



## NEWS ROUNDUP

23 SEPTEMBER 2024 [ 08:00 am]

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### ABS CBN

#### [Climate, disasters, education among top concerns of young Filipinos — UNICEF poll](#)

By: Arra Perez

Filipino youths consider climate change, natural disasters, education, health, and jobs among their top concerns, based on a poll of around 3,000 respondents by U-Report, the digital community of the United Children's Fund (UNICEF).

### DAILY GUARDIAN

#### [Climate change puts millions of Filipinos at risk](#)

By: Francis Allan L. Angelo

Millions of Filipinos endured unprecedented heatwaves between June and August 2024, as global climate change intensified temperatures across Southeast Asia.

## **DAILY TRIBUNE**

### **[Curbing food loss, waste to lessen global warming](#)**

One of the most overlooked contributors to climate change is food loss and waste. Food loss occurs during harvest, handling, and storage before food reaches the retail level, while food waste happens when edible food is discarded by retailers or consumers. When food is wasted, all the resources used to produce, transport and store it — such as water, energy and labor — are also lost.

### **[Sierra Madre: Mountain range for resilience](#)**

By: Rafael De Leon

Rising to 6,283 feet and stretching over 540 kilometers, the Sierra Madre mountain range serves as Luzon's natural fortress. It is the Philippines' first line of defense against climate-induced disasters, particularly powerful tropical cyclones. However, this critical role is being compromised by deforestation and illegal logging.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Financing for Philippine climate projects hit record \\$3.1 billion in 2023](#)**

By: Ben Arnold De Vera

Financing, mainly borrowings, for Philippine climate change mitigation and adaptation projects hit a record-high \$3.131 billion (over P174 billion) in 2023.

### **[\[Opinion\] Act now: Climate change is real](#)**

Climate change is real, but many people are still ignoring it. People should start taking climate change more seriously as it is not a problem that will resolve itself. Climate change is more serious than the recent Covid pandemic.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[NEDA: Gov't pushes for reforms for sustained economic growth](#)**

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The government is pushing for several reforms to achieve sustained economic growth, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said.

## **PH coastal cleanup yields record volunteers, trash collection**

The Philippines has surpassed its International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) records during the activity conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Saturday in 250 coastal sites across the country to raise awareness about the impact of plastic pollution on marine life and ecosystems.

### **THE MANILA TIMES**

#### **France honors Legarda**

By: Javier Joe Ismael

Sen. Loren Legarda was bestowed with the title of "Officier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur" by the French government on Thursday.

### **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

#### **World Bank boosts climate financing by 10%**

The World Bank announced Thursday that it delivered a record \$42.6 billion in climate change financing in the last financial year, up 10% from a year earlier.

### **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **BUSINESS WORLD**

#### **Climate, disasters, education among top concerns of young Filipinos — UNICEF poll**

By: Patricia B. Mirasol

Solid waste management is one of the challenges to sustainability that has repeatedly surfaced among discussions, according to Florian Gottein, executive director of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP).

### **DAILY TRIBUNE**

#### **Climate change, tourism and their interconnected impacts**

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

The Philippines recently experienced severe effects from extreme weather events, including Tropical Storm "Enteng," which caused widespread flooding in Metro Manila and Rizal province. It was the first time in years that some towns in the mountainous province experienced flooding of this magnitude.

## **HEADTOPICS**

### **[Nestlé, Aboitiz at the forefront of environment sustainability](#)**

Nestlé Philippines commits to address plastic pollution and ensure that 100 percent of its packaging will be recyclable or reusable by 2025. As the monsoon season progresses, the Philippines continues to experience thunderstorms, tropical cyclones and heavy rainfall. Extreme weather events, including intensified monsoon rains, increase in frequency due to climate change. Compounding the problem is the accumulation of trash clogging urban waterways and streets, which worsens flooding.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[CCC, DW Akademie, German Embassy Equip PH Journalists on Climate Reporting](#)**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), Deutsche Welle Akademie (DW Akademie), and the German Embassy collaborated to equip Filipino journalists with tools for responsible climate journalism through a five-day training workshop.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[CCC, German Embassy highlight role of journos on climate reporting](#)**

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission on Thursday cited the importance of the media in the collective response to climate change and equipping them with the knowledge and tools about the issues surrounding it.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**[Climate, disasters, education among top concerns of young Filipinos — UNICEF poll](#)**

By: Arra Perez

Filipino youths consider climate change, natural disasters, education, health, and jobs among their top concerns, based on a poll of around 3,000 respondents by U-Report, the digital community of the United Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The latest poll, done online from June to July, revealed issues that matter most to the country's 13- to 24-year-olds, with a number worried about the impact of these concerns on their lives.

"About 26 percent of young people in the country believe that 'climate change and natural disasters' will be the biggest problem they'll face in the future while 23 percent are worried about not 'being able to finish their education.' 'Health (physical and mental)' and 'finding a job' are also major concerns, identified by 22 percent," UNICEF said in a press release.

