



NEWS ROUNDUP

29 SEPTEMBER 2023 [08:00 am]

- UN chief says Pakistan floods ‘litmus test for climate justice’ as aid lags
- Syrian beekeepers battle both war and climate change
- Climate change 'is killing us' - UN sounds health alarm
- On Jakarta’s vanishing shoreline, climate change seen abetting child marriages
- PH among economies more at risk from El Niño
- Need to review, change permitting process for reclamation highlighted in Senate hearing

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Builders must decarbonize—CCC
- CCC to real estate industry: embrace green practices
- CCC to real estate industry: embrace green practices

AL JAZEERA

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By: Abid Hussain

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ARAB NEWS

[Syrian beekeepers battle both war and climate change](#)

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ECO BUSINESS

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MONGABAY

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By: Maulia Inka Vira Fadilla

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THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

[UN chief says Pakistan floods 'litmus test for climate justice' as aid lags](#)

By: Abid Hussain

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged the international community to help Pakistan recover from last year's catastrophic floods, calling it a "litmus test for climate justice".

Addressing the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Wednesday, Guterres said Pakistan is a "double victim – of climate chaos and of our outdated and unjust global financial system that prevents middle-income countries from accessing much-needed resources to invest in adaptation and resilience".

The UN chief said Pakistan is responsible for less than 1 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, but its people are 15 times more likely to die from climate-related disasters than people elsewhere.

"Billions were pledged" by rich nations in the aftermath of the floods, he said, "but the vast majority was in loans". And Pakistan is still waiting for much of the funding, he added.

"Delays are undermining people's efforts to rebuild their lives," Guterres said during a special UNGA session dedicated to the catastrophe.

The 2022 floods, caused by record monsoon rains and melting glaciers, killed more than 1,700 people and destroyed 2 million homes, worsening an ongoing economic crisis in the country. The catastrophe pushed an estimated nine million more people below the poverty line in Pakistan.

The government estimated the deluge caused damage worth more than \$30bn as it sought immediate global help. The UN and the Pakistani government held a donors conference in January, in which about \$10bn were pledged.

Guterres on Wednesday said 69 percent of that target had been reached but a large part of it was in loans.

Last week, Pakistani caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul-Haq Kakar said the government is trying to get \$10bn as pledged by the donors.

"We are trying to ensure that the amounts promised and pledged to us are dispersed to Pakistan and are spent on those affected by the floods," he said.

Addressing UNGA on Friday, Kakar said Pakistan's recovery plan is estimated to cost \$13bn and details of specific projects were being submitted to donors. "I hope our development partners will accord priority to the allocation of funds," he said.

Kakar said Pakistan wants developed nations to honour their commitments to provide \$100bn annually in climate financing to less-developed nations.

Pakistani climate expert Ali Tauqeer Sheikh told Al Jazeera the flood-relief funds are "monopolised by the federal government while rehabilitation work is to be conducted by the provincial governments where flood damage took place".

Sheikh said such lack of transparency leads to grievances.

"A broad plan was prepared and shared with the global community for rehabilitation, but it did not include specifics of how funds will be spent, what areas required urgent attention, and there was no detailed investment plan made," he said.

Quratulain Rizwan, project manager for Indus Consortium, an umbrella group of civil society organisations working for the flood victims, told Al Jazeera the situation in Sindh province, one of the worst affected provinces, is dire.

"We are working in five worst-affected districts of Sindh, and there are still hundreds of acres of agricultural land under water," she told Al Jazeera.

Rizwan said many villagers complain that the government has yet to rebuild schools and houses.

"The government used to give cash handouts, but we have many people complaining that even this funding has slowed down. Schools and dispensaries remain closed because they have not been rebuilt after the floods," she said.

ARAB NEWS

[Syrian beekeepers battle both war and climate change](#)

Syrian beekeeper Ibrahim Damiriya struggles to produce honey from his hives on parched land near the capital Damascus after years of war, economic collapse and worsening climate change impacts.

