand Patagonia has relinquished his ownership in the business and directed its profits to fight climate change.

Yvon Chouinard, who became famous for alpine climbs in Yosemite National Park and then as a manufacturer of outdoor gear, has transferred his family's ownership of Patagonia to two new entities, one of them a nonprofit organization that will use the businesses' annual profits to fight climate change, the company said in a news release Wednesday.

"Instead of extracting value from nature and transforming it into wealth, we are using the wealth Patagonia creates to protect the source. We're making Earth our only shareholder," Chouinard, 83, said in the statement.

In a letter to customers, Chouinard said Patagonia is now owned by a trust that will determine the company's direction and a new nonprofit group called the Holdfast Collective, which is dedicated to protecting nature and other environmental causes.

The company's leadership has not changed.

"While we're doing our best to address the environmental crisis, it's not enough," Chouinard wrote. "... Each year the money we make after reinvesting in the business will be distributed as a dividend to help fight the crisis."

The company expects to contribute roughly \$100 million to the Holdfast Collective through an annual dividend depending on the businesses' success.

In a question-and-answer section appended to Chouinard's letter, the company said Patagonia continues to be a for-profit business as a certified B Corp, a designation for companies that consider factors such as social and environmental impacts of their businesses.

It also said that the Chouinard family will continue to "guide the Patagonia Purpose Trust, electing and overseeing its leadership" and sit on Patagonia's board. The company "will keep doing its best to be a great employer."

Denis Hayes, who coordinated the first Earth Day and later became the CEO of the environmentally focused Bullitt Foundation in Seattle, said Chouinard has long been a strident environmentalist willing to make bold moves and challenge convention. The Patagonia brand, Hayes noted, charges a premium, in part, because of the values it represents.

"Apparently, they're putting it into the structure that will institutionalize that beyond his lifetime," said Hayes, whose foundation operates a for-profit building it claims is the greenest in the world.

Hayes said businesses in manufacturing or extractive industries in a capitalist economy that requires growth ultimately run into conflicts with environmental and climate values.

"The concept of putting this together in a new structure and being experimental and bold is exactly the kind of innovation we need to be trying," Hayes said.

Chouinard started selling climbing equipment such as pitons in 1957, usually out of his car.

Later, Chouinard became an advocate of so-called "clean climbing," in which protective gear is placed and removed in rock walls so it does not cause damage from hammering pitons.

He holds several patents, including one for aluminum climbing chocks designed to cause less destruction of rock.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

New app to boost LGUs' disaster rehab, recovery efforts

By: Priam Nepomuceno

Manila – The newly launched PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild web application of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) will allow local government units (LGUs) hit by calamities to immediately generate rehabilitation and recovery plans (RRPs).

"This app, which will systematically generate RRPs using science-based information and pro-forma templates, will significantly help LGUs plan for quick and resilient recovery," OCD Administrator, Undersecretary Raymundo Ferrer, said in a statement Wednesday night.

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 LGUs, to plan for disasters more efficiently and to build back better faster.

"We welcome the development of the PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild app and its support capacity building program as tools for our LGUs that are at the forefront of mitigating and managing disaster risks," said Ferrer, who is also National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), NDRRMC, and OCD in partnership with the World Bank launched the app on Wednesday.

"Through PlanSmart, it is my vision that we will have a geospatially-enabled Philippines where we evaluate data, time and location together for better analysis and decision-making," said DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr.

The app speeds up the development of RRPs and supports evidence-based decision-making and planning for pre- and post-disaster events.

It is an offshoot of the GeoRiskPH Integrated Platform developed by DOST and the Ready to Rebuild (R2R) Program led by OCD, enables LGUs to autogenerate an RRP through the use of a pro-forma document template.

"The World Bank as well as the Global Facility for Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery (GFDRR) staunchly support this effort led by our national government partners. We are also pleased to know that the PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild app is just the first of a series of planning tools that are being developed under the PlanSmart platform. This is as an opportunity to continue highlighting the importance of access to risk information to support comprehensive hazard and risk assessments and data sharing among national government agencies, LGUs, and the public for science-based planning and

investments programming," said Ndiamé Diop, World Bank Country Director for the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei.

The PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild launch also heralds the rollout of capacity-building activities to enable LGUs, particularly data managers, DRRM officers, planning officers, and other staff involved in disaster rehabilitation and recovery programs, to use the app for the creation of their local RRP.