"Young people see the lack of entry-level jobs (33 percent) and the current economic conditions (26 percent) as their two biggest obstacles in getting a job or starting a business in the future. Other concerns are the lack of access to quality education (20 percent) and the disruption AI technology has brought and can bring (18 percent)," it added.

U-Report's results showed that when the youths were asked what they will do as President of the Philippines to build a better future, "education, health, and economy figure in most of the answers asking the government to prioritize these critical issues".

"Other national issues mentioned extensively are corruption, agriculture, poverty, and the environment," the press release read.

"While youth are split on whether the future generation is 'worse off' or 'better off' (44 percent vs 37 percent) they do see the value that rapid technological innovations and democratic access to information can bring. They also find hope in how young people now are getting more and more involved in global issues. In fact, more than 80 percent of the respondents believe that the work of the United Nations is important in creating a better world," it added.

According to UNICEF, U-Report is a "digital community... for young people, by young people, where they can raise their voices and share opinions on topics that matter to them".

The U-Report poll results will be added to the contribution of the Philippines to the high-level UN event Summit of the Future to be held in New York this September 22, UNICEF said.

UN Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez thanked "every young person who is making their voice heard for an inclusive and sustainable world".

"New generations are bringing a reinvigorated sense of solidarity and a compelling call for collective action. Both are essential to build the future we want," he added in a statement.

For UNICEF Representative to the Philippines Oyunsaikhan Dendevnorov, the poll findings "reveal the sobering, yet hopeful outlook young people have about their prospects for the future".

Dendevnorov encouraged the public to find time to listen to the young ones.

"We should listen to what they have to say and work together to address these issues so that every child is cared for, protected, and given a fair chance in life," he shared.

## DAILY GUARDIAN

### [Climate change puts millions of Filipinos at risk](#)

By: Francis Allan L. Angelo

Millions of Filipinos endured unprecedented heatwaves between June and August 2024, as global climate change intensified temperatures across Southeast Asia.

A new report by Climate Central highlights that nearly all Filipinos were exposed to dangerous temperatures, with extreme heat becoming at least three times more likely due to climate change driven by the burning of fossil fuels.

The report revealed that Southeast Asia had the highest number of people exposed to climate change-induced temperatures for more than 60 days, including over 204 million across the region.

The Philippines, along with neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, experienced their hottest summer since at least 1970.

“High temperatures that were clearly influenced by climate change jeopardized the health of billions around the world during the past three months,” said Andrew Pershing, vice president for science at Climate Central. “No region, country, or city is safe from the deadly threats posed by burning fossil fuels.”

In the Philippines, nearly the entire population was exposed to temperatures that posed a risk to human health for at least a week, according to the analysis.

The report emphasizes the connection between carbon pollution and the rising frequency of extreme heat, pointing out that heatwaves have become 21 times more likely due to human activities, particularly the burning of coal, oil, and gas.

Across Southeast Asia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, like the Philippines, faced at least 60 days of extreme heat during the summer.

Thailand and Vietnam saw temperatures driven by climate change for 52 and 46 days, respectively, with over two-thirds of populations in Thailand and Indonesia experiencing health-threatening heat.

“Climate change is no longer an abstract future risk. It’s a present reality affecting millions of people here and now,” said Pershing.

As the effects of climate change become more pronounced, cities across the Northern Hemisphere are grappling with rising temperatures.

The report estimates that 180 cities experienced at least one extreme heatwave between June and August this year.

Globally, 72 countries broke their temperature records for the June-August period, with an estimated 4 billion people exposed to unusually high temperatures on August 13, the peak of this heatwave season.

In the Philippines, the extreme heat not only threatens human health but also impacts agriculture, water resources, and energy consumption.

Prolonged exposure to such conditions, termed “risky heat” by the report, represents a rising mortality threshold, especially for vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions.



## DAILY TRIBUNE

### Curbing food loss, waste to lessen global warming

One of the most overlooked contributors to climate change is food loss and waste. Food loss occurs during harvest, handling, and storage before food reaches the retail level, while food waste happens when edible food is discarded by retailers or consumers. When food is wasted, all the resources used to produce, transport and store it — such as water, energy and labor — are also lost.

Each year, around 24 percent of all food produced for human consumption — approximately 1.95 billion tons — is either lost or wasted.

Food loss and waste contribute up to 10 percent of total anthropogenic (human-caused) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with an estimated 3.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent released into the atmosphere annually.

In Metro Manila alone, an estimated 2,175 tons of food scraps are thrown away daily.

When food waste ends up in landfills, it decomposes and releases methane, a GHG 28 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> in trapping heat.

If food loss and waste were a country, it would rank third in GHG emissions, behind only China and the United States.

Addressing food loss and waste is crucial in the fight against climate change. Reducing food waste can substantially lower global GHG emissions. It is time to shift away from our hyper-consumerist mindset and embrace sustainability in our daily lives.

The solution begins at home and within our communities. Simple actions such as planning meals and creating shopping lists help avoid overbuying and ensure that food is used before it spoils. Stick to meal plans and find creative ways to use leftovers to minimize waste.

