



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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## **CNN**

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By: Jessie Yeung

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## **FINANCIAL TIMES**

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By: Jamie Smyth and Aime Williams

California has sued several of the world's biggest oil companies, including ExxonMobil, Shell and BP, claiming they deceived the public for decades about how the burning of fossil fuels is destroying the planet.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[Marcos to skip UNGA 78; DFA's Manalo to lead PH delegation](#)**

By: Sundy Locus

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will not attend the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) from September 18 to September 26 in New York City, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Friday.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[\[Opinion\] Enhanced defense cooperation vital to PH security, climate change resilience](#)**

In view of geopolitical realities that are in flux, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro emphasized the need for leveraging multilateral security cooperation upon his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments last week. He said: "The intensity of the need to focus on protecting our sovereignty and sovereign rights is paramount in the global race for resources and influence." He added that this would be achieved through "politics and diplomacy, backed by a strong backbone of a strategic defense posture."

## **NIKKEI ASIA**

### **[Japan's first biofuel-hydrogen tourist ship to set sail in 2024](#)**

By: Junya Hemmi

Japanese marine shipping company Mitsui O.S.K. Lines plans to put the country's first biofuel-hydrogen tourist vessel into service next year as part of an industrywide push to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Climate protesters send message to UN: End fossil fuel use](#)**

Thousands of protesters kicked off “Climate Week” and filled the streets of Midtown, Manhattan, on September 17 ahead of the United Nations General Assembly this week, calling for President Joe Biden and world leaders to end fossil fuel use.

## **REUTERS**

### **[Berlin's Brandenburg Gate spray-painted by climate activists](#)**

Climate activists sprayed orange and yellow paint on the columns of Berlin's landmark Brandenburg Gate on Sunday to push demands for a stop to the use of fossil fuels by 2030.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[BARMM, Australia and UNDP partner for a resilient future](#)**

The Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA) entered into a partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to support the formulation of the BARMM Spatial Development Framework (BSDF) 2024 to 2050 under the Australia-supported Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change (Shield) Program.

### **[Mental health consequences: the “often-unseen” impact of climate change](#)**

By: Ludwig Federigan

More than a year after the passage of Republic Act No. 11036, also known as the “Mental Health Act,” a global study showed that ninety-two (92%) percent of young Filipinos were frightened about their future and, at the same time, eighty-four (84%) percent were very to extremely worried about their future under climate change.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Climate panel backs moratorium on tech to dim Sun](#)**

By: Marlowe Hood

Former political leaders and heads of international organizations called Thursday for national moratoriums on deploying technologies to slow global warming by dimming the impact of the Sun.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **IBC**

### **[Plastic pollution, nagpapalala sa epekto ng climate change](#)**

Basura ang isa sa mga masidhing problema ng Pilipinas. Ang kawalan ng kaayusan sa maayos na disposal ng mga ito ay nangungunang dahilan kung bakit kahit ang mahinang pag-ulan ay agad na nakapagdudulot ng nakakaabala at madalas mapaminsalang pagbaha at ang pinakamadalas na sanhi ng sakit sa ulo n ito walang iba kung hindi mga plastic na basura.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## AL JAZEERA

### Climate change displacement: 'One of the defining challenges'

By: Edna Mohamed

Climate-induced catastrophes have devastating global effects, from intense heatwaves to heavy rainfall.

In 2023, record-breaking heatwaves hit much of continental Europe and resulted in wildfires and flash floods that took lives.

In China, typhoons have forced school closures and evacuations. Meanwhile, in South Asia, rising temperatures and longer monsoon seasons are increasing cases of mosquito-borne dengue fever.

Last week, the United Nations published a new report on climate change and found that countries agreeing to fight global warming by signing the Paris accord had only made limited progress.

The 2015 Paris Agreement is a legally binding treaty to limit the global temperature increase this century to “well below” 2 degrees Celsius. Experts have warned past that level, the problems arising from widespread flooding, droughts and heatwaves could become unmanageable.

As weather patterns continue to become more volatile, the prospect of climate-induced migration is increasingly becoming a core issue.

According to the UN, extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall and droughts, have already caused “an average of more than 20 million people to leave their homes and move to other areas in their countries each year”.

Here’s everything you need to know about climate-induced migration:

How much of an issue is climate displacement?

Climate-induced migration is a movement pattern caused by the effects of climate-related disasters, including droughts leading to a food and farming crisis.

Ezekiel Simperingham, global lead on migration and displacement for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), told Al Jazeera: “Climate-related migration and displacement is becoming one of the defining challenges that we

are seeing as a humanitarian network. We're not just seeing it in one region ... we're seeing it across different regions. We're seeing it manifest in very different ways."

According to Climate Refugees, an organisation documenting the growing threat of climate displacement, climate change can exist as a "threat multiplier".

"Exacerbating existing risks and creating new ones like food and water insecurity and competition over resources, which contributes to conflict and compound displacement," it said.

For those who fled conflict and seek refuge in a new country, climate change will direly affect an already displaced population.

Eujin Byun, a spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told Al Jazeera western and central Africa, which suffer from frequent flooding, are also dealing with continuing conflict.

