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By: Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio

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The Philippines will continue to work with other nations for the peaceful resolution of disputes and the protection of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the country's top diplomat said at the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in New York City on Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila).

FINANCIAL TIMES

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By: Aime Williams and Myles McCormick

Deep divisions over how to combat global warming at the next climate summit were on display this week, as efforts to green the world's energy system were challenged by oil and gas executives, and petrostates.

KHALEEJ TIMES

[UAE minister urges nations to seize climate opportunity at COP28](#)

By: WAM

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, called upon global nations to leverage the significant opportunity offered by COP28 in the UAE to drive climate action, with a special focus on food systems transformation and promoting nature-based solutions.

MANILA STANDARD

[Climate inaction slows down fight against poverty, global hunger](#)

Insufficient progress towards climate goals is slowing down the global fight against poverty, hunger and deadly diseases, according to a report released by the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH tells UN: Preserve rules-based global order](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The Philippines vowed to continue to promote a rules-based international order to help attain the global Social Development Goals (SDGs).

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON

[\[Opinion\] #ProudMakatizen sa U.S.: recap ng mga 'climate' ganap sa New York](#)

By: Abby Binay

Ang pagbisita ko sa Amerika ng mahigit isang linggo ay hindi lamang para bumisita sa ating sister city na Los Angeles, kundi para rin pumunta sa New York at umattend ng mahahalagang meeting doon. Noong September 18 ay winelcome ako sa Times Square, New York ng mga “empowered women” na buong-pusong nagsusulong ng iba’t ibang programa para sa komunidad. Nagbigay ako ng speech sa Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) Office for UN Relations-New York at ang National Federation for Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA)-Northeast Region tungkol sa paksang “UN and Local Government Initiatives to Achieve the SDGs.”

POLITIKO NEWS

[Philippines Environment Secretary Joins Global Call For Ratification Of BBNJ Agreement](#)

By: Dave Llavanos Jr.

In a show of commitment to preserving the world’s oceans and marine biodiversity, Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga, the Secretary of the Philippines’ Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has joined her counterparts from around the world in calling upon world leaders to ratify the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, commonly known as the BBNJ Agreement.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH climate resilience in 3 areas enhanced](#)

By: Leander C. Domingo

A news project that will enhance climate resilience in agriculture, natural resources and ecosystems in the Philippines is being led by the Philippine government-hosted Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca).

[PH urges intl tribunal to rule on protection of marine environment by Unclos states](#)

By: Bernadette E. Tamayo

The Philippines has urged the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (Itlos) to rule that States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) have obligations to protect and preserve the marine environment from climate change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR: 33 air monitoring stations in Metro Manila need upgrade](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The 33 air monitoring stations in Metro Manila need upgrading to ensure accurate data, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said over the weekend, after pollution-related smog smothered Metro Manila residents on Friday, forcing local government units to suspend classes due to poor air quality and visibility.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PALAWAN NEWS

[Climate Change Commission strengthens local climate action in Palawan](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) conducted a series of capacity-building activities aimed at reinforcing Palawan's Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) and facilitating access to the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Searca leads project to boost climate resilience in PHL](#)

By: Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio

A new project was initiated by Asian research and development agencies in order to enhance climate resilience in agriculture, natural resources and ecosystems in the Philippines.

Being led by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca), the project is in collaboration with Niras Asia Manila Inc. and the International Centre for Environmental Management.

Funded by the Asian Development Bank, and titled “Accelerating Climate Resilience in Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment Project,” the initiative aims to advance the Philippine government’s climate resilience reform agenda under the Climate Change Action Program (CCAP).

The project kicked off with an inception workshop held on September 8.

Antti Inkinen, Niras regional director for Asia and the Pacific, enthusiastically supports the project and encouraged collaborative discussions to propel it forward.

Searca Director Dr. Glenn Gregorio said the workshop brought together 47 national and international experts from relevant government agencies and multisectoral institutions in agriculture, natural resources, and the environment to deliberate on the project’s objectives. He said the project focuses on three key areas.

According to Gregorio, the project aims to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture by promoting climate-resilient farming and supporting climate-smart technologies in crops, livestock, and fisheries in collaboration with Climate-Resilient Agriculture Office and National Organic Agriculture Program under the Philippines’ Department of Agriculture. It also intends to enhance climate resilience in natural resources and ecosystems by expanding the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Risk Resiliency Program with resiliency roadmaps, guidelines, online monitoring, and capacity building to address climate hazards. This will be implemented in partnership with DENR.

