



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- CCC lauds Legarda for Legion of Honor title from French gov't
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By: Adrian H. Halili

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## DAILY GUARDIAN

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## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

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## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Funding for climate-related investments](#)**

By: Marianne Go

With the increasing floods we have experienced locally and have been seeing and reading about in world news, it seems timely and of utmost importance that we should put the spotlight on our own efforts – from the government to local banks and Philippine conglomerates – to address our climate change problems through increased funding for climate-related investments.

### **[Poll: Young Pinoys worry most about climate change, education](#)**

By: CristinaChi

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has congratulated Senator Loren Legarda for obtaining the prestigious title of Officier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur conferred by the French government.

### **[CCC: Students play vital role in PH climate action](#)**

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) noted that students play a vital role in the country's fight against climate change and the promotion of gender equality.

## [Companies urged to sign up for zero carbon emissions initiative](#)

By: Mary Judaline Partlow

The Net Zero Carbon Alliance (NZCA), a private sector-backed initiative, urged more companies to advocate sustainable actions to reach zero gas emissions by 2050.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**[UN adopts pact promising to build 'brighter future' for humanity](#)**

The United Nations on Sunday adopted a "Pact for the Future" aimed at addressing sprawling 21st-century challenges ranging from conflict to climate change and human rights, despite last-minute objections from a group of countries led by Russia.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who organized the "Summit of the Future," had billed it as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to reshape human history by rekindling international cooperation.

As an opening act for the annual high-level week of the UN General Assembly, which begins Tuesday, dozens of heads of state and government gathered for the signing of the text.

In the adopted version, leaders pledged to bolster the multilateral system to "keep pace with a changing world" and to "protect the needs and interests of current and future generations" facing "persistent crisis."

"We believe there is a path to a brighter future for all of humanity," the document says.

The pact outlines 56 "actions," including commitments to multilateralism, upholding the UN Charter and peacekeeping.

It also calls for reforms to international financial institutions and the UN Security Council, along with renewed efforts to combat climate change, promote disarmament, and guide the development of artificial intelligence.

The adoption of the text faced a brief delay when Russia's deputy minister of foreign affairs, Sergey Vershinin, introduced an amendment emphasizing the "principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states" and urging the UN to avoid duplicating efforts.

Russia's objections were backed by allies Belarus, North Korea, Iran, Nicaragua and Syria, but its amendment was overwhelmingly dismissed in a motion to take no action.

- Words to action -

During the negotiations phase, Guterres had urged nations to show "vision" and "courage," calling for "maximum ambition" to strengthen international institutions that struggle to respond effectively to today's threats.

But while there are some "good ideas," the text "is not the sort of revolutionary document reforming the whole of multilateralism that Antonio Guterres had originally called for," Richard Gowan of the International Crisis Group told AFP.

That sentiment was widely shared among diplomats, many of whom expressed frustration when discussing the ambition and impact of the text, describing it as "lukewarm," "the lowest common denominator," and "disappointing."

"Ideally, you would hope for new ideas, fresh ideas," said one diplomat.

The fight against global warming was one of the sticking points in the negotiations, with references to the "transition" away from fossil fuels having disappeared from the draft text weeks ago, before being re-inserted.

Despite the criticism, it is still "an opportunity to affirm our collective commitment to multilateralism, even in the difficult current geopolitical context," one Western diplomat said, emphasizing the need to rebuild trust between the Global North and South.

Developing countries have been particularly vocal in demanding concrete commitments on the reform of international financial institutions, aiming to secure easier access to preferential financing, especially considering the impacts of climate change.

The text does indeed include "important commitments on economic justice and reforming the international financial architecture," Human Rights Watch (HRW) commented, while also praising "the centrality of human rights."

However, world leaders "still need to demonstrate that they are willing to act to uphold human rights," said Louis Charbonneau, HRW's UN director.

Regardless of its content, the pact and its annexes -- a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations -- are non-binding, raising concerns about implementation, especially as some principles -- such as the protection of civilians in conflict -- are violated daily.

"Our next task is to breathe life into them, to turn words into action," Guterres urged on Saturday.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[5 regions selected for 7-year agri climate resilience project](#)**

By: Adrian H. Halili

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said that its \$39.2-million climate resiliency program will operate in five vulnerable regions, benefiting 1.25 million farmers.

In a statement, the DA said the seven-year Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA) project will promote “the adoption of climate-resilient farming practices, empowering farmers to establish sustainable enterprises.”

Within the five regions, which are the Cagayan Valley, the Cordillera Administrative Region, Bicol, Northern Mindanao, and Soccsksargen, the project will roll out across nine provinces and 100 municipalities.