"So its not just one factor pushing this vulnerable displaced population, but it's also that very complex dynamic that they have to keep moving around," Byun said.

Climate-induced displacement vs 'climate refugees'

While many climate-displaced peoples are also fleeing conflict, climate organisations are wary of referring to them as climate refugees and find the phrase limiting.

In international refugee law, the term "climate refugee" does not exist, and that type of migration does not qualify for protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Under the UN convention, a refugee is defined as a person who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to ... return to it".

## ARAB NEWS

### Climate change: sifting facts from fiction

By: Mohammad Al-Sabban

As the COP28 meeting to be held in Dubai is just around the corner, the criticism of oil and gas producers from certain Western circles — officials and organizations, has intensified.

Truth be told, such concerted campaigns against oil and gas producers are nothing new. With the help of some supporters in the international media, these elements circulate half-baked theories to support their claims just to discredit the other party or blame them for the issues at hand. This time around they are using “this year being the hottest” in human history to blame hydrocarbon producers for the situation. Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries are the prime target of their criticism.

However, it seems these critics deliberately choose to overlook facts such as there are far worse pollutants on Earth that have contributed to a rise in the planet’s temperature. They tend to forget that the industrialized nations in the West have been emitting greenhouse gases for the last 200 years long before others and that countries like the US, the UK, and Germany continue to subsidize coalmining, which is the second largest source of pollution after greenhouse gases. Anybody can verify the veracity of these claims.

I would like to present some more facts and figures to prove my point. Last year, the Netherlands and the UK issued licenses to companies to explore oil, which means they expect oil and gas to continue to be their main source of energy at least in the foreseeable future.

The fact that the US-Russian fight over who would extend energy lines from the East to Europe via the Mediterranean, via their allies in the region, also indicates that oil and gas will also be part of the West’s long-term future plans.

Europe and the rest of the world continue to rely heavily on oil and gas to date, and the fact that any transition from that would take a long time, means, at least from my own perspective I believe that the reliance on oil and gas will continue to prevail for the next 100 years.

I find it interesting that Western officials fly to COP meetings in private jets fueled by hydrocarbon sources and have the audacity to talk about the end of the oil era.

I would also like to raise a question here. Will any of the coalmining and oil-producing Western countries dare cut off their subsidies for coal? The answer is — no. I know that for a fact because one German minister told me so when I asked him that question long ago when I represented Saudi Arabia as a chief negotiator at COP meetings. According to him, thousands of families rely on that sector. So today I pose this question to them: Will oil conglomerates in the West allow their own states to shut them down as first measure before they preach to other countries?

The world needs to diversify its energy sources, I do agree. Climate change is a natural phenomenon that has been happening since the beginning of Earth, and human action cannot stop it, but it does add to it. No one denies that. However, all those wars waged by the West, with nuclear bombs tested in oceans and on land, the continued subsidizing of the coalmining and cattle raising industries, and deforestation, all of those are far more polluting than oil or gas.

The year 2030 is not the beginning of the end for oil, but it ushers in a new phase where states should act responsibly in terms of their consumption.

Saudi Arabia and other GCC states, who are energy producers, on the other hand, are working diligently based on well-planned agendas toward a greener future, with Saudi Arabia announcing its net-zero carbon plan not so long ago.

I would not go much beyond that — you can read about it in my newly published book “The Blame Game: Industrial States Vs. Oil, which speaks of the agenda-driven fight over climate change.

Mohammad Al-Sabban is a former senior adviser to the Saudi energy minister, and also served as head of the Saudi delegation to the UNFCCC for 30 years.

Byun explained that referring to a person as a climate refugee limits the complex situation because the term would mean that a person fled strictly because of a climate event and not from other issues affecting the country.

“I think part of the reason why people are grappling with the terminology, and I think part of the reason why we try and have a more expansive approach is because we’re also seeing that people are moving in very different ways because of climate change,” Simperingham added.

Sanjula Weerasinghe, coordinator of migration and displacement at the IFRC, also told Al Jazeera that only some people are moving in the same way that refugees do, and more often than not they’re making decisions based on various factors.



“Some of it will be related to climate, but some of it may be related to the governance around where they live. Some of it relates to their livelihoods, which may be impacted by climate, but preexisting conditions and how they were able to or unable to earn an income,” Weerasinghe said.

“To just highlight the climate as the key reason why is not entirely accurate.”

Where are people moving to?

According to the Migration Data Portal, in 2022 about 8.7 million people in “88 countries and territories were living in internal displacement as a result of disasters”.

The top five countries with the highest levels of internally displaced people (IDPs) were Pakistan, the Philippines, China, India and Nigeria because of weather-related issues such as floods and storms.

Byun said there are two displaced populations: those internally displaced and those who left for neighbouring countries.

“They [people affected by climate change] don’t really want to cross the Mediterranean because they still have their farm to keep, they still have property back in their country,” she said.

So narratives of a “flood of refugees” coming to the Global North are not the reality and are not helpful in understanding climate migration, Simperingham added.

What can be done?

As climate-induced migration becomes one of the defining humanitarian struggles worldwide, the UN has said the world must invest in preparedness to “prevent further climate-caused displacement”.