## Sierra Madre: Mountain range for resilience

By: Rafael De Leon

Rising to 6,283 feet and stretching over 540 kilometers, the Sierra Madre mountain range serves as Luzon's natural fortress. It is the Philippines' first line of defense against climate-induced disasters, particularly powerful tropical cyclones. However, this critical role is being compromised by deforestation and illegal logging.

The name Sierra Madre, meaning "mother of mountains" in Spanish, is often referred to as the backbone of Luzon due to its prominent geographical presence.

The range spans across 10 provinces, from Cagayan in the north to Quezon in the south, covering areas such as Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Bulacan, Rizal and Laguna.

Sierra Madre is home to around 40 percent of the Philippines' forest cover and supports a rich biodiversity, with 3,500 plant species — 58 percent of which are endemic. It also acts as a crucial carbon sink, covering 1.4 million hectares.

Through carbon sequestration, the forests absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to regulate temperature and stabilize weather patterns. This process reduces extreme weather events and maintains ecological balance, while providing healthy habitats for various wildlife species.

Perhaps Sierra Madre's most renowned role is its function as a natural barrier against tropical cyclones. When storms approach from the Pacific, the mountain range slows down and deflects strong winds, significantly reducing their intensity before they reach inland areas. This natural shield helps minimize the destructive force of typhoons, saving lives, protecting infrastructure and reducing damage to ecosystems and livelihoods.

This underscores the urgent need to preserve the Sierra Madre, as protecting this mountain range is vital for both ecological conservation and the survival of the communities. Preserving the mountain range is a crucial step to enhance our climate resilience, as it acts as a natural defense against typhoons, floods and landslides.

By maintaining its forests and ecosystems, we not only protect biodiversity but also secure the livelihood of millions of people who rely on the Sierra Madre for protection from climate-induced disasters.

As we commemorate Save Sierra Madre Day, let us reflect on the importance of protecting this mountain range that shields us from the impact of strong typhoons. Let us commit to end deforestation and illegal logging not only in Sierra Madre but in all forests to ensure their continued ability to safeguard our ecosystems and communities.

Presidential Proclamation 413 designates 26 September as Save Sierra Madre Day. This observance was headed by the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance Inc., a group of indigenous peoples (IP) and non-IP organizations, government organizations, civil society schools, churches and individuals dedicated to protect and preserve the Sierra Madre.

Read more at: <https://tribune.net.ph/2024/09/22/sierra-madre-mountain-range-for-resilience>

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Financing for Philippine climate projects hit record \\$3.1 billion in 2023](#)

By: Ben Arnold De Vera

Financing, mainly borrowings, for Philippine climate change mitigation and adaptation projects hit a record-high \$3.131 billion (over P174 billion) in 2023.

The 2023 Joint Report on Multilateral Development Banks' (MDBs) Climate Finance published by the European Investment Bank (EIB) this month showed that financing extended to the Philippines further rose from \$2.908 billion in 2022.

Climate finance received by the Philippines last year was the 11th-biggest in the world, after those of France, Spain, Italy, India, Germany, Türkiye, Indonesia, Poland, Bangladesh and Brazil, the report showed.

MDBs' data showed that pre-pandemic, climate financing accessed by the Philippines was on an upward trend, from \$167 million in 2017 to \$505 million in 2018, and further up to \$1.693 billion in 2019.

But at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate finance for the Philippines fell to \$878 million in 2020 and \$990 million in 2021.

The report showed that the Philippines got a total of \$11.567 billion in climate financing from 2015 to 2023.

The Philippines is among the world's most vulnerable countries to extreme climate risks and natural disasters.

Meanwhile, the world's development lenders extended a total of \$125 billion — a historic-high — in climate finance last year.

Last year's climate finance support from MDBs already nearly doubled their commitment in 2019 of at least \$65 billion yearly by 2025.

This climate financing represented combined figures from the following MDBs: African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Council of Europe Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EIB, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, New Development Bank, and World Bank Group (WBG).

According to a Sept. 20 joint statement of these MDBs, low- and middle-income countries, like the Philippines, received the bulk of climate financing last year, amounting to \$74.7 billion, which exceeded the \$50-billion annual goal for these countries.

Two-thirds of MDBs' climate finance for poor and developing countries in 2023, or \$50 billion, were intended for climate change mitigation programs. The rest amounting to \$24.7 billion went to climate change adaptation projects.

On top of MDBs' financing, low- and middle-income economies also received mobilized private finance worth \$28.5 billion last year.

In 2023, high-income countries got \$50.3 billion in climate financing from MDBs, of which \$47.3 billion were for mitigation and \$3 billion for adaptation.

Rich nations also got more mobilized private financing than poorer countries last year, at \$72.7 billion.

For the part of the ADB, its director general for sustainable development and climate change Bruno Carrasco said in a statement that the Manila-based lender "welcomes the fact that MDBs provided record climate finance last year -- every dollar of which makes a difference in helping to cut carbon emissions or preparing people and infrastructure for the worst impacts of climate change, much of which we must recognize is already baked in."