The project is a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the government weather service, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration).

“Our combined efforts in implementing the APA Project will strengthen the foundation of progressive and resilient communities that we have begun through our various climate-resiliency-building initiatives,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said.

FAO Country Representative to the Philippines Lionel Henri Valentin Dabbadie said that the project will have long-term benefits for vulnerable farmers.

“It’s about creating opportunities for growth in the fields and through agricultural enterprises, ensuring that future generations continue to benefit from the rich agricultural heritage of the Philippines,” Mr. Dabbadie added.

The DA said that the program would expand on its Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture Program.

The project is financed under a Green Climate Fund grant amounting to \$26.3 million with additional funding from the Philippine government of \$12.9 million.

## DAILY GUARDIAN

### [Young people in PHL want more action in climate change, education, health, and jobs](#)

Climate change, education, health, and jobs are the top concerns for nearly 3,000 young people in the Philippines, who took part in the latest U-Report poll, organized by the United Nations.

About 26 per cent 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 per cent 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 per cent.

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

It empowers the youth to find out about issues that affect them and take action to influence their leaders.

The key findings were released before the upcoming Summit of the Future 2024 in New York on 22-23 September.

It is a once-in-a-generation summit where advocates and leaders from across the globe discuss and draw up a consensus—a “Pact for the Future”—on what the world should do today to safeguard tomorrow.

#### Youth’s perspective on national issues

Young people see the lack of entry-level jobs (33 per cent) and the current economic conditions (26 per cent) 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 per cent) and the disruption AI technology has brought and can bring (18 per cent).

The same issues surface when asked, in an open-ended question, 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.

What gives them hope

While youth are split on whether the future generation is “worse off” or “better off” (44 per cent vs 37 per cent) 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 per cent of the respondents believe that the work of the United Nations is important in creating a better world.

“Our generation is passionate about making a difference. We make noise and initiate movements for social change, from racial justice to climate action. We use social media to raise awareness,” writes one survey participant.

Another writes: “The fighting spirit of young Filipinos gives me hope that someday, our lives will be better.”

UN Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez lauded the commitment and contributions of children and young people in the Philippines. He sees their value as genuine partners of the United Nations.

“I want to thank 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 said.

“The U-Report findings reveal the sobering, yet hopeful outlook young people have about their prospects for the future. 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,” said UNICEF Representative to the Philippines Oyunsaikhan Dendevnorov. UNICEF will celebrate their fervent voices this November 20, World Children’s Day.



## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Net-zero pledges growing but integrity lacking – study](#)**

While more countries, companies, and cities are setting net-zero targets, many of their pledges to slash carbon emissions lack integrity, according to a study published Monday.

Net Zero Tracker, a research partnership between four organizations, annually reviews the climate pledges of more than 4,000 governments, states, cities, and major corporations.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Funding for climate-related investments](#)**

By: Marianne Go

With the increasing floods we have experienced locally and have been seeing and reading about in world news, it seems timely and of utmost importance that we should put the spotlight on our own efforts – from the government to local banks and Philippine conglomerates – to address our climate change problems through increased funding for climate-related investments.

According to a recent World Bank report, in almost 60 percent of banks in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs), lending for climate-related investment accounts for less than five percent of their overall portfolios, and more than one-quarter offer no climate financing at all.

This is significant, the World Bank report warned, because in developing economies, banks dominate the financial sector, unlike in advanced economies where the financial sector is more diversified.

Climate change, the World Bank pointed out, is expected to have a significant impact on economic opportunities and development outcomes in EMDEs, requiring far greater investment than they currently receive.

Banks in EMDEs, the World Bank report stated, have the potential to play a larger role in closing the climate financing gap.

“Emerging markets and developing economies face substantial financing gaps in low-carbon, climate-resilient investments. We need to step up climate action and crowd in

private investment,” said Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank senior managing director of development policy and partnerships.

“This requires collective action, and the banking sector is indispensable in this transition process. It can play a pivotal role in financing a green, low-carbon and sustainable development path,” Trotsenburg said.

Globally, the Washington-based institution said, banking authorities are testing new approaches to support climate financing without compromising the important goals of financial sector stability and inclusion for underserved people.

It cited, as an example, the adoption of green and sustainable taxonomies – a classification system that identifies activities and investments to move countries toward specific environmental and other targets – which is essential to increasing climate-related lending.

Unfortunately, the report noted, today they cover only 10 percent of EMDEs compared with 76 percent of advanced economies.

“Adaptation is underfunded – only 16 percent of domestic and international climate finance in emerging markets and developing economies (excluding China) is channeled toward adaptation. Out of this small share, 98 percent is either public resources or official financing,” said Pablo Saavedra, World Bank vice president for prosperity.