The UN has also created a Refugee Environmental Protection Fund to invest in reforestation and clean cooking programmes in climate-vulnerable areas.

Simperingham explained one of the opportunities related to climate migration is that efforts can start before people have moved to address their humanitarian needs.

“What I mean is better understanding the communities, the parts of the world that are at the highest risks of the impact of climate, especially where they are intersecting with other risks and vulnerabilities”, he said.

But, some argue there needs to be more discussion on solutions from the global community.

“What can be done to stop that same situation happening again? What are the options for people to move within their country and sustain their resilience and wellbeing? So that’s an area – and that’s an agenda that needs a lot of attention,” Weerasinghe said.

**CNN**

**Ten countries and territories saw severe flooding in just 12 days. Is this the future of climate change?**

By: Jessie Yeung

September started with a typhoon that ripped through Hong Kong, uprooting trees and flooding the city. It was the first of a slew of extreme weather events that have hit ten countries and territories in just 12 days – the most catastrophic being the floods in Libya, which have killed more than 11,000 people according to the UN and left many thousands missing.

Scientists warn that these types of extreme weather events, affecting countries all over the world, may become increasingly common as the climate crisis accelerates, putting pressure on governments to prepare.

“Global warming actually changes the properties of precipitation in terms of frequency, intensity and duration,” said Jung-Eun Chu, an atmospheric and climate scientist at the City University of Hong Kong – though she added that this summer’s devastation was due to a combination of different factors including natural climate fluctuations.

The huge toll of the floods also highlights the urgent need for governments to prepare for this new reality, and the ways conflict-ridden and poorer countries sit on the front lines of climate disasters.

Governments “have to be ready,” said Chu. “They have to start thinking about it, because they’ve never experienced these kinds of extreme events before.”

One of the worst storms in Europe

This month, swaths of the Mediterranean region have been lashed by Storm Daniel, the result of a very strong low-pressure system that became a “medicane” – a relatively rare type of storm with similar characteristics to hurricanes and typhoons which can bring dangerous rainfall and flooding.

The storm, which formed on September 5, affected Greece first, releasing more rain than is normally seen in an entire year. Streets turned into deadly rivers, submerging whole villages and forcing emergency workers on inflatable boats to rescue families from their flooded homes.

At least 15 people died, according to the Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who called it “one of the most powerful storms to ever hit Europe.”

The floods, which followed devastating wildfires in the country, “have the fingerprints of climate change,” Greek environment minister Theodoros Skylakakis told CNN on Tuesday.

“We have had the warmest summer on record. The sea was very warm, which led to this unique meteorological event,” he said.

Neighboring Turkey felt the impact too, recording at least seven deaths. Residents in wooded areas had to wade through knee-high water, surrounded by fallen trees – while parts of Istanbul, the country’s biggest city, saw deadly flash floods which killed at least two people.

Severe flooding also struck Bulgaria, north of Greece, with at least four deaths confirmed.

Elsewhere in Europe, a separate storm – Storm Dana – saw torrential rain across Spain, damaging homes and killing at least three people.

#### Devastation in Libya

By far the most devastating impact was felt in Libya, as Storm Daniel moved across the Mediterranean, gaining strength from the sea’s unusually warm waters, before dumping torrential rain on the northeast of the country.

The catastrophic rainfall caused the collapse of two dams, unleashing a 7-meter (23-foot) wave, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The water rushed toward the coastal city of Derna, wiping out entire neighborhoods and sweeping homes into the ocean.

More than 11,000 people are dead and at least another 10,000 still missing, according to the UN, with many believed to have been swept out to sea or buried beneath rubble.

As the nation reels, and as search and rescue operations grow desperate, experts say the scale of the disaster has been greatly magnified by a combination of factors including crumbling infrastructure, inadequate warnings and the impacts of the accelerating climate crisis.

“This is a tragedy in which climate and capacity has collided to cause this terrible, terrible tragedy,” said UN aid chief Martin Griffiths on Friday.

Libya has been wracked by a civil war and a political standoff for almost a decade, with the nation split between two rival administrations since 2014 – one of which isn't recognized by most of the international community, and which controls the region where Derna is located.

The North African country's fragmented state has made it unprepared for the flooding, experts say, and may hamper delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid.

"The situation in Libya has been steadily deteriorating due to years of conflict and instability, compounded by the impacts of climate change," said Ciaran Donnelly, senior vice president for crisis response, recovery and development at the International Rescue Committee.

"Globally, climate change has made these extreme weather events more frequent and intense, making it even harder for communities to cope and rebuild, especially in conflict-affected regions," he added.

#### Asia's dueling typhoons

While the scale of devastation and loss of human life was smaller in Asia, it has also reckoned with deadly and unprecedented storms.

Two typhoons – Saola and Haikui – passed through the region within days of each other during the first week of September, causing widespread damage in the self-governing island of Taiwan, the city Hong Kong and other parts of southern China including Shenzhen.

Though Typhoon Saola shut down Hong Kong schools and businesses for two days, the real damage came a week later when the city was lashed by a sudden storm, with flash flooding submerging metro stations and trapping drivers on roads.

The storm brought the highest hourly rainfall since records began in 1884, according to Hong Kong authorities.