Finally, the project seeks to improve agricultural insurance for climate risk by developing a medium-term insurance roadmap for the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), exploring innovative financing solutions, and prioritizing financial sustainability and cost-effectiveness with guidance from PCIC.

Project Deputy Team Leader Cesar Umali highlighted the project's role in advancing the government's climate resilience agenda as outlined in the CCAP.

"Together, these efforts will strengthen the Philippines' ability to face climate-related challenges head-on," Gregorio said.

CNN

PH calls for action vs. climate change, adherence to rules at UNGA

The Philippines will continue to work with other nations for the peaceful resolution of disputes and the protection of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the country's top diplomat said at the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in New York City on Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila).

"We advocate the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with international law. This has always been our position with respect to the disputes in the West Philippine Sea, inasmuch as we are prepared to defend our sovereignty, sovereign rights and territorial integrity," Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said in his speech.

Standing in for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Manalo reiterated the president's foreign policy that the Philippines remains a "friend to all and an enemy to none." But for multilateralism to endure, Manalo said all must adhere to the rule of law.

He also said that the push for peace embraces how the world has changed and the technologies that will continue to be available.

"We call for UN partnerships that guarantee that new technologies are not weaponized, or misused in any way to subvert democracy and freedom, to challenge international humanitarian law, and to exploit the vulnerable and violate human rights and human dignity," he added.

Call for action against the ill effects of climate change

Manalo stressed the need to work together and help countries who bear the brunt of climate change.

"We need decisive, responsible, just and sustainable solutions that look after populations and protect persons that have contributed the least to global warming, but have the highest vulnerability by their geography. This is the meaning of solidarity on climate action," he said.

He also noted that the mechanisms that push for development should consider the requirements of middle-income countries.

"Our partnerships should bridge development divides," he said. "Our collaboration for the future should make our societies more resilient, more cohesive, and more humane."

He said this should include caring fully for the health of all nations by way of vaccines and health services following lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. It should never happen again, Manalo said, that those who most need care will be last in line.

"We affirm that health is primordial to our human development agenda," he added.

A partner for human rights

Manalo also touched on the issue of human rights, mentioning that the Philippines took a lead role in the drafting of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, among others.

He said, at the core, human rights is about people, and dialogue on the matter "must be genuine, based on evidence, and depoliticized."

The secretary said the Philippines will remain a partner for peace.

"The Philippines has served as a pathfinder for consensus on issues such as climate change and human rights and on security cooperation. We will carry on as a bridge-builder," he added.

FINANCIAL TIMES

[Deep divisions over oil and gas industry role challenge UN climate talks](#)

By: Aime Williams and Myles McCormick

Deep divisions over how to combat global warming at the next climate summit were on display this week, as efforts to green the world's energy system were challenged by oil and gas executives, and petrostates.

As world leaders and top officials gathered in New York ahead of the UN COP28 climate summit in ten weeks, a deep rift was on show between countries that support the expansion of fossil fuels, and those that insist stopping all new development is critical to stabilising the earth's temperatures.

"Countries understand that we need to progress," said Dan Jørgensen, Denmark's minister for development co-operation and global climate policy, who is chairing discussions on what fresh climate targets could be agreed on at COP28 in December.

"The bad news is even though we agree on that, we are pretty far from having a consensus on what that actually means. We need to address the elephant in the room — the burning of fossil fuels," he said.

On the fringes of the New York event this week, the world's climate negotiators tested diplomatic language that might be agreed in Dubai, where COP28 will strive to come to a global agreement.

The biggest source of friction is the precise nature of a "phase out" of fossil fuels, and whether this would allow for the expansion of carbon capture technologies, also known as abatement. Climate summits over successive years have failed to agree on this wording.

French president Emmanuel Macron and Kenyan president William Ruto were among 17 leaders who signed a letter last week insisting that "abatement technology cannot be used to greenlight fossil fuel expansion".

Until the world stopped adding carbon to the atmosphere, they said, "the need to continuously adapt will never end. The costs will go up and up. We will count them in human lives."

Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, said major polluters should match the EU's goal that "unabated fossil fuels are phased out well before 2050".