“The war bled us dry. We could barely keep our beekeeping business afloat, and then the insane weather made things worse,” the 62-year-old in a beekeeping suit told AFP as he examined meagre honey stocks inside the hives.

Before Syria’s conflict erupted in 2011, Damiriya owned 110 hives in Rankus, a village near Damascus that was once filled with apple orchards.

But now a combination of fighting, severe drought and a gruelling economic crisis have left him with a mere 40 hives in semi-arid lands, decimating his honey yield.

Rankus was once renowned for its honey, but was hard hit by fighting between government forces and rebels that caused widespread destruction, pushing many residents to flee.

Damiriya can barely afford to tend to his hives, donated by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to help Syrian beekeepers.

“If we keep suffering from climate change and rising prices, I might have to abandon my profession,” Damiriya said with a sigh.

Since 2011, Syria’s war has killed more than half a million people and caused an acute economic crisis, exacerbated by severe Western sanctions.

Recent years have also battered Syria with heatwaves, low rainfall and more forest fires. A 2019 United Nations report found that fighting had practically wiped out hives, with bombs contaminating the environment and pesticide misuse and a proliferation of parasites speeding up their decline.

Syria used to be home to 635,000 hives before the war, but their numbers had dwindled to about 150,000 at the height of the conflict in 2016, said Iyad Daaboul, the Damascus-based president of the Arab Beekeepers Union.

Today that number has risen back up to 400,000, he said. However, the hives yield only 1,500 tons of honey per year — half of the country’s pre-war production.

Unusually cold springs and drought have had an adverse effect on the flowers that bees feed on.

“Extreme weather conditions have greatly affected bees, especially during spring — the most important time in their life cycle,” said Daaboul.

The number of beekeepers has nearly halved from 32,000 before the war to around 18,000 today, he said.

Another threat to the bees is the forest fires which have become more common as temperatures rise.

Fires “have destroyed more than 1,000 hives on Syria’s coastal mountains and stripped bees of large foraging areas,” Daaboul said.

Rising temperatures and desertification have taken a toll on Syria’s greenery, destroying many of the plants on whose flowers the bees feed and squeezing the once-thriving agriculture sector.

Damascus ICRC spokesperson Suhair Zakkout told AFP that “Syria’s agricultural production has fallen by approximately 50 percent over the last 10 years” because of war and climate change.

Despite being one of the countries most badly affected by global warming, Syria has lacked the funds it needs to tackle environmental issues, Zakkout said.

Climate change has devastated farmer Ziad Rankusi’s apple orchards, which have also been greatly thinned by illegal logging as people struggle to keep warm during the winter amid recurrent fuel shortages.

Rankusi, who is in his 50s, used to tend more than 1,000 trees on his land, but just 400 survive, and they are drying out in the heat.

“For about five years, we have had unprecedented droughts and desertification, and this year the spring was unusually cold. The fruit perished,” said the farmer.

“When trees and flowers disappear, bees can no longer feed. They either migrate or die.”

ECO BUSINESS

[Climate change 'is killing us' - UN sounds health alarm](#)

The climate crisis is increasingly becoming a public health crisis, officials warned in New York this week, calling for better training, research, and resilience measures to tackle the twin priorities in the spotlight at the UN General Assembly.

Combating climate change and improving public health are key aims of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, as governments try to find a path forward on the 17 headline targets, with only 15 per cent of them on track in a crisis-hit world.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an additional 250,000 people are projected to die each year due to climate change, while statistics show that one in four deaths can be chalked up to “preventable environmental causes”.

The UN agency says rising temperatures, extreme weather, air pollution, wildfires, and less secure water and food supplies not only lead to lost lives but also exacerbate infectious and other diseases, provoke heat-related illnesses, and harm pregnant women.

“Make no mistake: it is the use of fossil fuels that is driving climate change that is killing us,” Vanessa Kerry, WHO’s special envoy for climate change and health, told an event held as part of Climate Week NYC.

For the first time this year, the annual UN climate summit - COP28, starting in late November in Dubai - will have a day dedicated to health, as well as a ministerial discussion on the theme of climate and health.