In Taiwan, Typhoon Haikui left tens of thousands of homes without power, and more than 7,000 residents were evacuated.

The dual typhoons were an "exceptional case" that created the conditions for an unusually severe storm the following week, said Chu. The typhoons brought two slow-moving air masses, both heavy with moisture and traveling in different directions – which collided and dumped that water over Hong Kong

“If there were only one typhoon, it would not make this kind of severe precipitation,” she said. She added that while the event isn’t explicitly linked to climate change – the converging typhoons happened “by chance” – human-caused global warming is helping fuel stronger storms.

“If the climate warms, if the (ocean) surface becomes warmer, the atmosphere can hold more moisture,” she said. “If temperatures increase by one degree (Celsius), the atmosphere can hold 7% more moisture.”

She pointed to the history of hourly rainfall records in Hong Kong. In the past, there used to be decades between record-breaking rainfall events, Chu said, but gaps between records are narrowing rapidly. As our world warms, extreme weather that used to happen once in a lifetime are becoming more frequent occurrences.

### Heavy rain in the Americas

Parts of the Americas have been inundated too. Brazil recorded more than 30 deaths last week after heavy rains and floods in the state of Rio Grande do Sul – the worst natural disaster to hit the state in 40 years, according to CNN’s regional affiliate CNN Brasil.

Brazilian meteorologist Maria Clara Sasaki told CNN Brasil that within a week, the state had received the average amount of rainfall expected for the entire month of September.

Meanwhile in the United States, the Burning Man festival made international headlines after a heavy rainstorm pummeled the area, with tens of thousands of attendees told to conserve food and water while stranded in the Nevada desert.

The remote area was hit with up to 0.8 inches – about twice the average September rainfall – in just 24 hours.

On the opposite side of the country, flooding in Massachusetts has damaged hundreds of homes, businesses and infrastructure including bridges, dams and railways. Rainfall in parts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire has been more than 300% above normal volumes over the past two weeks, according to weather service data.

Experts say record-warm ocean temperatures have fueled a hyperactive Atlantic hurricane season that shows no signs of slowing.

More than 90% of warming around the globe over the past 50 years has taken place in the oceans, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

It means more storms are able to form than would otherwise be possible in a typical El Niño year, Phil Klotzbach, a research scientist in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University, told CNN. Even storms that weaken due to changes in wind can stay alive and gain strength again once they find better conditions.

## FINANCIAL TIMES

### [California accuses Big Oil of covering up climate change risks in lawsuit](#)

By: Jamie Smyth and Aime Williams

California has sued several of the world's biggest oil companies, including ExxonMobil, Shell and BP, claiming they deceived the public for decades about how the burning of fossil fuels is destroying the planet.

The civil lawsuit alleges oil and gas executives knew that relying on fossil fuels would have catastrophic results but suppressed the information by pushing out disinformation on the topic.

Their deception caused a delayed societal response to global warming, which has resulted in billions of dollars in damage including drought, sprawling wildfires and historic storms to California, it said.

The lawsuit, which was filed in the superior court in San Francisco by California's attorney-general on Friday, seeks damages from the oil industry to help pay for the costs of climate change and to prevent the industry from engaging in further pollution. It also names ConocoPhillips, Chevron and the American Petroleum Institute as defendants.

The action follows a sweeping new law passed last week by California state legislators that would force major polluters to calculate and disclose carbon emissions tied to supply and use of their products for the first time.

"For more than 50 years, Big Oil has been lying to us — covering up the fact that they've long known how dangerous the fossil fuels they produce are for our planet," said California governor Gavin Newsom.

"California taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill. California is taking action to hold big polluters accountable."

California's lawsuit adds to a list of more than 40 climate litigation cases filed by US states and municipalities against the oil and gas industry. These actions seek to use consumer protection, racketeering, product liability and other laws to seek damages to pay for climate-related costs.

Globally, the number of climate-related court cases has doubled in the five years between 2017 and summer 2023, according to research by the UN and Columbia University. The majority of the cases have been filed in the US.



Last month, a judge in Montana ruled in favour of youth climate activists in a landmark decision that established that young people had a right to “a clean and healthful environment”.

The legal onslaught against the oil and gas industry has fuelled a political debate in the US where some prominent Republican politicians, including Texas governor Greg Abbott, have dismissed these climate lawsuits as “lawfare”, arguing they harm industry and costs jobs.

The API said the California lawsuit was part of a co-ordinated campaign to wage “meritless politicised lawsuits against a foundational American industry and its workers”.

“The record of the past two decades demonstrates that the industry has achieved its goal of providing affordable, reliable American energy to US consumers while substantially reducing emissions and our environmental footprint,” the API said in a statement. “Climate policy is for Congress to debate and decide, not the court system.”

Shell said it agreed action was needed now on climate change and it fully supported the transition to a lower-carbon future. But it said the courtroom was not the right venue to address the issue.

“Smart policy from government and action from all sectors is the appropriate way to reach solutions and drive progress,” said Shell.

Marco Grasso, professor of political geography at the University of Milano-Bicocca, said California’s suit was a bold move that would further shift attention towards the financial duty owed by the fossil fuel industry to climate victims.