"I am encouraging our LGUs to maximize the use of this PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild app in every aspect of their respective disaster risk management – recovery and rehabilitation, preparedness, response, and prevention processes, mechanisms, and strategies. For us to be able to effectively and efficiently utilize the PlanSmart Ready to Rebuild application, I am also encouraging our LGUs to populate the baseline data in the GeoRiskPH Integrated Platform to enrich the database of the platform," DILG Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr. added.

For its pilot run, the training program intends to equip more than 400 participants from 137 LGUs in the National Capital Region, Calabarzon, Bicol, Central Visayas, and Caraga.

LGU participants in the pilot run will include R2R Program graduates, those with existing GeoRiskPH Memorandum of Agreements with DOST-Phivolcs, and those located in areas that were identified by the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction as vulnerable to impacts of climate change and disasters.

RAPPLER

[**\[Opinion\] Global warming, climate change, and implications for the Philippines**](#)

By: Kelvin Rodolfo

Early history

The fossil fuel industry, more than a century and a half older than the nuclear industry and its self-serving propaganda, has had much more time to praise itself and defend its terrible environmental record. No other group has done more to spread confusion about CO₂-induced global warming.

Let's begin with the long and respectable history of how scientists came to recognize how CO₂ is causing climate change.

Science transcends nationality; appropriately in this case because global warming threatens everyone.

Arrhenius was not alarmed, and Callendar first saw only benefits: CO₂ encourages plant growth, extends the cultivation zone poleward, and "...the return of the deadly glaciers should be delayed indefinitely." He ended his report, almost offhandedly: "...the reserves of fuel...would be sufficient to give at least 10 times as much carbon dioxide as there is in the air at present."

Callendar's research until 1961 was largely why the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii was established in 1958 to measure atmospheric CO₂.

Keeling and his curve

As a post-doctoral chemist at Cal Tech in California, Charles David Keeling was increasingly drawn to the environment and geology. He developed precise instrumentation to measure atmospheric CO₂, and documented how CO₂ in forest air falls during the day while trees and plants photosynthesize, and rises back up while they rest at night.

Since 1958, Keeling's lab has continuously monitored atmospheric CO₂ at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii, far from the continents, unvegetated, and more than four kilometers or two miles above sea level, far above any localized CO₂ source.

Like the daily fall and rise in forest-air CO₂, Earth's global atmosphere follows yearly CO₂ cycles. During the Northern Hemisphere spring and summer, photosynthesis reduces the CO₂, which rises back up during the reduced sunlight of autumn and winter. Hence, the saw-toothed Keeling Curve.

But each annual cycle increases the average. From 1958 to 2018, CO₂ contents increased 1.56 ppmv annually, but increased by about 2.33 in 2022.

To really understand the problem, view it and our place in geologic history and geologic time.

Geologic time

Imagine a movie of Earth's history compressed into 24 hours:

The first quarter of the film is all geology, no biology: volcanism; continents forming; plate tectonics beginning; atmosphere and oceans accumulating. Only after six hours do Archaea, the first living beings, appear around the vents of submarine volcanoes.

Little change happens during the next 14 hours; very slowly-evolving prokaryotes maintain a comfortable global temperature by taking CO₂ out of the ocean and atmosphere to make their tissues, also their calcium-carbonate shells that accumulate as limestones.

More than 20 hours into the movie shellfish appear; the evolutionary explosion of complex forms has begun. Some biological tissues are buried in ocean sediments and become oil and gas.

After another hour the first land plants start extracting CO₂ to make their tissues, some of which are buried as coal and methane. Feeding on the lush vegetation and each other, amphibians and reptiles evolve and flourish.

More than 23 and a half hours into the film the Chixulub asteroid kills most global life, including the dinosaurs. But life and the global environment recover.

Close to the end of the film, humanity and civilization happen, timed in seconds and fractions of seconds. In the last three hundredths of a second, the Industrial Revolution begins to undo the balanced climate moderated by global life's carbon dioxide use and recycling. The human damage to the climate, environment and global life is well on its way to exceed that done by the Chixulub asteroid.

The photosynthesis-respiration cycle

Over the eons, global life learned to recycle the materials every living thing needs. Plants and oceanic life photosynthesize: use sunlight to combine carbon dioxide, water, and a few other elements into carbohydrates like sugars, fats and proteins. Carbohydrate simply means carbon "hydrated," combined with water.