“The connection between health and climate change is evident, yet it has not been a specific focus of the COP process - until now. This must change,” Sultan al-Jaber, an oil executive who will chair COP28 for the UAE, said in a statement.

Poverty, women’s rights affected

The negative effects caused by the confluence of climate and health threats are threatening to undermine other key planks in the sustainable development agenda too, including cutting poverty and promoting women’s rights, experts warned.

The World Bank projects that up to 132 million people will fall into poverty by 2030 as a result of climate-related health effects and up to 1.2 billion people will be displaced by 2050.

Maliha Khan, president and CEO of the advocacy group Women Deliver, emphasised that the burden of adapting to climate change frequently falls on girls and women, who might be pulled out of school or have to take on more work when male members of the family migrate due to climate pressures.

Khan called for full sexual reproductive rights and health services to help women cope with climate-change ripple effects.

“From a purely justice point of view, we cannot fail them by also then denying them the services that will allow them to become more resilient (to) the face of the climate crisis,” she told another event on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Pascal Barollier, chief engagement and information officer for Gavi, the global health group that works to expand vaccine access, pointed to heat having an impact on the incidence of vector-borne diseases, as well as yellow fever in Africa.

He called for additional research on the links between climate shifts and health.

“It’s good to have strong narratives about the link between climate and health, but if we cannot really measure the (impact) it will be harder to justify” investments, he said.

From a rise in dengue fever in South Asia to the spread of West Nile virus in West Africa and Europe, scientists are concerned about the shifting profile of mosquito-borne diseases as average temperatures rise in many parts of the world.

The healthcare sector itself, which accounts for about 5 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions, also needs to shrink its carbon footprint and adapt as demand and pressures grow, the WHO’s Kerry said.

“It starts by investing in a healthcare workforce that can meet this growing burden of disease that we’re going to see,” she added.

Climate-resilient clinics

Health charities and other groups are in the process of standing up new programs to address negative health impacts related to climate and to educate people on the connections.

Americares, the global health group, has partnered with Harvard University to better prepare community health clinics that frequently take on lower-income and uninsured patients who are often hit hard by climate extremes like heat.

At a Climate Week NYC event, officials announced they are launching a pilot initiative aimed at making health clinics in Arizona, Florida, and Louisiana more climate-resilient through heat action plans to help them support vulnerable people.

“The health threats posed by extreme heat are only worsening due to climate change, and we must focus on solutions that extend beyond and complement the care provided in the exam room,” said Julie Varughese, Americares’ chief medical officer.

Growing awareness and attention to the interaction between climate and health have been clearly on show at the UN this week, laying the groundwork for the UAE’s plan to put health front and center at COP28.

“Surprisingly, I’ve been at Gavi more than a decade now, and it is really the first year that we seem to be truly making the connection between climate change and health,” Barollier said.

MONGABAY

[On Jakarta's vanishing shoreline, climate change seen abetting child marriages](#)

By: Maulia Inka Vira Fadilla

Every morning, sisters Janah and Jaroh rise early on the diminishing coastline of Indonesia's capital city and pray for calm weather and good fortune. At around 9 a.m., the pair wait on the shoreline with other women and girls as the fishing boats return to Jakarta's northern Kalibaru neighborhood.

Kalibaru's waterfront lies just 300 meters, about 1,000 feet, from New Priok Container Terminal One, a colossal port facility that started operating in 2016. As the fishing boats sail past the towering stack of cargo containers on their starboard side, the women prepare themselves to unload and process the day's catch, wearying tasks that will occupy them for the remainder of the day.

If they work from morning to evening, Janah, 23, and Jaroh, 20, will usually earn from around 15,000-36,000 rupiah (about \$1-\$2) per day.

"If you are injured, you just keep going with the work," Janah said. "What else can we do?"

Like millions of Indonesian women, and many in Kalibaru, both Janah and Jaroh were married in adolescence, not long after they finished junior high school, at the age of 16. Until 2019, that was the minimum age at which girls could marry in Indonesia. Kalibaru resident Siti, a 31-year-old mother, said she was married when she was even younger, at just 15 years old. Today, the minimum legal age for marriage is 19.