“Other entities have already sued fossil fuel companies for the same reasons, but this lawsuit is particularly significant given the role, status, and vulnerability to the climate crisis of California,” he said.

A recent peer-reviewed analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that 37 per cent of the total area scorched by forest fires in the western US and south-western Canada since 1986 could be attributed to carbon emissions linked to fossil fuel and cement production.

“It’s past time for these companies to stop their greenwashing and disinformation campaigns and pay their fair share of the costs the climate crisis is imposing on Californians,” said Kathy Mulvey, accountability campaign director for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

In 2020, Maui County filed a lawsuit seeking damages from Chevron and Exxon. Earlier this summer, the island suffered unprecedented wildfires that killed almost 100 people and decimated the town of Lahaina.

California's 135-page legal complaint claims oil industry scientists knew as early as the 1950s that the climate impacts of burning fossil fuels would be catastrophic and there was only a narrow window of time for governments to take action.

In 2019, ExxonMobil won a separate legal case taken by New York State, which alleged the company made material misstatements about climate change risks.

Chevron said in a statement that climate change is a global problem that requires a coordinated international response and not piecemeal litigation.

"California has long been a leading promoter of oil and gas development. Its local courts have no constructive or constitutionally permissible role in crafting global energy policy," said the company.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **Marcos to skip UNGA 78; DFA's Manalo to lead PH delegation**

By: Sundy Locus

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will not attend the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) from September 18 to September 26 in New York City, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Friday.

However, DFA Secretary Enrique Manalo confirmed in a statement that the Philippines would participate in the UNGA 78 and he would lead the Filipino delegation that would attend the high-level dialogues.

“On behalf of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., I will deliver the Philippine National Statement during the UNGA General Debate,” said Manalo.

“Guided by the President's national development and foreign policy agenda, I will articulate the Philippines’ advocacies for respect for the rule of law and ambitious climate action, as well as our achievements and aspirations as a middle-income economy with an important voice in global affairs,” he added.

The Filipino delegation would include Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, Health Secretary Teddy Herbosa, and National Economic Development Authority Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon.

Also joining the DFA are the Department of Finance, local executives from the League of Cities of the Philippines, and Special Envoy of the President to UNICEF Monica Louise Prieto-Teodoro.

Apart from various meetings on international issues, Enrique said the Philippines organized side events including a ministerial roundtable on migration, environment, and climate change in the Asia-Pacific region scheduled on September 21.

The DFA chief is likewise expected to sign a new agreement under the 1982 UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction or “High Seas Treaty” on September 20.

“I look forward to bilateral meetings with foreign ministers from a number of countries and with key UN officials. I will sign a number of MoUs [memorandum of understanding] establishing political consultation mechanisms with a number of bilateral partners, and discuss a broad range of matters of mutual interest at these meetings,” said Enrique.

“I also look forward to an enriching discussion on Philippine foreign policy with friends in the Asia Society,” he said.

In 2022, Marcos raised various issues including climate change, peace and stability, and food security during his address at the UNGA.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [\[Opinion\] Enhanced defense cooperation vital to PH security, climate change resilience](#)

In view of geopolitical realities that are in flux, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro emphasized the need for leveraging multilateral security cooperation upon his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments last week. He said: “The intensity of the need to focus on protecting our sovereignty and sovereign rights is paramount in the global race for resources and influence.” He added that this would be achieved through “politics and diplomacy, backed by a strong backbone of a strategic defense posture.”

It is in this context that the annual Mutual Defense Board – Security Engagement Board meetings were conducted at Camp Aguinaldo last week and lined up for 2024 over 500 bilateral engagements that cover the entire gamut of security cooperation, information sharing, capacity building and capability development.

Projects to implement the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) were the focal points, as the partners envisioned the conduct of joint exercises and the involvement of key international allies. Recall that last June, at the sidelines of the annual Asia Security Summit in Singapore, the defense ministers of Japan, the United States, Australia, and the Philippines agreed Saturday to step up security cooperation to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific amid China's growing maritime assertiveness in the region.

There are currently nine EDCA sites in the Philippines, based at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija; Antonio Bautista Base Air Base in Palawan; Basa Air Base in Pampanga; Lumbia Airport in Cagayan de Oro; Benito Ebuena Air Base in Cebu; Camilo Osias Naval Base in Sta. Ana, Cagayan; Lal-10 airport in Lal-lo, Cagayan; Camp Melchor dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela; and Balabac Island in Palawan.

Aside from strengthening the country's defense and security capabilities, fortifying the nation against the vicissitudes of global warming and climate change is an equally vital concern. Recall the massive destruction wrought by super-typhoon Haiyan in 2013 that underlined the significance of being able to tap on a reliable network of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief provided by the country's allies.

As reported in East Asia Forum, the 1,200 members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (SDF), was “the largest overseas deployment for the SDF, and the biggest humanitarian relief dispatched by the Japanese government in history,” thanks to the unqualified support extended by then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. As reported by Relief Web, South Korea also dispatched a relief team composed of “20 medical personnel, 14 paramedics,

four staff members of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and two MOFA officials via military aircraft,” underlining the historic alliance of the two countries dating back to the Korean War in the early fifties when their soldiers fought side by side.