Under pressure from developing nations seeking funding to shift to green energy systems, US climate envoy John Kerry hit out at new unabated coal developments in Asia, where China and India are boosting production.

Meanwhile, more than 3,000km away, oil bosses assembled in the more friendly environs of Calgary, Alberta — the heart of the Canadian oil industry — for an altogether different conversation.

At the World Petroleum Congress, a biennial oil and gas conference, some 500 industry executives including ExxonMobil's Darren Woods warned of the risks of moving away from fossil fuels too quickly.

"I see many shortcomings in the current transition approach that can no longer be ignored," Amin Nasser, the chief executive of Saudi Aramco, the world's biggest oil producer told his audience, which included large delegations from Canada and Saudi Arabia.

"Phasing out conventional energy prematurely could put energy security and affordability priorities at risk," Nasser said. "As the recent energy crisis has shown — compounded by the conflict in Ukraine — the world wobbles if these realities are ignored, or wished away."

At the same event, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, the Saudi energy minister, sought to undermine the International Energy Agency's latest forecast that global fossil fuel demand would peak this decade as cheaper and cleaner renewable energy rises rapidly.

Back in New York, the heads of small island nations including Tuvalu and Palau tried to convey the need for wider alarm about the existential threat posed by rising sea levels.

"If the world allows an entire country to disappear because of climate change, there will be no hope for anyone else," said Kausea Natano, the prime minister of Tuvalu.

Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados — who has spearheaded efforts by small nations ravaged by climate change to secure more funding from the wealthy world — declared that "enough is enough".

"[Climate change] is not challenging just for small states, it's challenging for most countries globally, including the developed world," said Mottley. "And perhaps that's a good thing because . . . the sense of urgency has come to the table in a way it hasn't for decades."

But when world leaders head to COP28 in December with hopes of thrashing out an agreement to preserve the goal of limiting warming, the fossil fuel industry executives expected to attend alongside them will be pushing against cuts to production before 2050.

The industry prominence at the summit, along with the negotiating teams of countries that depend on its prosperity, remains a source of acrimony and mistrust.

Campaigners and a group of more than 130 liberal EU and US lawmakers have attacked the presidency of the summit in the United Arab Emirates, led by Sultan al-Jaber, also head of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

US climate envoy John Kerry has defended the industry's inclusion as essential for the planning of emission cuts. Executives in Calgary too argued that rather than turning its back on the oil and gas sector, the world should be making the most of its carbon expertise.

But as the debate over the role of carbon capture technologies in fossil fuel development ramps up — and economies such as the UK, South Korea and Japan dither on green targets — the industry is taking advantage to put its case.

Al Gore, the former US vice-president and climate campaigner, reflected the disquiet about the fossil fuel industry's "capture" of global UN negotiations on climate change "to a disturbing degree".

Most in the sector wanted to "block and delay and prevent anything that would reduce the sale and burning of fossil fuels", Gore told the FT. "It's simply not realistic to believe that they are going to take the lead in solving this crisis."

KHALEEJ TIMES

[UAE minister urges nations to seize climate opportunity at COP28](#)

By: WAM

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, called upon global nations to leverage the significant opportunity offered by COP28 in the UAE to drive climate action, with a special focus on food systems transformation and promoting nature-based solutions.

This was during her high-level meetings on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Almheiri, who is also the COP28 Food Systems Lead, underlined the importance of collective action to create more sustainable global food systems, highlighting the prominence placed by the UAE on food and agriculture in the COP28 agenda.

She also marked the UAE's endorsement of the Mangrove Breakthrough and announced the Mangroves Ministerial to be hosted at COP28 on the Nature, Oceans and Land Use Day to drive forward discussions to advance nature-based solutions.

During her participation in the Ministerial Panel Discussion on the High Impact Initiative Food Systems, organised by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), she explained the importance of the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda, which focuses on four key domains of country-led action, non-state actor leadership and action, innovation scaling, and finance.

Inviting all countries to exemplify national leadership by signing the first-ever Emirates Declaration on Food Systems, Agriculture and Climate Action, which was sent to all agriculture ministers for their feedback by September 27.

Almheiri said the UAE's goal is to further galvanise collective action to transform the food system.

Speaking at the High-Level event for 'Nature and People (HAC): From Ambition to Action', Almheiri reiterated the UAE's commitment to nature-based solutions and their role in building resilience to climate change.