Respiration reverses the process: fungi and animals including us extract chemical energy in carbohydrates by burning them with oxygen, and respiring – "breathing out" – water and carbon dioxide as waste, completing the cycle.

Small amounts of organic stuffs, taken out of the photosynthesis-respiration cycle by being buried in soils and sediments, mature over millions of years into oil, methane, and coal.

Those fuels can't remain locked in the rocks forever. Over geologic time they can be buried deeper than 4.6 kilometers, where Earth's internal heat destroys them; or slow tectonic movements eventually raise the rocks into mountains, and erosion releases them to decompose.

But over the last several hundred million years, a rough balance between storage and destruction left about two trillion barrels of petroleum ("rock oil") and similar amounts of coal and methane taken out of the atmosphere and ocean and stored in the rocks. Estimates of how fast oil accumulates range from 4,600 to 12,000, averaging about 8,000 barrels a year – so slowly compared to how fast it is used that it must be considered a non-renewable resource.

The Industrial Revolution began undoing all those hundreds of millions of years of Life's work by burning coal. Then, after the first successful oil well was drilled in Pennsylvania in 1859, the burning of oil accelerated rapidly. Some time in the next decade, humanity will have used up the first of the two trillion barrels stored in the Earth. During 2021 alone, even though COVID slowed its use, it was about 35.5 billion barrels.

In that one year, humanity took out of the ground, burned, and returned to the atmosphere what Earth's life had slowly taken out of it and stored as oil in the rocks for half a million years. We also burned 7.4 billion tons of coal and 4 trillion cubic meters of natural gas. How can the climate not be greatly disturbed?

Some Philippine implications

The average American is the worst climate change offender, using almost two barrels of oil and more than 12 megawatt-hours of electricity a year. Average Filipinos, far more frugal, use only a third as much oil and a tenth as much electricity. Our people join the Marshallese (Foray 34) as among the most blameless in causing climate change, but among the worst affected by sea-level rise.

Increasingly, the ocean surface waters are absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide and being acidified, seriously affecting Philippine coral reefs, a major source of fish. The fastest-growing third of the Philippine population living on the coastal plains worsen storm and tidal flooding from the rising seas by using so much well water that their plains are subsiding 10 or more times faster than sea level is rising.

The Pacific climate is shifting from more La Niñas to more El Niños, when fewer West Pacific typhoons form, but closer to the equator, so more are crossing the Philippines. All typhoons are getting fewer, but the stronger ones are becoming more frequent. Rainfall within 100 kilometers of typhoons is increasing because global warming is weakening the winds that carry them along, slowing them down so they have more time to soak up water vapor along their oceanic paths, and to deliver rain when they reach land.

Our next Foray is the first of two that explore renewable energy sources for the Philippines as the climate crisis worsens.

SUNSTAR

Negros Occidental inks MOA with environment, green tech scholars

Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with 25 grantees of Diploma in Environment and Green Technology Education (Degte) Scholarship Program.

The grantees are employees from the Provincial Environment Management Office (Pemo) and from other local government units (LGUs) in the province.

The signing was held at the Provincial Capitol Building in Bacolod City Monday, September 12, attended by Negros Occidental Scholarship Program Head Karen Dinsay and Pemo Head Atty. Julie Ann Bedrio, who is also one of the scholarship grantees.

Lacson said that the scholarship is a big step towards the provincial government's goal of promoting environmental education and making it accessible to government employees who are environment practitioners.

Degte is a one-year cycle scholarship with a total of 28 units divided into three terms.

The schedule of classes will be every Saturday and Sunday only, and the modes of instructional delivery will be fully online and it will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous sessions.

It is designed to respond to the needs of professionals and practitioners for continuing professional development in Environment and Green Technology Education aimed at developing their knowledge and skills, values and attitudes towards environmental protection, conservation, and sustainability.

The governor had earlier signed a MOA with Philippine Normal University for the said scholarship program.

THE MANILA TIMES

'Private sector partner in economic recovery'

By: Eireene Jairee Gomez

Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual on Thursday recognized the importance of working closely with the private sector in sustaining economic growth.

Speaking at the 54th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Economic Ministers' Meeting-Business Advisory Council Consultation (Asean-BAC), Pascual said the Philippines welcomes the efforts of the private sector in supporting economic growth and development in the region.

Such efforts include the private sector's role in supporting the region's response against the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, as well as the call for investments in renewable energy.