The solidarity forged with long-standing allies provides a bedrock of deterrence and defense as our Navy and Coast Guard patrol our seas and defend the country’s expanded economic zone. Elevating alliances into strategic, broad-based partnerships that cover the broad fields of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are equally vital in demonstrating that the government is capable of extending comprehensive protection to its citizenry.

## NIKKEI ASIA

### [Japan's first biofuel-hydrogen tourist ship to set sail in 2024](#)

By: Junya Hemmi

Japanese marine shipping company Mitsui O.S.K. Lines plans to put the country's first biofuel-hydrogen tourist vessel into service next year as part of an industrywide push to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The roundish, 33-meter-long vessel holds 100 people. It will go into commercial service in April 2024 in Fukuoka prefecture.

The ship will be powered by a combination of biofuel and hydrogen cells, cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 53% to 100% compared with vessels running on conventional fossil fuels.

Only a handful of such hybrid ships exist worldwide. Electric propulsion will make the interior quiet enough for corporate training events, seminars and wedding receptions.

Mitsui O.S.K. group member MOL Techno-Trade held a launch ceremony Wednesday for the new hybrid vessel at Hongawara Ship Yard, close to the Hiroshima prefecture cove believed to have served as a model for the Studio Ghibli animated film "Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea."

Motena-Sea, a joint venture set up in March 2022, will operate the hybrid vessel. Investors in Motena-Sea include MOL Techno-Trade, Hongawara Ship Yard, and ship management companies Ikous and Kanmon-Kisen. Biofuel will be locally sourced.

This follows a trend of hydrogen-powered ships being developed in Japan. Industrial gas provider Iwatani will operate a hydrogen fuel cell ferry at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka.

Heavy equipment maker Yanmar Holdings is developing a ship equipped with a hydrogen engine. A prototype more than 100 meters long is slated for completion in 2025.

International marine shipping accounts for about 2% of global energy-related CO2 emissions, International Energy Agency figures show. While less than the 16% share for autos, shipping emissions are about as large as Germany's.

Marine shipping ran almost entirely on petroleum in 2020. Liquefied natural gas, which can cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by around 20% to 30% compared with fuel oil, is expected to grow in use as a marine fuel in the near term.

LNG alone will not be enough to significantly shrink the carbon footprint, so companies are investing in hydrogen as a next-generation fuel. Such ships will be better suited to domestic routes, since hydrogen tanks would have to take up much more space for longer trips.

Ammonia and methanol are seen as next-generation fuels for long-haul routes. Japanese shipping company Nippon Yusen, together with IHI Power Systems and other partners, announced in May that they had successfully tested an ammonia-fueled ship engine. Nippon Yusen plans to put the first-ever ammonia-fuel tugboat into operation in June 2024.

Ammonia has its own problems as a fuel. It is toxic, and burning it in an inefficient manner emits such greenhouse gases as nitrogen oxides, which can have a greater warming effect than CO<sub>2</sub>.

"Green" methanol, which includes biomethanol from animal waste, will be the fuel for a new effort by container shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk to decarbonize its fleet.



## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Climate protesters send message to UN: End fossil fuel use](#)

Thousands of protesters kicked off “Climate Week” and filled the streets of Midtown, Manhattan, on September 17 ahead of the United Nations General Assembly this week, calling for President Joe Biden and world leaders to end fossil fuel use.

With parades, concerts, and banging drums, some of the 15,000 expected waved signs that read “End Fossil Fuel Use”, “Fossil Fuels Kill”, and “Declare a Climate Emergency.”

One man was dressed as a melting snowman warning of rising sea levels. The message was for world leaders to save the planet from the use of oil and gas believed to be driving a warming globe.

Sunday’s protests were part of a week-long international effort by Climate Group, a non-profit whose purpose is to drive climate change action and stop global warming, with more than 500 protests planned in the United States, Germany, England, South Korea, India, and elsewhere, totaling 54 countries.

Organizers of the protests expect a global turnout of more than a million people.

“Climate Week NYC is all about getting it done,” organizers wrote online. “Through celebrating climate action, challenging ourselves to do more, and exploring ways to increase ambition, Climate Week NYC inspires, amplifies, and scrutinizes the commitments, policies, and actions of those with the power to make change happen.”

Many scientists believe that so-called greenhouse gases caused by burning fossil fuels are warming the world and causing severe weather such as more intense hurricanes, heat waves, floods, wildfires and droughts.

Reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> or carbon dioxide emissions are seen as a key element in abating climate change.

The demonstrations take place two months before this year’s UN COP28 climate summit, where more than 80 countries plan to push for a global agreement to gradually phase out coal, oil and gas.

A recent UN report warned that the world was on a dangerous track toward severe global warming, and said more action was needed on all fronts, including drastic drop in coal-fueled power use by 2030, Reuters reported.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [BARMM, Australia and UNDP partner for a resilient future](#)

The Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA) entered into a partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to support the formulation of the BARMM Spatial Development Framework (BSDF) 2024 to 2050 under the Australia-supported Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change (Shield) Program.

BPDA Director General Mohajirin Ali signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Edwine Carrié during a ceremony in Davao City. The Australian Embassy in the Philippines, represented by First Secretary for Development Paul Harrington, and Shield consortium partners from Philippine Business for Social Progress, Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, and UN-Habitat were also on hand to witness the MoU signing.