She said that as part of the Presidency's Action Agenda, COP28 will mobilise robust action to drive implementation and advance the climate-nature agenda, and demonstrate practical, novel, and at-scale solutions that protect, restore, and

sustainably manage critical land and ocean ecosystems – such as forests, mangroves, peatlands, and corals.

Endorsing the Mangrove Breakthrough, Almheiri said: "This collaborative effort between the Global Mangrove Alliance and the UN Climate Change High-level Champions has support from non-state actors and governments worldwide with one main goal: To restore and protect 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030. It is exactly these types of ambitious, accountable, and collaborative nature-based projects that can help the global community get back on track for the Paris Agreement goals by 2050."

She called on all nations to endorse the Mangrove Breakthrough and actively participate in the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC). MAC, which is a partnership between the UAE and Indonesia, has attracted 20 partners to scale up and accelerate the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems for the benefit of communities worldwide.

Speaking at the 'Food+ Forum: Foreign Policy', alongside Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, US Department of Agriculture, Almheiri reiterated the need to direct collective innovation and mobilise global finance to fight global hunger and create sustainable and equitable food systems.

She invited nations to join AIM for Climate, which the UAE co-leads with the USA. AIM for Climate, which boasts over 500 international partners, has raised \$13 billion in investment for climate-smart agriculture and food system innovation.

MANILA STANDARD

[Climate inaction slows down fight against poverty, global hunger](#)

Insufficient progress towards climate goals is slowing down the global fight against poverty, hunger and deadly diseases, according to a report released by the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

UN Secretary-General António Guterres echoed that message, warning that record temperatures and extreme weather were “causing havoc” around the world.

The global response has fallen “far short,” Guterres recently said, just as latest UN data indicates that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are only 15 percent on track at the midway point of the 2030 Agenda.

According to WMO, current policies will lead to global warming of at least 2.8 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels over the course of this century—well above the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C.

This year’s northern hemisphere summer has been the hottest on record, prompting the UN chief last week to reiterate his call for a “surge in action.”

Guterres underscored in his foreword to the report that weather, climate and water-related sciences can “supercharge progress on the SDGs across the board.”

The United in Science report, which combines expertise from 18 UN organizations and partners, shows how climate science and early warnings can save lives and livelihoods, advance food and water security, clean energy and better health.

After recent flooding in Libya that has claimed thousands of lives, WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas stressed that a lack of adequate forecasting capacity can have deadly consequences for a country when faced with extreme weather events.

He highlighted the risky situation developing in Sudan, where conflict has crippled the agency’s capacity to forecast hazards.

The head of the country’s meteorological service told him that most of her staff members escaped Khartoum and were unable to “run their business in a normal way,” he said.

“They are not able to forecast this kind of high-impact weather events anymore,” he warned.

Extreme weather events are also a key factor in the spread of global hunger and the new report seeks to inform urgent action on this front as the UN estimates that nearly 670 million people may be food insecure in 2030.

The report's authors explore the link between life-saving food production and nutrition, and investments in weather sciences and services which enable farmers to make decisions on crops and planting.

Early warnings are also crucial to "helping identify potential areas of crop failure that may lead to emergencies."

"United in Science" includes analysis from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which warned that climate change and extreme events such as heatwaves are set to "significantly increase ill health and premature deaths."

The report's findings show that integrating epidemiology and climate information makes it possible to forecast and prepare for outbreaks of climate-sensitive diseases, such as malaria and dengue.

Early-warning systems can also help to reduce poverty by giving people the chance to anticipate and "limit the economic impact" of disasters.

The WMO-led report shows that between 1970 and 2021, there were nearly 12,000 reported disasters from weather, climate and water extremes, causing \$4.3 trillion in economic losses—the majority of them in developing countries.

WMO deplored the fact that so far, there has been "very limited progress" in reducing the gap between promises that countries made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the level of emissions cuts really needed to achieve the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

To limit global warming to 1.5°C, global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 45 percent by 2030, with carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions falling close to net zero by 2050.

The report's authors wrote that while some future changes in climate are unavoidable, "every fraction of a degree and ton of CO₂ matters to limit global warming and achieve the SDGs."

WMO has also underscored the importance of the UN's "Early Warnings for All" initiative aiming to ensure that "everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027."

Currently, only half of the countries worldwide report having adequate multi-hazard early warning systems.