However, Carrasco acknowledged that "there remains a large financing gap and the ADB will continue to work closely with other MDBs — and in its own right — to get as much financing as possible to our developing member-countries."

The ADB earlier reported that its climate finance commitments in 2023 hit a record \$9.8 billion, up by over 46 percent from 2022 levels.

Separately, the Washington-based WBG announced in a Sept. 19 statement that it delivered an also record-high \$42.6 billion in climate financing during fiscal year (FY) 2024 covering July 1, 2023 to June 30 of this year.

While its FY 2024's climate finance was 10 percent higher than in FY 2023, the WBG noted that it had "committed to increasing its climate finance to 45 percent of total lending for FY 2025" or the period July 1 of this year to June 30 next year.

## [Opinion] Act now: Climate change is real

Climate change is real, but many people are still ignoring it. People should start taking climate change more seriously as it is not a problem that will resolve itself. Climate change is more serious than the recent Covid pandemic.

These statements coming from the President days ago should prompt into action the many who still act like as if nothing has changed in the way the weather has been affecting our lives. People have short memories.

A typhoon dumps a month's supply of rain causing floods that damage crops and properties, and lead to loss of lives. Yet, the same human behavior pattern continues. People go back to living in flood-prone areas like the banks of rivers and coastlines. Garbage piles up to clog waterways. Houses are not built to withstand stronger winds or higher floodwaters.

Heatwaves come with the summer months. School and work time remains as is. Commuting to work in the usual mode and time continues. Crops are damaged when the land turns arid, yet the same varieties are planted.

Climate change is affecting our safety, health, housing, food production, and work.

President Marcos' statements reflect the sad truth that many people think that the state of the climate and how to deal with its disastrous results are for government to solve.

Indeed, government is expected to deal with the major actions to mitigate climate change. The President admitted that climate change is a big challenge for the Philippines and the government must change its way of handling it.

In his message during a climate summit in Pasay City on Sept. 19, the President cited the major fields where government should do more. One would be relocating people living near the shores and establishing "no-build zones" to prevent loss of lives and property when the typhoons come.

Scientists should find new crop varieties that can be more resilient to the land especially when there is less rain during the summer months. The changing climate has already caused a 10 percent decrease in the country's annual rice production.

Houses should be built to be more resilient to the winds, the floodwaters and the increasing temperature.

As President Marcos has declared: “This is the new normal for our climate. This is what we have to face. Let’s adapt to that new normal. Climate change is a greater risk to humanity than this pandemic ever will be.”

The United Nations Climate Change paper – and many know this by now – states that “human activities have been the main driver of climate change,” primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

“Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun’s heat and raising temperatures.”

Despite the fact that we have contributed only about 1.3 percent of the carbon emissions, we – government and private sector – should do something about it because we are already suffering from its results.

While many still choose to ignore climate change, many private companies and individuals have already shifted business operations and behavior to follow the path of sustainability. But we need more than just “many” to be resilient and protect ourselves, our country, and the next generation from climate change.

We must act now!

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [NEDA: Gov't pushes for reforms for sustained economic growth](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The government is pushing for several reforms to achieve sustained economic growth, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said.

Speaking at the Fourth Philippines-Singapore Business and Investment Summit in Singapore on Thursday, Balisacan said part of the government's efforts to achieve sustainable growth and greener future is investing in infrastructure and innovation to enhance resilience against climate shocks.

“The Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and compounding disasters, ranking first among 193 countries based on the 2023 World Risk Report,” Balisacan said.

“We acknowledge that significant investments in sustainable and resilient infrastructure are necessary to enhance our economy’s resilience to shocks, further protect our environment, and even kick-start the creation of high-quality jobs.”

Balisacan said there are currently 164 public-private partnership projects in sectors such as physical and digital connectivity, healthcare, water and sanitation, solid waste management, and energy, valued at approximately PHP3.2 trillion.

The government also has a total 186 infrastructure flagship projects. Of these, 29 are for improving irrigation and water resources, nine to the agriculture sector, and one to improving power and energy infrastructure.

Balisacan said the government is likewise promoting human and social development through the creation of livable communities.

“Our communities and ecosystems must be resilient to environmental hazards and adaptable to a fast-changing climate. The government will work with the private sector as we carry out a transition to a low-carbon economy in a manner that is efficient and appropriate to our people’s and economy’s development needs,” he said.

Balisacan cited the importance of science, technology, and innovation in addressing the country's numerous development challenges and risks.



Aside from these, Balisacan said the government is pushing for key reforms to achieve sustained and inclusive growth.

These priority measures include the Rationalization of the Mining Fiscal Regime, Amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act and the Excise Tax on Single-Use Plastics, and the creation of the Department of Water Resources.

Balisacan said the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 is the Marcos administration's "clear, impenetrable, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society blueprint for economic and social transformation."

"This plan is anchored on the lessons learned from recent decades of development experience and the global megatrends shaping societies today. In pursuit of the country's long-term development vision, or the AmBisyonNatin 2040, the PDP aspires to create a prosperous, predominantly middle-class, resilient society where we have eradicated poverty, and every Filipino enjoys a life of dignity and opportunity," Balisacan said.