"The Philippines recognizes the importance of working closely with the private sector and having regular engagements, such as our dialogue mechanism today, especially as we work toward economic growth and recovery amid the challenges encountered during the pandemic and disruptions to the supply chain," he said.

Pascual welcomed the efforts of the Asean-BAC to spearhead a number of projects and initiatives on digitalization in the Philippines. In particular, he expressed gratitude to Asean-BAC's Smart Growth Connect Project that seeks to pilot smart growth centers designed to efficiently distribute goods and services through integrated, advanced supply chain nerve center operations.

In April 2022, a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Trade and Industry and YCH Group was signed to facilitate the conduct of a feasibility study to develop smart logistics infrastructure in Batangas.

Launched in April 2003, Asean-BAC was set up with the mandate to provide private sector feedback and guidance to boost Asean's efforts toward economic integration. Aside from providing private sector feedback on the implementation of Asean economic cooperation, the council also identifies priority areas for consideration of the Asean leaders.

Asean-BAC's activities are primarily focused on reviewing and identifying issues to facilitate and promote economic cooperation and integration. It holds regular meetings across Asean countries and engages in various Asean level forums to meet with government and private sector representatives so that all stakeholders concerned have the full understanding, acceptance and ownership of the Asean integration process.

UNITED NATIONS NEWS

UN expert calls for international fund to help recovery of climate change-affected States

Dhaka/Geneva (15 September 2022) – Bangladesh should not have to carry the burden of climate change alone, a UN expert said today, calling for an international fund to help the South Asian country to recover from the impacts of extreme weather events.

“I have visited some of the most adversely affected regions of Bangladesh and it is clear to me that the burden of climate change should not be carried by Bangladesh alone,” said Ian Fry, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. “For too long, major emitting countries have denied their responsibility for the suffering they are causing. This must end.”

“The major greenhouse emitting countries have a clear obligation under international law to provide funding to help highly vulnerable countries like Bangladesh to recover from the impacts of climate change,” Fry said.

In a statement at the end of his 10-day visit to Bangladesh to study the impact of climate change in the South Asian nation, Fry said the international community must immediately establish a loss and damage fund to finance the recovery of climate change-affected States.

Fry said women carried an enormous burden of climate change impacts, walking long distances to fetch fresh water, which put them at risk of sexual harassment and kept them from childcare and farming. According to the Special Rapporteur, women lost livestock, crops and stored seeds in the flash floods of Sylhet, in northeast Bangladesh, and it would take the community at least two years to fully recover.

During his visit, the UN expert held meetings online with indigenous peoples who expressed grave concerns about their future, as the logging of their land was destroying traditional livelihoods and making it harder to find freshwater, food and medicine. The logging was a violation of the Bangladesh government’s own programme to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), the Special Rapporteur said. The government refuses to recognise that these communities are indigenous, and their plight was therefore being ignored, he said.

“The issue of climate change displacement was deeply disturbing for me. Millions of people suffering from hardship caused by climate change are migrating to cities to seek other opportunities,” the expert said. “Inevitably these people end up in the slum areas of the major cities, where their basic rights are being denied,” he said.

The Special Rapporteur said he had received reports that the situation of children in urban slums was particularly dire. “They suffer high rates of malnourishment, school drop-out, child marriage, child labour and abuse,” he said.

Fry said he also met with climate change activists who claimed they were being persecuted by the government for protesting against new coal-fired power plants.

"The government appears to be using the Digital Protection Act to suppress the voice of climate activists. This is a gross overreaction. People have the right to express their views without being referred to as 'terrorists', the UN expert said.

Fry will present a report to the UN General Assembly in 2022, focused on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change mitigation, loss, damage and participation – an issue he said was brought sharply into focus during his visit to Bangladesh.

A full report on his visit to Bangladesh will be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2023.

Note to Editors:

During his two-week country visit, Fry met with representatives of the central and district government, international funders, international organizations, community councils and members of civil society organisations and spoke to individuals living in rural areas. He visited Dhaka, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Khulna, and Satkhira.

Mr. Ian Fry is the first Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. He was appointed by the Human Rights Council at its 49th session in March 2022 and started his mandate on 1 May 2022. Mr. Fry is an international environmental law and policy expert. His focus has primarily focussed on mitigation policies and loss and damage associated the Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol and related instruments. He worked for the Tuvalu government for over 21 years and was appointed as their Ambassador for Climate Change and Environment 2015-2019.

The Special Rapporteurs are part of what is known as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures' experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.

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