UN News

The United in Science report was issued ahead of the SDG Summit and Climate Ambition Summit which take place at the UN General Assembly.

These meetings will "shine a spotlight on how to rescue the SDGs at the half-way mark to 2030" and "boost ambition to tackle the climate crisis,"the UN chief told reporters in New York on Wednesday.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH tells UN: Preserve rules-based global order](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The Philippines vowed to continue to promote a rules-based international order to help attain the global Social Development Goals (SDGs).

Speaking on behalf of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) general debate in New York City, USA Sunday (PH time), Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo told member-nations that preservation of rules-based global order is everyone's responsibility.

"The preservation of a rules-based global order is our collective responsibility. The UN is underwritten by a rules-based order governed by international law and informed by the principles of equity and of justice," Manalo said in his speech.

The Philippines is working with other nations to promote peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law as he underscored the country's position on its issue with China regarding the West Philippine Sea, he said.

"This has always been our position with respect to the disputes in the West Philippine Sea, inasmuch as we are prepared to defend our sovereignty, sovereign rights and territorial integrity," he said.

Manalo, quoting President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., said the Philippines is "a friend to all and enemy to none."

"Our constitution renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to a policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations," he said.

Manalo reiterated that the Philippines is a champion of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of The Sea (UNCLOS), adding that the country is one of the first states to recently sign the Treaty on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which opens new windows to cooperate in the responsible stewardship of the high seas.

"The primacy of the UNCLOS was affirmed by the 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea. The Award definitively settled the status of historic rights and maritime entitlements in the South China Sea, declaring without legal effect claims that exceed entitlements beyond the geographic and substantive limits of UNCLOS," he said.

He also noted that for the past seven years, the Philippines celebrated the award which is now part of international law.

Danger to humanity

Manalo likewise acknowledged that humanity is still in danger due to the existence of destructive and disruptive weapons.

"All the more, the rule of law must reign. President Marcos Jr. at this Assembly last year called for rules and norms for the responsible use of emerging technologies," he said.

Manalo said the Philippines is advocating for the peaceful uses of outer space, and greater responsibility among states to reduce space threats, including debris from rocket launches.

He called for UN partnerships to ensure that new technologies are not weaponized or misused.

Sustainable development

The Philippines also vowed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the country's mid- and long-term development plans.

"We can unlock opportunities for the Philippines and developing countries, including middle-income countries, to advance South-South cooperation and meet development goals across the world," said Manalo.

Manalo said the Philippines supports initiatives to make international financial and development mechanisms more attuned to the needs of middle-income countries.

Human rights, climate change

The Philippines, as a member of the UN Commission of Human Rights, vowed to be an advocate for the human rights of vulnerable groups, especially women, children, indigenous peoples, migrants, persons with disabilities, refugees, and older persons.

"To foster trust and engagement, dialogue on human rights must be genuine, based on evidence, and depoliticized," he said.

On climate change, the Philippines cited the need for stronger multilateral cooperation.

"We need decisive, responsible, just and sustainable solutions that look after populations and protect persons that have contributed the least to global warming, but have the highest vulnerability by their geography," he said.

The Philippines joined the call for industrialized countries to abide by their obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

"We thank Vanuatu and the core group of states for rallying the UN to bring the question of state obligations relating to climate change to the ICJ (International Court of Justice). The Philippines will actively participate in the proceedings," said Manalo.

Manalo meanwhile said the Philippines is joining the call for solidarity in fostering and advancing a multilateral architecture that promotes the rule of law and meets the pressing challenges of our century.

"Such an architecture demands that we invest wisely in sound, inclusive, and far-sighted multilateral institutions. The Philippines will support multilateral institutions that adhere to the highest standards of good governance, equity, inclusivity, transparency and accountability," Manalo said.

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON

[\[Opinion\] #ProudMakatizen sa U.S.: recap ng mga 'climate' ganap sa New York](#)

By: Abby Binay

Ang pagbisita ko sa Amerika ng mahigit isang linggo ay hindi lamang para bumisita sa ating sister city na Los Angeles, kundi para rin pumunta sa New York at umattend ng mahahalagang meeting doon. Noong September 18 ay winelcome ako sa Times Square, New York ng mga “empowered women” na buong-pusong nagsusulong ng iba’t ibang programa para sa komunidad. Nagbigay ako ng speech sa Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) Office for UN Relations-New York at ang National Federation for Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA)-Northeast Region tungkol sa paksang “UN and Local Government Initiatives to Achieve the SDGs.”