#### Middle class

In another also on Thursday, Balisacan cited the important role of a robust middle class is crucial in driving the country's long-term growth and development.

"The middle class plays a pivotal role as the engine of our nation's economic growth... Their steady income, investments in education, and consistent consumption of goods and services fuel economic progress and provide opportunities for broader national development," Balisacan said in his keynote address at the 10th Annual Public Policy Conference held at Makati Shagri-La.

"As the most mobile segment of our society, the middle class is uniquely positioned to participate in decision-making and stay attuned to sociopolitical conditions, leading to greater opportunities for upward mobility... We aim to expand this productive and empowered middle class through the strategies outlined in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028," he added.

## [PH coastal cleanup yields record volunteers, trash collection](#)

The Philippines has surpassed its International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) records during the activity conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Saturday in 250 coastal sites across the country to raise awareness about the impact of plastic pollution on marine life and ecosystems.

From 35,000 volunteers last year, DENR recorded 74,075 volunteers from 1,913 government, academe, and private sector organizations.

From the northernmost Pasuquin municipality in Ilocos Region to the southernmost Gian municipality in Socksargen Region, volunteers of all ages gathered at beaches, riverbanks, and coastlines and meticulously collected a total of 352,479 kilograms trash and debris, ranging from plastics to other waste materials during the cleanup activity.

"This year marks a significant milestone as the Philippines affirms its commitment to coastal cleanliness and environmental conservation," DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said in a news release on Sunday.

"With the ICC 2024 theme, "Clean Seas for Blue Economy," this year's cleanup not only aimed to address immediate pollution but also sought to inspire long-term behavioral changes among communities, encouraging everyone to reduce waste and participate in ongoing clean-up initiatives."

The data gathered during the cleanup will be compiled to better understand the types of waste affecting the country's waters, ultimately guiding future conservation, waste recovery, and resource utilization strategies, while the collected trash that can be recycled will be brought to the nearest materials recovery facility (MRF).

The Manila Public Information Office also shared that at least 12 truckloads of garbage were collected from the coastal area of Baseco Beach in Port Area.

In a statement, Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna called on residents to practice proper disposal and segregation of trash, noting how recyclable materials can be put into good use.

Lacuna lamented that when Super Typhoon Carina submerged Manila on July 24, tons of garbage were found in clogged waterways and drainage systems.

"Nung personal tayong nagtungo sa mga barangay sa kasagsagan ng baha ay literal na dagat ng basura ang aming nilusong at di kataka-taka dahil sa dami ng basura na

nakapagbara sa lagusan ng tubig mula sa kanal, estero maging mismo sa dalampasigan (When we personally visited communities, we literally waded through a sea of garbage that blocked creeks, drainage and coastal areas)," she said.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. previously pegged climate change and common trash disposal practices as the culprits of extensive flooding in Metro Manila, following the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) report that Carina caused 13 landslides, causing the evacuation of more than 600,000 people, and the death of 14 people in the country.

"Today, we witnessed an incredible outpouring of support and dedication from Filipinos who care deeply about our environment," Loyzaga said.

"As we celebrate the 30th year of the International Coastal Cleanup in the Philippines, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding our coastal resources and promoting sustainable practices that protect our marine ecosystems."

The ICC is one of the largest volunteer efforts in the world, with over 150 participating countries and millions of volunteers each year.

The Philippines started participating in the ICC in 1994.

In 2003, the Philippine government institutionalized the event by issuing Presidential Proclamation 470, setting ICC in the Philippines every third Saturday of September.

"We are grateful for the collaboration of local governments, academic institutions, non-government organizations, and most importantly, the passionate volunteers who made this event a resounding success," Loyzaga said.

"By becoming stewards of our ecosystems and natural resources, we can ensure a healthier environment for current and future generations. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in protecting our precious marine environments."

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [France honors Legarda](#)

By: Javier Joe Ismael

Sen. Loren Legarda was bestowed with the title of "Officier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur" by the French government on Thursday.

The French Ambassador Marie Fontanel bestowed the title during a ceremony held at the ambassador's residence.

The recognition builds upon Legarda's previous honor as a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor 2016, underscoring her significant contributions to strengthening Philippine-French relations, cultural diplomacy and climate action.

In her acceptance speech, Legarda expressed deep gratitude and humility, emphasizing that the award was a call to action, not just a recognition of her past efforts.

Legarda also reflected on the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations.

"I always consider cultural diplomacy as the Philippines' fourth pillar of foreign policy, a key that opens doors to political and economic initiatives," she said.

Among her notable contributions in this field is her support for establishing the Philippine Studies Program at Sciences Po and the 2013 Philippine exhibit at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris.

Beyond cultural diplomacy, Legarda highlighted the enduring partnership between the Philippines and France, underscored by shared values and a solid commitment to addressing global challenges such as climate change.

She recalled critical milestones in this collaboration, including the 2015 Manila Call to Action for Climate Change and her sponsorship of the Paris Agreement in the Philippine Senate in 2017.