"We had no choice but to marry young and help the family," Siti said. "Mothers often find it difficult to earn a living when the father dies."

Indonesia's government has recorded a decline in the number of girls marrying in adolescence, but a report published in 2020 by UNICEF, the United Nations' children's agency, showed that one in nine women aged 20-24 across this archipelago of 270 million people had wed before the age of 18. Many worry that incidences of child marriage may have spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A child who is forced to be married or due to certain condition has to be married under age 18 will face higher vulnerability in terms of access to education, health quality, vulnerability to violence, and poverty," the UNICEF report noted.

Indonesia's government wants to cut incidences of child marriage to 8.7% by 2024, according to its five-year national development plan, or RPJMN.

Links between environmental stress and gender-based violence are well documented around the world. For example, researchers found that girls in Ethiopia and Sudan were more likely to be sold for livestock during periods of heat wave or drought.

However, the experience of women like Janah and Jaroh — and some recent academic studies — suggest that climate change may be an emerging factor underpinning early marriage in coastal communities vulnerable to climate change.

When Janah and Jaroh were young children, their mother would take them to the coast to keep an eye on them as she worked, rather than leave the girls unaccompanied at home. That cycle has yet to be broken: every morning, Janah and Jaroh take their own children down to the water.

Perfect storm

Jakarta is sinking at a rate of up to 15 centimeters (6 inches) every year, faster than any other global megacity. The impending inundation of the city's northern neighborhoods was one factor that prompted Indonesian President Joko Widodo to announce the construction of a new capital city on the island of Borneo.

Jakarta's sinking feeling is a function of decades of unrestricted extraction of groundwater, rather than gradual inundation from rising sea levels. However, researchers expect factors more closely linked to climate change to increasingly threaten the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities.

Rising acidification and sea temperatures will strain fish stocks far beyond the high levels of stress in tropical fishing zones already documented today by researchers. As reported by Mongabay, fishers residing on the north coast of Java Island are sailing farther and farther from the world's most populous island to locate a viable catch owing to overfishing.

"There are some serious concerns related to the fish resources and habitat degradations in the GJBE [Greater Jakarta Bay Ecosystem]," according to a 2018 study published by Hari Eko Irianto and colleagues in the Indonesian Fisheries Research Journal.

A complex array of factors linked to warming, from the impact on the reproduction cycle of fish to a rise in harmful algae blooms, will accelerate the existing pressures caused by overfishing.

For women like Janah and Jaroh, dwindling fish stocks due to overfishing and climate change threaten both their income and the availability of a key source of protein for their children, raising questions about the prospects of young girls growing up now in coastal communities like Kalibaru.

New research from Ohio State University, published in August in the journal *International Social Work*, found that extreme weather events correlated with increases in child marriage.

“What these disasters do is exacerbate existing problems of gender inequality and poverty that lead families to child marriage as a coping mechanism,” said lead author Fiona Doherty.

The OSU research involved a review of 20 published studies from low- to middle-income countries. In Bangladesh, researchers documented a 50% increase in the likelihood of marriage among girls aged 11-14 during years in which a heat wave lasted for 30 or more days.

“The complexities surrounding child marriage and extreme weather will worsen amid climate change,” said study co-author Smitha Rao, assistant professor of social work at Ohio State.

A previous study published in 2020 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature drew similar conclusions: child marriage was frequently a response to household economic pressure, which climate change will exacerbate.

“Environmental degradation now affects our lives in ways that are becoming impossible to ignore, from food to jobs to security,” Grethel Aguilar, the acting IUCN director-general, said in a statement. “This study shows us that the damage humanity is inflicting on nature can also fuel violence against women around the world — a link that has so far been largely overlooked.”

Susan Herawati, secretary-general of the People’s Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA), an Indonesian NGO, confirmed the prevalence of early marriage in Java’s coastal communities, emphasizing the accelerating influence of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. In coastal regions, limited employment opportunities and escalating climate uncertainty leave women with limited choices.