Dito ay ikinuwento ko ang success story ng Makati at kung gaano kalaki ang naging impact ng mga Public-Private Partnership sa pag-usad ng ating mga smart city initiative at programa sa climate change. Isa sa mga opisyal ng NaFFAA si Loida Nicolas-Lewis, isang abogadang Filipino-American. Siya rin ay isang tinitingalang entrepreneur sa buong mundo. Alam niyo ba na siya ang kauna-unahang Filipina lawyer na nakapasa sa New York state bar? Napakataas ng respeto ko kay Mrs. Lewis kaya naman masaya akong makilala siya sa Town Hall meeting na ito sa New York.

Bilang Board Member ng Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) ay regular akong dumadalo sa mga meeting nito upang magbigay ng updates at reports sa aking area na Southeast Asia. Hindi lang po Makati at Pilipinas ang mino-monitor ko pagdating sa mga sustainability climate action efforts, kundi ang ibang mga lungsod din sa rehiyong ito. Naging panelist din ako sa isang talakayan tungkol sa paksang “Unlocking Urban Energy Access and Poverty report launch campaign” kasama ang iba pang mayors ng GCoM. Dito pinag-usapan ang “energy poverty” na isa pa rin sa malaking problema nang maraming lugar sa Southeast Asia.

Sa progresibong lungsod tulad ng Makati, maaaring hindi halata ang kawalan ng kuryente at kahirapan. Pero sa totoong buhay, milyun-milyon pa rin ang walang access sa kuryente at maayos na pagkain kaya nahihirapang makaangat sa buhay ang mga indibidwal at ang kanilang komunidad. Ito ang isa sa major themes na gusto kong i-present sa darating na COP28 climate conference sa Dubai, UAE. Bilang miyembro ng advisory committee, mayroon akong pagkakataong maipaalam sa mga tinatawag na first-world nations ang sitwasyon ng mga mas mahihirap na lungsod sa ibang bahagi ng mundo.

Mayroon tayong determinasyon, mayaman tayo sa inobasyon, ngunit kapos tayo sa pondo para ipatupad ang mga planong ito. Kailangan talaga natin ng access sa climate

finance para isakatuparan ang mga pangarap natin para sa komunidad. Kailangan ding mag-invest sa sustainable infrastructure, public transportation, at climate resilience measures para ihanda ng mga lungsod para sa mga paparating pamg hamon ng climate change. Nakakatuwang napaka-receptive ng international audience sa aking mga ideya at suhestyon. Willing din silang magbigay ng tulong at umalalay sa atin habang nagbabalangakas tayo ng mga plano at programa para sa isang mas sustainable, resilient, at progresibong kinabukasan.

Ngayong linggo ay back to City Hall na po ang inyong #ProudMakatizen. Salamat po sa pagsama sa akin sa aking paglalakbay!

POLITIKO NEWS

[Philippines Environment Secretary Joins Global Call For Ratification Of BBNJ Agreement](#)

By: Dave Llavanos Jr.

In a show of commitment to preserving the world's oceans and marine biodiversity, Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga, the Secretary of the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has joined her counterparts from around the world in calling upon world leaders to ratify the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, commonly known as the BBNJ Agreement.

The call to action comes on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA78), where global leaders are addressing pressing issues, including the preservation of our oceans, as part of their sustainable development efforts.

The BBNJ Agreement is a groundbreaking international treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It seeks to establish a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, which represent a significant portion of the world's oceans.

Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga, a staunch advocate for environmental conservation and sustainable practices, highlighted the urgency of this initiative.

"Our oceans are facing unprecedented challenges, from pollution and overfishing to the impacts of climate change. As the Philippines and the world at large grapple with these challenges, it is essential that we unite under the BBNJ Agreement to safeguard the biodiversity of our oceans."

The Agreement's provisions include the establishment of marine protected areas, equitable sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources, and capacity-building measures to ensure that developing nations can actively participate in ocean conservation efforts.

By urging world leaders to ratify the BBNJ Agreement, Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga aligns herself with the global community's commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), which calls for the conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans, seas, and marine resources.