The four-term senator also noted her support for the Philippines' participation in the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, an international effort to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and oceans by 2030.

The two countries further bolstered their cooperation on maritime and climate issues through the "Blue Nations" initiative ahead of the 2025 UN Oceans Conference in Nice.

The senator supports the high-level conference to advance Sustainable Development Goal 14, which focuses on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

As a UNDRR Global Champion for Resilience, Legarda reaffirmed her dedication to climate resilience and sustainability, deepening the Philippines' partnership with France.

"The Philippines and France are true climate allies bound by a common purpose and a shared responsibility to protect our planet," she said.

The Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur is awarded for outstanding service to the nation.

Legarda's conferment as officier reflects her tireless efforts in advancing environmental sustainability, cultural exchange, and diplomatic relations between the Philippines and France.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [World Bank boosts climate financing by 10%](#)

The World Bank announced Thursday that it delivered a record \$42.6 billion in climate change financing in the last financial year, up 10% from a year earlier.

The development lender has looked to boost its climate financing commitment under new president Ajay Banga, who took over last year on a pledge to reform the 80-year-old Washington-based institution.

In December, the Bank committed to raising the proportion of its annual financing that goes to climate change adaptation from 35% to 45% starting in the fiscal 2025 year, which began in July.

But it came close to that objective this fiscal year, announcing in a statement on Thursday that around 44% of the World Bank Group's total financing of \$97 billion had a climate financing component.

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But it came close to that objective this fiscal year, announcing in a statement on Thursday that around 44% of the World Bank Group's total financing of \$97 billion had a climate financing component.

The largest contributors were the International Development Association (IDA), the bank's concessional lending arm, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which together delivered \$31 billion, the World Bank said.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS WORLD

#### [Climate, disasters, education among top concerns of young Filipinos — UNICEF poll](#)

By: Patricia B. Mirasol

Solid waste management is one of the challenges to sustainability that has repeatedly surfaced among discussions, according to Florian Gottein, executive director of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP).

“One of our members in the consumer industry shared that...the real difficulty lies in scope 3 emissions [or the greenhouse gases generated by business travel, employee commuting, and waste as part of company operations], particularly in managing waste generated by their distributors and consumers,” he said at a September 17 press briefing organized by the ECCP.

“Improper solid waste management poses serious risks to public health and biodiversity...the burning of waste, [moreover,] emits greenhouse gases that further accelerate climate change,” he added.

ECCP has an upcoming, community level project called The Race to Zero Waste: A Call for Collective Action for Sustainable Waste Management. It will build on RA 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and will continue to support and advocate for its effective implementation.

The power of consumption is the best way to dictate the future of the planet, according to Dr. Albert P. Dela Cruz, Sr., commissioner of the Climate Change Commission.

The Philippines’ losses amount to over P66 billion a year due to climate change, he said at the same event.

“The solution is the ecosystem. It’s a whole-of-humanity approach,” he said. “We won’t have total equilibrium if companies A, B, and C are zero carb, but companies D and E are not.”

During the press briefing, ECCP also announced its appointment as an official accelerator in the Philippines for Race to Zero. The worldwide campaign rallies over 14,500 non-state actors to act in halving global emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050.

Among the campaign's aims is the raising of funds to support activities in line with the Race to Zero roadmap, including data mapping, impact measurement, and community initiatives. ECCP will align with Race to Zero's 5Ps – Pledge, Plan, Proceed, Publish, and Persuade – to ensure that initiatives encourage stakeholders to meet these criteria. Its role as accelerator involves supporting businesses in setting and achieving their net zero business, as well as fostering innovation that drives sustainable solutions.

“As the only accelerator in the Philippines, ECCP is ready to take the lead in advocating for and coordinating meaningful climate action across the region,” Mr. Gottein told the briefing attendees.

“With over 830 diverse members, including small and medium-sized enterprises as well as multinational corporations, [the chamber] plays a pivotal role in bridging sustainable growth between Europe and the Philippines,” he said.

The Philippines is among the most vulnerable countries to climate-related weather events.

A September 18 report by Climate Central, a non-advocacy, non-profit science and news organization, showed that nearly all the Philippine, Singapore, and Vietnam populations were exposed to temperatures that represent a potential risk to human health for at least a week, which were made thrice as likely because of climate change.

Southeast Asia was also the region with the most people exposed to climate change-influenced temperatures for at least 60 days in June, July, and August.



## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Climate change, tourism and their interconnected impacts](#)

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

The Philippines recently experienced severe effects from extreme weather events, including Tropical Storm “Enteng,” which caused widespread flooding in Metro Manila and Rizal province. It was the first time in years that some towns in the mountainous province experienced flooding of this magnitude.

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration predicts the onset of La Niña by the last quarter of 2024, which will likely develop between October and December and persist through early 2025. This transition is expected to bring heavy rains, flooding and landslides. The weather agency forecasts at least six more tropical cyclones before the end of 2024.