“When the income of fishing families decreases due to climate change, they will tend to look for a shortcut by marrying off their daughters at an early age,” Susan said.

Rumah Kita Bersama, a Jakarta-based foundation that works extensively to push back against child marriage, said rates of child marriage may not be captured in official data.

“The environmental crisis that is occurring, difficult water quality, increasingly small catches, increasingly poor quality of fish and the absence of reproductive health education and nonexistent children’s play spaces are complex problems in Kalibaru,” said Achmat Hilmi, the study director of Rumah Kita Bersama.

The future of Janah, Jaroh, Siti — and their daughters — in Kalibaru is far from certain. One study published in 2019 in the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment found that Kalibaru would have the highest risk of flooding in Jakarta by 2040. By then, Janah and Jaroh’s children will be young adults, possibly with children of their own.

“I don’t have savings, now I have a family,” said Janah, when asked about her hopes. Jaroh and Siti both showed their agreement.

“What I really want is to continue school, then work at a company, or to get out of here,” said Janah. “But I don’t know where to start.”

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH among economies more at risk from El Niño](#)

By: Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

Countries with low financial governance ratings and a vulnerability to physical risks may find themselves more exposed to the effects of the El Niño weather pattern, MSCI ESG & Climate Research said in a report.

The Philippines was cited as among the countries with unfavorable scores in both areas.

"The combination of lower economic growth and higher fiscal expenditure could result in higher public-debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratios for impacted sovereign issuers," MSCI Research economists said.

Philippine economic growth was a lower-than-expected 4.3 percent in the second quarter, primarily due to a contraction in government spending. This brought year-to-date growth to 5.3 percent, below the government's 6.0- to 7.0-percent target.

According to Treasury bureau data, debt as a percentage of GDP improved to 61.0 percent as of end-June 2023 from 62.1 percent a year ago as "economic conditions continue to recover from the impact of health and geopolitical events."

The Department of Budget and Management, meanwhile, expects the government's outstanding debt to hit a record P14.62 trillion this year, rising to a new high of P15.84 trillion in 2024.

The government expects the debt-to-GDP ratio to hit 60 percent by the end of 2024, falling further to 51.5 percent by 2028.

In the report, economists said that the governments of markets that scored poorly in both financial governance risks and physical vulnerability may not be able to fully provide financial relief, resulting in "loss and damage."

Issuers from South America, Southeast Asia and parts of Sub-Saharan Africa would be the most negatively affected by El Niño, they added.

"Impact investors, bilateral lenders and multinational development banks may need to mobilize financing during this El Niño event to avoid loss-and-damage outcomes," the economists continued.

"Governments may increase relief spending to provide a safety net for citizens. Depending on the magnitude of impact, markets may need to ratchet up capital expenditure to repair damaged infrastructure."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Need to review, change permitting process for reclamation highlighted in Senate hearing](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

There is a need to review and rectify flaws in the government's process for approving reclamation projects in order to safeguard both the environment and communities, a senator said Wednesday.

The Senate is looking into the impacts of reclamation activities on coastal and marine ecosystems and communities, and the permitting process for these projects after President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. ordered the suspension of 22 reclamation projects in Manila Bay.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, who heads the panel on environment, natural resources and climate change, said that there must be legislation that effectively regulates reclamation activities and ensures that these projects are "not arbitrary or capricious."

"There must be something wrong with the process. We want to review the processes and change whatever is wrong," Villar said.

The initiation of a reclamation project begins with the proponent, usually a local government unit, approaching the Philippine Reclamation Authority, which will issue a memorandum of agreement.

Meanwhile, the role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is to issue an environmental compliance certificate and an area clearance.

An area clearance is a document that declares a site suitable for reclamation. An ECC certifies that the proposed project will not cause significant environmental impacts and that the proponent has complied with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement system.

The current arrangement mandates that all ECCs for environmentally critical projects must bear the signature of the secretary. According to Environment Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna, the task of signing the ECC was previously delegated to the EMB director, but "it was always by the authority of the secretary."