The BSDF 2024-2050 is a landmark planning document that will outline how the BARMM regional government will allocate and utilize its land and natural resources to guide public and private investments, steer land use and physical development, build disaster and climate resilience, and promote economic growth over the next 25 years.

During the signing ceremony, BPDA Director General Ali expressed hope that the risk information to be generated during the formulation of the BSDF 2024-2050 will enhance the regional government's capacity to reduce disaster and climate risks and vulnerabilities, noting that "this MOU will ensure that Bangsamoro communities are safer and more resilient to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change."

"Preparedness is very important," he added. "Hopefully, what we experienced during [Severe Tropical Storm] Paeng would not be repeated," referring to STS Paeng (International name: Nalgae) which tore through the region in October 2022 and affected 5.3 million individuals and caused agricultural losses worth P4.37 billion.

"BARMM has been one of the fastest growing regions in the country. The hard part is to sustain that progress in the years to come," said UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Carrié. "What Shield is trying to achieve is to help protect the BARMM from external shocks so that its development trajectory may continue."

In his message, First Secretary Harrington emphasized a key feature of Shield, which is to support the forging of strategic local partnerships to "ensure a 'Whole of Bangsamoro' approach that meaningfully engages relevant stakeholders to jumpstart local economic growth, reduce poverty, and enhance disaster and climate resilience in the region."

Shield is a multi-year partnership covering eleven provinces and two regions that are most vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and climate change. It is being implemented by a consortium led by UNDP, along with its partners Philippine Business for Social Progress, National Resilience Council, Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, and UN-Habitat. The MoU with BPDA is the ninth partnership formalized under this resilience initiative, which is supported by the Australian Government.

## Mental health consequences: the “often-unseen” impact of climate change

By: Ludwig Federigan

More than a year after the passage of Republic Act No. 11036, also known as the “Mental Health Act,” a global study showed that ninety-two (92%) percent of young Filipinos were frightened about their future and, at the same time, eighty-four (84%) percent were very to extremely worried about their future under climate change.

The global study entitled “Young people’s voices on climate anxiety, government betrayal and moral injury: a global phenomenon” manifested the deep anxiety of young Filipinos about climate change.

Glad that the National Youth Commission (NYC) launched the NYC Online Youth Mental Health Wellness Peer to Peer Counseling at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the noble objective of providing an online support system for the youth who has concerns, strengthen and boost awareness their mental health, now called NYC Mental Health Youth Hub, the initiative has produced 98 youth coaches after conducting four batches of training.

Many studies established that human health is threatened by the impacts of climate change. The 2017 Lancet Countdown on Climate Change and Health reported: “The human symptoms of climate change are unequivocal and potentially irreversible— affecting the health of populations around the world today.”

Mental health, the authors said, refers not just to mental illness, mental problems, and mental disorders, but also includes states of mental wellness, emotional resilience and psychosocial wellbeing. The mental health consequences are the “often-unseen” impacts of climate change.

Together with youth coaches Brian Delos Santos, Dr. Alfredo Lorenzo Sablay, Don Carlo Bravo Cuya, and over 200 participants, I had the opportunity to discuss the relationship of climate change and mental health during the webinar on “Green Minds, Healthy Hearts: Nurturing Mental Health and Sustainability” held Saturday. Impacts of climate change on mental health

The impacts of climate change on mental health are either direct or indirect. These include:

- **Direct Mental Health Effects from Extreme Weather Events**

Climate change is associated with an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and heatwaves. These events can lead to trauma, grief, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among those directly affected. Witnessing or experiencing the destruction and loss of life during these events can have long-lasting psychological effects.

- **Indirect Effects through Displacement**

Rising sea levels, changing weather patterns, and environmental degradation can lead to forced migration and displacement of communities. This can result in a loss of social support networks, cultural dislocation, and increased stress, anxiety, and depression among affected individuals and communities.

- **Economic Impact**

Climate change can disrupt economies, leading to job loss, financial stress, and economic insecurity. These stressors can contribute to mental health problems like anxiety and depression.

- **Health Effects**

Climate change can also lead to health problems such as heat-related illnesses, respiratory issues from air pollution, and the spread of vector-borne diseases. These physical health problems can, in turn, impact mental health by increasing stress and anxiety related to health concerns.

- **Psychological Distance**

Climate change is often seen as a distant threat, and the gradual nature of its impacts can make it difficult for people to perceive as an immediate threat. This psychological distance can lead to a sense of powerlessness and eco-anxiety, where individuals feel overwhelmed by the scale of the problem and the lack of effective action.

- **Environmental Grief**

As people witness the loss of natural landscapes, ecosystems, and biodiversity due to climate change, they may experience a sense of grief and loss. This can manifest as ecological grief, which can contribute to feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and despair.

- **Conflict and Social Tensions**

Climate change can exacerbate resource scarcity, leading to conflicts and social tensions. These conflicts can result in displacement, violence, and the breakdown of social and community structures, all of which can have profound effects on mental health.