“In addition to increased climate lending from banks, reducing this gap requires larger capital and insurance markets in developing economies to provide essential long-term funding for critical climate-resilient infrastructure. It’s also important to improve financial access for people, particularly those in vulnerable groups,” he said.

The report, *Finance and Prosperity 2024*, is the inaugural edition of an annual series that examines financial sector developments and vulnerabilities in low- and middle-income countries. The report includes two special topics: the sovereign-bank nexus and climate and the banking sector.

Based on new data, the report highlights a divergence in the resilience and stability of financial sectors. An analysis of 50 countries, which represent 93 percent of total bank assets in EMDEs, found that 30 percent of these countries face high financial-sector risks in the next 12 months. The majority do not have an adequate policy framework or the institutional capacity to deal with financial stability challenges.

The report also calls attention to the excessive holdings of government debt by domestic banks – an Achilles’ heel for some economies – particularly those with weaker macroeconomic policies facing public debt sustainability challenges. Between 2012 and 2023, the exposure of banks to government debt surged by over 35 percent.

The report recommends that countries strengthen bank buffers well in advance, operationalize financial safety nets, conduct stress tests and put in place a variety of essential tools.

These, the report said, should include strong interagency crisis-management mechanisms, fully operational emergency liquidity assistance, robust bank resolution frameworks and adequately funded deposit insurance systems to reduce the likelihood of financial stress and spillovers to the overall economy.

Additionally, the report concluded, developing economies should consider introducing disclosure requirements for banks’ exposures to the government to encourage more prudent risk-taking by banks and foster market discipline.

## [Poll: Young Pinoys worry most about climate change, education](#)

By: CristinaChi

Climate change, education and job opportunities are the leading concerns for almost 3,000 young people in the Philippines, according to the results of an online poll by the United Nations.

A higher percentage of female respondents identified climate change and health as their generation's top concerns, the results of the U-Report poll showed. Meanwhile, male respondents were more likely to say that future generations will be worse off than today.

U-Report is UNICEF's polling tool where participants — mainly young people — can receive and respond to polls through SMS and online messaging platforms. It was first introduced in the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

U-Report's latest poll, released on September 16, included 3,109 responses to four questions that aimed to gauge young people's views on the future.

UNICEF Representative to the Philippines Oyunsai Khan Dendevnorov said in a news release that the findings are a "sobering, yet hopeful outlook" that young Filipinos have for the future.

1 in 4 young Filipinos worry about climate change

About a quarter (26%) of young Filipinos consider "climate change and natural disasters" as the most pressing issue in the future. Nearly 60% of young women who answered the poll see climate change as the biggest issue for their generation compared to 40% of young men.

Overall, at least 22 to 23% believe finding a job, health (including mental health) and completing their education are major concerns. Young men were more likely to say that finding a job is their generation's top concern (40%) compared to young women (14%). Meanwhile, only young women (14%) identified health as a pressing issue.

Only 2% said gender equality was a top concern for young people, while 4% had answers not part of the options. No respondent chose violence as a top concern.

Respondents of different age groups prioritize different issues, with those youngest (below 14 years old) and at least 31 to 34 years old sharing the same top concern for the future: their health, including mental health.

For instance, the most number of Filipinos who identified health, including mental health, as their biggest problem in the future were aged 31-34 years old (50%), followed by those younger than 14 years old (28%).

Meanwhile, most responses that chose climate change as the biggest future concern came from the 25-30-year-old group (35%).

More young women hopeful about the future

Most respondents believe future generations will not see improved conditions. At least 44% said the future generations will be "worse off than today" compared to 37% who said they will be better off. At least 19% said future generations will be "the same as today."

Young men and women are also split on whether future generations will inherit a better world than today. At least 75% of young men believe that the future will be worse off compared to 29% of women. Meanwhile, at least 43% of young women project a better future than 25% of young men. Only female respondents (29%) said future generations will have similar conditions as the present.

Young Filipinos also identified the lack of entry-level jobs (33%) and the current economic conditions (26%) 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%) and the disruption AI technology has brought and can bring (18%).

The Philippine-wide U-Report poll results was released ahead of the "Summit of the Future 2024" happening at the UN Headquarters in New York from September 22 until September 23.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

#### [CCC lauds Legarda for Legion of Honor title from French gov't](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has congratulated Senator Loren Legarda for obtaining the prestigious title of Officier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur conferred by the French government.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said the conferment of the Legion of Honor title to Legarda is a recognition not only of her tireless work in diplomacy and culture but, more importantly, her relentless commitment to championing climate action and resilience.