"The current practice now is that... all protected areas must be indicated in the application for ECC and mitigating measures must be undertaken in terms of possible impacts to protected areas," Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said.

During the Senate hearing, PRA Assistant General Manager Joseph Literal said there are a lot of “illegal and unauthorized” reclamation projects across the archipelago.

‘Victims’ of reclamation projects

Representatives from businesses and communities talked about the threats posed by reclamation projects on their lives and livelihoods.

Ildefonso Tronqued Jr., commodore of the Manila Yacht Club, said their organization’s main concern is maritime safety.

“All of these obstructions and sand that have been put around the bay are hazards. They don’t have any kind of lighting. They don’t have any kind of warnings,” Tronqued said.

He added that that club was not consulted and “was not made aware of what’s happening.”

Esteban Peña Sy, who owns Sofitel Philippine Plaza, said the five-star accommodation is also a “victim of pollution and flooding” caused by reclamation activities in Manila Bay.

For group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA), small-scale fishers will bear the brunt of these projects.

“Kami talaga ‘yung direktang apektado. Mukhang hindi nakikita ng ating mga ahensya kung gaano kahalaga ‘yung ambag ng mga mangingisda sa kabuhayan at buhay ng ating bansa,” PAMALAKAYA national chairperson Fernando Hicap said.

(We are the ones directly affected. It seems that our agencies do not see how important the contributions of fishermen are to the livelihood and life of our country.)

One-year study

In August, ordered the suspension of reclamation projects in Manila Bay pending a review of their environmental and social impacts, and compliance with environmental regulations.

Yulo-Loyzaga said the environment department is finalizing an agreement with scientists from the University of the Philippine Marine Science Institute and the Manila Observatory for the conduct of the cumulative impact assessment. The review is expected to be completed in at least one year.

“Our work will be recommendatory and will aid us in governance review of reclamation process and permitting,” Yulo-Loyzaga said. She added that decisions on suspension “will be made by higher authorities than ourselves.”

Environmentalists, scientists and fishers continue to press the government for an official written order suspending reclamation activities in Manila Bay, more than one month after Marcos made the declaration.

“It is important to strictly implement the suspension immediately and throughout the entire duration of the cumulative study to prevent additional negative environmental and social impacts brought by dump-and-fill projects,” Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM) said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Builders must decarbonize—CCC](#)

By: Samuel P. Medenilla

The real estate and construction industry will play a crucial role in reducing the country's contribution to global carbon emissions, according to the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

In his speech during the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association Inc.'s (CREBA) 50th National Convention and House Expo last Wednesday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje called for "decarbonizing" the building and construction sectors.

With the implementation of "climate-smart standards in buildings and construction," he said greenhouse gas emissions will be "greatly reduced."

"Collaboration throughout the building sector's lifecycle, involving everyone from architects and designers to contractors and operators, is vital to the success of these efforts," Borje said.

In 2019, the United Nations Environment Program released a report indicating that close to 40 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings.

CCC also said that with the growing frequency of extreme weather caused by climate change, it noted the construction sector must also come out with "climate-resilient and green communities."

It noted that typhoons alone have caused P673.30 billion in damages to the homes and livelihoods of Filipinos.

"Therefore, measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation must consider this fundamental human right," Borje said.

Government initiatives

He said CREBA must rally its members to ensure such reforms will be implemented.

"Every brick we lay, every beam we set, carries the hopes and dreams of our nation. As leading figures in the real estate sector, you possess both the influence and the

responsibility to mold a brighter, eco-conscious future. Let us pledge to shape a greener, more sustainable tomorrow for every Filipino,” he added.

The measures, he said, will complement the initiatives of the government to address the impact of climate change, which includes the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

NAP is the government’s long-term support mechanism to enhance community resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts.

In a related development, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. ordered the creation of an inter-agency committee tasked to oversee preparatory and organizing activities for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), which will be hosted by the country next year.