The impact of these storms, such as super typhoon “Carina” last July, has been worsened by inadequate drainage infrastructure and excessive waste clogging waterways like canals and creeks, leading to severe flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Tourism establishments such as restaurants, cafes and entertainment venues were particularly affected, forcing early closures or temporary suspension of operations. Resort bookings, flights and ferry schedules were also canceled or delayed, further disrupting the tourism industry.

Tourism remains a key pillar of the Philippine economy. In 2023, the industry contributed 8.6 percent to the gross domestic product, with local and international tourism expenditures amounting to P3.36 trillion. The sector supported 6.21 million jobs and achieved a tourism direct gross value added of P2.09 trillion.

The Philippines is globally recognized for its nature-oriented tourism, particularly its sun, beach and island offerings. This is complemented by the country’s rich natural and cultural heritage, exemplified by its UNESCO World Heritage sites.

However, for the third consecutive year, the Philippines has been identified as the most at-risk country for extreme natural events and climate change in the World Risk Report 2024. This report, developed by the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict and the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, assesses disaster risks based on exposure, vulnerability and societal coping and adaptive capacities. It placed the Philippines at the forefront of nations highly vulnerable to climate disasters.

The country regularly experiences extreme weather events that affect major tourist destinations. For instance, typhoon “Odette,” a Category 5 storm, struck Siargao on 16 December 2021, causing the loss of lives, homes and an estimated P20 billion (\$388 million) in damages to properties and tourist sites. Post-typhoon studies by the Marine Environment and Resource Foundation revealed that Siargao’s marine protected areas saw coral cover drastically reduced from 50 percent to just 10 percent, and fish populations halved, particularly among commercially important species.

Many coastal areas in the Philippines remain highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels, storm surges and unpredictable weather patterns. These phenomena are already causing ecological and economic damage, including the degradation of coral reefs, vital for marine biodiversity and tourism. Coral bleaching events and shifting climate patterns are also affecting the appeal of beach destinations, altering travel preferences.

Apart from tropical cyclones, other extreme weather events such as droughts, which often cause forest fires, have disrupted tourism infrastructure and travel plans. These climate-induced disasters damage landscapes and pose safety risks to travelers.

During the peak of El Niño last April, authorities suspended trekking activities in many popular mountains, including Mount Apo, due to an increased risk of wildfires. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources closed the Mount Apo Natural Park as a precautionary measure to protect its ecosystems and visitors from potential forest fires, advising adventurers to reschedule their excursions.

It is not unusual for Mount Apo to be closed for contrasting reasons. Each year, the country’s highest peak is closed from June to August to allow its ecosystems to recuperate from human activity such as improper sanitation, waste disposal and vandalism. This annual closure is part of broader efforts to protect the mountain’s biodiversity and cultural significance. Mount Apo is revered by indigenous communities and is home to various endemic species, including the critically endangered Philippine eagle.

Tourism activities, while economically beneficial, can exacerbate environmental degradation, contributing to climate change. A controversy arose earlier this year when it was revealed that resorts had been built within the famed Chocolate Hills in Bohol, a UNESCO Global Geopark. The construction of resorts inside a protected natural monument raised concerns about the sustainability of tourism practices in these areas.

A more prominent example of tourism's impact on the environment is Boracay. Over two decades, tourist numbers on the island increased annually, except in 1997, when arrivals dropped by 60 percent due to rising coliform bacteria levels caused by poor sewage systems. The government eventually implemented measures to address the issue, but by 2017, Boracay faced another crisis due to unchecked growth, poor waste management, and inadequate sewage systems. The island was temporarily closed for six months for rehabilitation.

Boracay also encountered other environmental challenges, particularly in preserving its coral reefs. A 2010 to 2015 study supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency showed that unregulated tourism activities, such as snorkeling and diving in coral-rich areas, further contributed to coral damage. The island's talcum-like white sands, crucial for beach preservation, are also at risk due to coral reef decline.

The government has undertaken the crucial task of rehabilitating Boracay, focusing on cleaning its sewage system and exploring waste-to-energy solutions. Environmental resilience efforts include increasing mangrove cover, restoring coral reefs and protecting seagrass beds.

Beyond Boracay, this approach should be replicated throughout the country. Ecologically sensitive areas such as Palawan, Bohol and Siargao face similar pressures from tourism. Unchecked tourism activities lead to waste accumulation, polluted beaches and damaged marine ecosystems — issues our coastal tourism sites can no longer ignore if we are to secure environmental stability and manage their carrying capacities. The immediate economic benefits should not overshadow or come at the expense of long-term environmental health of these precious destinations.

The national government and local government units must continue enforcing laws on waste management, water quality, and land use to prevent further degradation. We must encourage self-compliance between and among stakeholders, promoting shared responsibility in protecting our environment. By fostering a culture of voluntary compliance, we can build partnerships grounded in mutual accountability, ensuring that everyone plays an active role in preserving our natural resources.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has articulated his vision and priorities for a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines. Through a whole-of-government approach, combined with active participation from local communities and private stakeholders, we can work together to ensure that tourism development does not worsen the effects of climate change and bring ourselves closer to realizing a sustainable and resilient future.