The Philippines, an archipelagic nation known for its rich marine biodiversity, understands the importance of preserving its ocean ecosystems. The country's participation in this international effort demonstrates its dedication to responsible

environmental stewardship and its recognition that the challenges faced by the oceans are a shared global responsibility.

As UNGA78 unfolds, the call for ratification of the BBNJ Agreement resonates as a critical step towards securing the future of our oceans. Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga's involvement in this advocacy underscores the nation's commitment to sustainable practices and the well-being of present and future generations. It is a reminder that collective action is essential in protecting the planet's most vital ecosystems.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH climate resilience in 3 areas enhanced](#)

By: Leander C. Domingo

A news project that will enhance climate resilience in agriculture, natural resources and ecosystems in the Philippines is being led by the Philippine government-hosted Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca).

Officially titled "Accelerating Climate Resilience in Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment Project," this initiative aims to advance the government's climate resilience reform agenda under the Climate Change Action Program (CCAP).

The project brought together 47 national and international experts from relevant government agencies and multisectoral institutions in agriculture, natural resources and the environment to deliberate on the project's objectives.

It is done in collaboration with Niras Asia Manila Inc. and the International Center for Environmental Management, and funded by the Asian Development Bank. It kicked off with an inception workshop this month and encouraged collaborative discussions to propel it forward.

Focusing on three key areas, the project aims to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture by promoting climate-resilient farming and supporting climate-smart technologies in crops, livestock and fisheries in collaboration with the Climate-Resilient Agriculture Office and National Organic Agriculture Program under the Philippine Department of Agriculture.

Searca Director Glenn Gregorio noted that the project intends to enhance climate resilience in natural resources and ecosystems by expanding the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Risk Resiliency Program with resiliency road maps, guidelines, online monitoring and capacity building to address climate hazards.

To be implemented in partnership with the DENR, the project seeks to improve agricultural insurance for climate risk by developing a medium-term insurance road map for the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp., exploring innovative financing solutions and prioritizing financial sustainability and cost-effectiveness with the latter's guidance.

Cesar Umali, project deputy team leader, highlighted the project's role in advancing the government's climate resilience agenda as outlined in the CCAP.

"Together, these efforts will strengthen the Philippines' ability to face climate-related challenges head-on," Gregorio said.

[PH urges intl tribunal to rule on protection of marine environment by Unclos states](#)

By: Bernadette E. Tamayo

The Philippines has urged the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (Itlos) to rule that States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) have obligations to protect and preserve the marine environment from climate change.

The Philippine legal team, led by Ambassador Carlos Sorreta, Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, on September 19 delivered a one-hour presentation of the legal, political and scientific basis for its arguments.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the team cited the statement of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. at last year's UN General Assembly (UNGA) that "climate change is the greatest threat affecting our nations and peoples."

The Philippines said that to address climate change, States have the "binding obligations, among others, not to harm the marine environment through greenhouse gas emissions."

Unclos signatories should also "enact and enforce measures to prevent marine pollution and protect and preserve the marine environment from the effects of climate change," the Philippines said.

It further submitted that Unclos is an important and indispensable legal instrument in the fight against climate change.

Manila stressed that "while climate change was not yet a prominent concern during the negotiations and adoption of Unclos in 1982, there is no other way to interpret its provisions without taking into account climate change and its effects on the marine environment."

It added that in the field of international environmental law, various international agreements on environmental protection "build upon each other to create a normative synergy between past, present and future agreements."

The Philippines, along with other states, also stressed the importance of the South China Sea Arbitration, which "extensively discussed" state obligations under Unclos in the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

Manila pointed out that, "the South China Sea Arbitration provides a most authoritative determination on the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment. It

pronounced legal doctrines that could help determine the outcome of these proceedings."

Further, it is "legally binding international law, with its proceedings faithfully carried out in accordance with Unclos."

Noting that the 2016 Arbitral Award "has been cited by Itlos itself," the Philippines declared that "its validity cannot be assailed."

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 ruled in favor of the Philippines and invalidated China's nine-dash line policy in the South China Sea that encroached on the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

The Philippines' oral statement was in response to the request for an Advisory Opinion by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law on the specific obligations under Unclos to protect and preserve the marine environment in connection with climate change brought about by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

The Philippines recalled that Marcos, in his statement at UNGA, stressed that "there is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a unified effort."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR: 33 air monitoring stations in Metro Manila need upgrade](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The 33 air monitoring stations in Metro Manila need upgrading to ensure accurate data, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said over the weekend, after pollution-related smog smothered Metro Manila residents on Friday, forcing local government units to suspend classes due to poor air quality and visibility.