"Her leadership in advancing key transformative climate, sustainable, and environmental legislation has helped position the Philippines as a global climate leader," Borje said in a news release on Monday.

France Ambassador to the Philippines Marie Fontaniel presented the Legion of Honor Award to Legarda in a ceremony at the Ambassador's residence on Sept. 19.

"You are the strongest advocate in raising awareness on climate change and the protection of our planet. Your commitment is a longstanding one. You understood the importance of protecting our environment before many others, no doubt because you know the consequences of climate change here in your own country," Fontanel said.

In her acceptance speech, Legarda emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between the Philippines and France in addressing global challenges, particularly climate change.

She recalled key milestones in this partnership, including the 2015 Manila Call to Action for Climate Change and the joint efforts to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and oceans by 2030 under the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People.

"Over the years, my collaborations with France have been grounded in a deep respect for our shared values, particularly in cultural diplomacy and the fight for climate justice. I always consider cultural diplomacy as the Philippines' fourth pillar of foreign policy, a key that opens doors to political and economic initiatives," Legarda said.

The Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur is France's highest distinction, awarded for outstanding service.

In 2016, the French government also bestowed upon Legarda the title of Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight in the French National Order of the Legion of Honor).

## **CCC: Students play vital role in PH climate action**

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) noted that students play a vital role in the country's fight against climate change and the promotion of gender equality.

In a news release on Wednesday, the CCC said the wide-ranging impacts of climate change, including rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, sea level rise, and disruptions to ecosystems and biodiversity, affect people of all ages and shape the future global scenario.

In a forum at the Philippine Women's University (PWU) aimed to inspire youth participation in addressing climate change and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the CCC emphasized the urgency of climate action, manifested by severe storms, monsoons, and extreme flooding affecting Metro Manila and surrounding provinces.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera emphasized the importance of science-driven solutions in combating the global crisis.

"Solutions are only sustainable when anchored in consultation, research, and, in the case of climate change, the best available science," she said.

Discussed during the forum included the main drivers of climate change, its impacts, and sustainable solutions.

"These discussions are vital in educating students to understand a rapidly changing world and equipping them to develop innovative strategies to combat climate change," Herrera said.

Herrera also cited data from the World Risk Report, highlighting that extreme natural events disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including women.

"Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls. These groups bear a much heavier burden, as they often face greater risks and responsibilities in dealing with its consequences," she explained.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje, meanwhile, noted that collective effort and a strong commitment to informed action are vital in the fight against climate change.

He added that the challenges posed by this global phenomenon call for immediate action and the implementation of sustainable practices.

“By harnessing data-driven approaches, we can pave the way for sustainable solutions that benefit both our planet and future generations,” Borje said.



## Companies urged to sign up for zero carbon emissions initiative

By: Mary Judaline Partlow

The Net Zero Carbon Alliance (NZCA), a private sector-backed initiative, urged more companies to advocate sustainable actions to reach zero gas emissions by 2050.

This year, 13 new partners from the private sector joined the NZCA and have vowed to adopt individual strategies and goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions aligned with national and global efforts to combat climate change.

“But it is not just about being a NZCA partner. There has to be a commitment from them to put into action what they have signed up for,” Frances Ariola, lead convenor of NZCA and Corporation Communications Head of the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) said on Monday.

“We are not in a hurry to grow big because we realize the responsibility and the scope” of being a NZCA member-partner,” Ariola added.

EDC, the 100 percent renewable energy subsidiary of the First Philippine Holdings (Lopez) Group, launched the multi-sectoral movement three years ago “to forge collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future”.

Allan Barcena, NZCA executive director and EDC assistant vice president, said “it also requires manpower and resources to organize and sustain the alliance. Probably we need to grow the alliance in terms of the quality of the partners as well as the ability to influence government”.

Barcena sounded the call for the Philippines to set a national net zero emissions goal while noting that the country has a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to cut its emissions by 75 percent.

On its 3rd anniversary this year, at least three of its 12 original partners have already reported results in low carbon emissions, verified by third-party firms.

The NZCA officials, however, said the reports vary depending on each company’s targets and goals, best practices, and other capacity-building tools.

Barcena said many of its partner companies and organizations are based in Manila a few are outside of the National Capital Region such as Silliman University in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.

NZCA hopes to expand to regional centers and also plans to do roadshows.

The NZCA also partners with the government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Climate Change Commission, and other entities to help the Philippines reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 through 2050.

Government officials have highlighted the role of the private sector, specifically the NZCA initiative, in meeting the Philippines' climate action plans/goals to decarbonize and transition to a green economy saying the government cannot do it alone.

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