The experiences of Boracay and Mt. Apo are more than just stories of recovery. They offer important insights and critical lessons on the need for proactive measures to protect the country's natural resources. While balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability is challenging, it is crucial to preserve the Philippines' rich biodiversity, natural wonders, and the livelihoods of millions who depend on them.

## HEADTOPICS

### [Nestlé, Aboitiz at the forefront of environment sustainability](#)

Nestlé Philippines commits to address plastic pollution and ensure that 100 percent of its packaging will be recyclable or reusable by 2025. As the monsoon season progresses, the Philippines continues to experience thunderstorms, tropical cyclones and heavy rainfall. Extreme weather events, including intensified monsoon rains, increase in frequency due to climate change. Compounding the problem is the accumulation of trash clogging urban waterways and streets, which worsens flooding.

Mismanaged waste, particularly non-biodegradable plastics, blocks drainage systems, pollutes bodies of water and leads to environmental degradation. “Waste management is a key element in building climate resilience, and the collaborative efforts of the private sector and communities are crucial to achieve this goal,” said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director.

Aboitiz, as part of its mission, undertakes local action initiatives with ripple effects that extend beyond the immediate community. A key example of this is its coastal cleanup drives, which Aboitiz considers to be a first line of defense in reducing the impacts of climate-induced disasters.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [CCC, DW Akademie, German Embassy Equip PH Journalists on Climate Reporting](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), Deutsche Welle Akademie (DW Akademie), and the German Embassy collaborated to equip Filipino journalists with tools for responsible climate journalism through a five-day training workshop.

Recognizing the technical complexities of climate change, the CCC aims to mainstream the issue to raise public awareness and drive climate action. The recently concluded media training workshop addressed the need to provide journalists with the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate the intricacies of climate change to the public.

Mr. Mathias Kruse, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy, underscored the importance of media in addressing climate challenges. “In the Philippines, being one of the countries most affected by disasters, journalists play a crucial role in informing the public about the causes of these events and the measures that can be taken to adapt and respond effectively,” Kruse said.

The training covered key topics, including Climate Change 101, climate reporting techniques, storytelling strategies, and an in-depth discussion on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The CCC emphasized the importance of integrating the NAP into climate journalism, as it provides a strategic framework to enhance the country’s resilience to climate change impacts.

The NAP has identified eight key sectors as focal points for adaptation: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Security; Water Resources; Health; Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Cultural Heritage, Population Displacement and Migration; Land Use and Human Settlements; Livelihoods and Industries; and Energy, Transport and Communication.

“These sectors address vulnerable areas, strengthen adaptive capacity, and promote strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change. This collaborative approach will help the public better understand the risks and adopt appropriate and proactive measures to handle disasters,” CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera said.

Herrera further emphasized the NAP as one of the vital tools to effectively communicate with the masses to address challenges brought by climate-induced disasters.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Executive Director of CCC, Atty. Romell Antonio Cuenca, stressed the media’s critical role during the final day of training.

“Your stories can help communities grasp the complexities of climate science, the urgency of action, and the importance of resilience. This training program is a significant step that equips you to cover these complex issues with clarity and depth,” Cuenca stated.

DW Akademie, based in Bonn, Germany, is an international media development organization that provides journalism training and knowledge transfer. The workshop, held at B Hotel in Quezon City, was attended by media representatives from various outlets across the Philippines.

The CCC remains committed to empower all sectors of society to take meaningful climate action. Through collaborative efforts such as this training, the CCC aims to strengthen the media’s role in mainstreaming climate change information.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [CCC, German Embassy highlight role of journos on climate reporting](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission on Thursday cited the importance of the media in the collective response to climate change and equipping them with the knowledge and tools about the issues surrounding it.

“Equipping our media with the right knowledge and tools is crucial in our collective response to climate change,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E. A. Borje said in a statement following a media training workshop for Filipino journalists.

The training was held in Quezon City from Sept. 9 to 13 in partnership with the German Embassy and the Deutsche Welle Akademie (DW Akademie).

“By telling the right stories, backed by science and grounded in local realities, our journalists become powerful allies in raising awareness and inspiring action,” he added.

Borje said the partnership with DW Akademie and the German Embassy helps empower the media to help build resilience and encourage informed discussions and decision-making at all levels of society.

The CCC said climate change comes with technical complexities that need to be simplified into a form that can be understood by ordinary people.

Making the public understand the urgency of the problem would help raise public awareness and drive climate action.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said the five-day learning workshop includes climate reporting techniques, storytelling strategies, and an in-depth discussion on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) that provides a strategic framework to enhance the country's resilience to climate change impacts.

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“These sectors address vulnerable areas, strengthen adaptive capacity, and promote strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change,” Herrera said.

Mathias Kruse, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy, meanwhile, underscored the importance of media in addressing climate challenges.

“In the Philippines, being one of the countries most affected by disasters, journalists play a crucial role in informing the public about the causes of these events and the measures that can be taken to adapt and respond effectively,” he said.

The DW Akademie, based in Bonn, Germany, is an international media development organization that provides journalism training and knowledge transfer.

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