In a radio interview, DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) National Capital Region Environment Monitoring Enforcement Division officer-in-charge Linel Manayang added that the air has improved in Metro Manila after some parts were deemed “acutely unhealthy” for residents on Friday.

“So far, we have 33 air quality monitoring stations in Metro Manila situated in all the cities, including the municipality of Pateros. So far, all the air quality monitoring equipment is properly maintained and operational, but some need to be upgraded for better catchment and good result of air quality data, so that our readings will be more accurate,” Manayang said.

He said that the EMB plans to increase the monitoring screens in Metro Manila to inform the public of the actual air quality in their respective areas.

“We have a data center, wherein all the results of the air quality monitoring stations are being captured in real time, and we flash in certain public places like in Ortigas. We have identified possible additional sites like Parañaque, Commonwealth Ave. to install additional screens where the public can have air quality real time monitoring,” Manayang added.

According to him, the air quality in Metro Manila ranged from good to fair in the last days, but deteriorated on Friday due to the volume of vehicles in the streets.

“Our normal (air quality) was only 35 (micrograms per normal cubic meter or $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$), but on Friday the air quality in some areas reached 128,141 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$,” Manayang explained.

The DENR classifies air quality of 101 to 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$ as unhealthy as people with respiratory disease such as asthma are advised to limit outdoor exposure; while air quality of 151 to 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$ is considered as very unhealthy as pedestrians are advised to avoid heavy traffic areas; and 201 to 300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$ as acutely unhealthy as pedestrians should limit outdoor exposure.

Based on the monitoring of the EMB on Sept. 22, the air quality index (AQI), which monitors six criteria pollutants to determine how clean or polluted the air is, reached as high as 217 points in Parañaque City, 141 points in Pateros and 128 points in Makati.

“The high air quality level, which resulted in smog, was due to excessive emission of heavy traffic, especially during rush hour,” Manayang added.

Based on latest data from the DENR, the air quality in Mandaluyong City and Antipolo City in Rizal ranged between 51 and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$ or classified as fair; and between one and 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$ or good in Caloocan City, Makati City, Parañaque City, Pateros, San Juan City, Taguig City, Pateros and Batangas.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PALAWAN NEWS

[Climate Change Commission strengthens local climate action in Palawan](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) conducted a series of capacity-building activities aimed at reinforcing Palawan's Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) and facilitating access to the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

The recent training workshop on Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan (eLCCAP) provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of key LCCAP components and knowledge about developing science-based and risk-informed plans.

Topics covered during the workshop included climate projections, Climate Extremes Risk Analysis Matrix, the eLCCAP formulation process, climate and disaster risk assessment (CDRA) procedures, and an overview of community-level greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and data requirements.

The training also included methodologies for estimating GHG emissions across sectors, the GHG Inventory (GHGI) Toolkit, climate change expenditure tagging, and the PSF process.

A total of 78 representatives from the different municipalities in the province participated in the workshop, representing various offices such as Planning and Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Agriculture, and Environment and Natural Resource offices, as well as members of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) Palawan Chapter.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje highlighted the importance of LGUs in adaptation and climate resilience and emphasized the CCC's commitment to providing support and resources to enhance their capabilities.

"We recognize the vital role of LGUs in adaptation and climate resilience. Through these capacity-building activities, we aim to enhance the capacity of our LGUs to access and utilize the PSF in initiatives that will help their communities become more resilient to the impacts of climate change," he said.

The LCCAP serves as a roadmap for local-level climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, outlining specific actions tailored to the unique needs and vulnerabilities of each locality.

As of August 23, approximately 85.95 percent of LGUs across the country, including Palawan with a 100 percent compliance rate, have successfully submitted their LCCAPs to the CCC.

This submission is mandated by Republic Act 9729, the Climate Change Act, and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular 2021-068.

The CCC continues to collaborate with the DILG and other partners to equip LGUs and stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed for effective climate action planning and the implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

Aside from LGUs, 167 state universities, colleges, and higher education institutions have also benefited from the CCC's capacity-building activities.

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