- **Inequities and Vulnerability**

Vulnerable populations, including low-income communities and marginalized groups, are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. This can exacerbate existing health disparities and increase the mental health burden on these communities.

The relationship between climate change and mental health is complex and multifaceted. Addressing the impacts requires a comprehensive approach that includes mitigation, adaptation, community resilience, education, and support services.

Efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects can reduce the severity of some of the mental health impacts. This includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing strategies to protect communities from extreme weather events. Building community resilience can help individuals and communities better cope with the mental health challenges posed by climate change. This includes strengthening social support networks, providing mental health services, and promoting community cohesion. Raising awareness about the mental health effects of climate change and providing education on coping strategies and resilience-building can help individuals and communities better prepare for and respond to these challenges. Advocating for policies that address climate change and its mental health consequences is crucial. This includes policies aimed at reducing emissions, promoting clean energy, and ensuring equitable access to resources and support services.

Providing mental health services and support for individuals and communities affected by climate change-related stress and trauma is essential. This may involve training mental health professionals to address climate-related issues and providing resources for affected individuals. The realities of climate change will deliver chronic and long-term stressors. These conditions will worsen mental health problems. Those who suffer the most are those who are the most vulnerable.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Climate panel backs moratorium on tech to dim Sun](#)

By: Marlowe Hood

Former political leaders and heads of international organizations called Thursday for national moratoriums on deploying technologies to slow global warming by dimming the impact of the Sun.

The Climate Overshoot Commission said research and experiments into so-called solar radiation modification (SRM) should move forward, but only under international supervision and in jurisdictions with strong environmental safeguards.

Currently, there is no formal global governance for the development or deployment of such technologies, and an incomplete understanding of the risks they carry.

"We need a moratorium," commission member Laurence Tubiana, head of the European Climate Foundation and an architect of the Paris Agreement, told AFP.

"We know the risks -- this is not a silver bullet solution."

The failure to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that drive global heating has led to suggestions that solar geoengineering -- widely dismissed a decade ago as unnecessarily risky -- could buy time while the world scales up emissions reductions and CO2 removal.

Barely 1.2 degrees Celsius of warming so far has boosted the intensity, frequency and duration of deadly and destructive heatwaves, droughts and megastorms.

The 2015 Paris climate treaty calls for capping the rise in Earth's surface temperature to 1.5C above mid-19th century levels to avoid catastrophic impacts.

The commission takes its name from the strong likelihood that warming will breach, or "overshoot", that target, probably within a decade, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

In 2018, the IPCC concluded that greenhouse gas emissions must drop 43 percent by 2030 in order to cap global warming at the 1.5C threshold.

"As we approach the midpoint to that deadline, emissions have not decreased, but rather increased," former World Trade Organization head Pascal Lamy, who chaired the commission, said in its report.

"The need for action is clear and immediate."

'Termination shock'

The commission -- 13 former leaders and ministers from Pakistan, Canada, Niger, Indonesia and the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati, along with top academics and foundation heads -- was formed to propose novel strategies to mitigate the risks of overshooting the Paris agreement target.

Slashing emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, methane and other planet-warming gases remains the top priority, it said.

In line with findings and policy objectives from the IPCC and the International Energy Agency (IEA), their report also called for boosting technologies for syphoning off CO<sub>2</sub> from industry and power generation, and to removing it directly from the atmosphere.

But the commission's most anticipated conclusions were on SRM.

Solar radiation modification methods include brightening marine clouds by seeding them with salt particles from the ocean, and placing giant mirrors in space to reflect away Earth-bound sunlight.

But the technique thought to have the highest potential is injecting aerosols -- especially sulphur particles -- into the stratosphere to reflect sunlight back into space.

Nature sometimes does the same: the violent 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines -- which spewed millions of tonnes of dust and debris -- lowered global temperatures for about a year, especially in the Northern Hemisphere.

But there is growing evidence that the advantages of cooling Earth's surface must be weighed against unwanted side effects.

Artificially dimming the Sun's radiative force is likely to disrupt monsoon rains in South Asia and western Africa and could ravage the rain-fed crops upon which hundreds of millions depend for nourishment, several studies have shown.

It could also reverse progress in the recovery of the ozone layer that shields life on Earth from deadly ultraviolet radiation, according to the Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion report earlier this year.



Scientists likewise warn that Earth's surface would heat rapidly if seeding the atmosphere with Sun-blocking particles were to suddenly stop, known as "termination shock".

With few exceptions -- such as Mexico, which has banned solar geoengineering experiments -- most governments have yet to put regulations in place governing SRM.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

IBC

### [Plastic pollution, nagpapalala sa epekto ng climate change](#)

Basura ang isa sa mga masidhing problema ng Pilipinas. Ang kawalan ng kaayusan sa maayos na disposal ng mga ito ay nangungunang dahilan kung bakit kahit ang mahinang pag-ulan ay agad na nakapagdudulot ng nakakaabala at madalas mapaminsalang pagbaha at ang pinakamadalas na sanhi ng sakit sa ulo n ito walang iba kung hindi mga plastic na basura.

Taong 2021 ng ihayag ng dating DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, halos umabot na sa 12,000 metric tons ng solid waste ang nakokolekta araw-araw sa National Capital Region.



**=END=**