He issued Administrative Order No. 9 that mandated the creation of the committee. The APMCDRR is the main regional platform for promoting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia-Pacific Region.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC to real estate industry: embrace green practices](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the critical impact of climate change on the real estate and housing industry at the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association Inc.'s (CREBA) 50th National Convention and House Expo.

In his address to industry stakeholders, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje commended the remarkable achievements of CREBA over the past five decades and emphasized the organization's fundamental role in driving social and economic growth in the Philippines.

However, Borje also highlighted the climate challenges facing the Philippines. Typhoons alone have caused significant losses and damages amounting to Php673.30 billion, affecting the lives, livelihoods, and future of millions of Filipinos.

“Adequate housing means having a safe, secure, and affordable place to live with access to basic services. Therefore, measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation must consider this fundamental human right,” he emphasized.

Borje outlined several government initiatives aimed at climate-smart adaptation and mitigation, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and Green Jobs.

Likewise, he stressed the importance of incorporating climate-smart standards in buildings and construction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“We must decarbonize the building and construction sectors, reduce the waste they generate, and build with less. Collaboration throughout the building sector's lifecycle, involving everyone from architects and designers to contractors and operators, is vital to the success of these efforts,” he added.

Borje called for collaborative efforts between the government and the private sector in addressing climate change. He urged CREBA members and industry stakeholders to prioritize the development of climate-resilient and green communities to protect people and properties from the impacts of climate change, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

“Every brick we lay, every beam we set, carries the hopes and dreams of our nation. As leading figures in the real estate sector, you possess both the influence and the

responsibility to mold a brighter, eco-conscious future. Let us pledge to shape a greener, more sustainable tomorrow for every Filipino,” Borje concluded.

The National Adaptation Plan serves as a long-term support mechanism to enhance community resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts, while the Nationally Determined Contribution reflects the Philippines' commitment to progressive climate change mitigation, fostering low-carbon, sustainable, and climate-resilient development.

Through Green Jobs, the CCC and other government agencies incentivize environmentally friendly practices within businesses, contributing to job creation and green investments.

CREBA convened the Golden Jubilee National Convention and House Expo to celebrate its 50th founding anniversary. The event aimed to reaffirm CREBA members' commitment to drive land and housing development as a catalyst for economic and social progress.

For more information on the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit <https://climate.gov.ph> and <https://facebook.com/cccpnl>. (CCC)

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[CCC to real estate industry: embrace green practices](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the critical impact of climate change on the real estate and housing industry at the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association Inc.'s (CREBA) 50th National Convention and Housing Expo.

In his address to industry stakeholders on Wednesday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje commended the remarkable achievements of CREBA over the past five decades and emphasized the organization's fundamental role in driving social and economic growth in the Philippines.

Borje, however, highlighted the climate challenges facing the Philippines as typhoons alone have caused significant losses and damage amounting to PHP673.3 billion, affecting the lives, livelihoods and future of millions of Filipinos.

“Adequate housing means having a safe, secure, and affordable place to live with access to basic services. Therefore, measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation must consider this fundamental human right,” he said.

Borje outlined several government initiatives aimed at climate-smart adaptation and mitigation, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and Green Jobs.

He also cited the importance of incorporating climate-smart standards in buildings and construction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“We must decarbonize the building and construction sectors, reduce the waste they generate, and build with less. Collaboration throughout the building sector's lifecycle, involving everyone from architects and designers to contractors and operators, is vital to the success of these efforts,” he added.

Borje called for collaborative efforts between the government and the private sector in addressing climate change.

He urged CREBA members and industry stakeholders to prioritize the development of climate-resilient and green communities to protect people and properties from the impacts of climate change, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

“Every brick we lay, every beam we set, carries the hopes and dreams of our nation. As leading figures in the real estate sector, you possess both the influence and the

responsibility to mold a brighter, eco-conscious future. Let us pledge to shape a greener, more sustainable tomorrow for every Filipino,” Borje said.

The National Adaptation Plan serves as a long-term support mechanism to enhance community resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts, while the Nationally Determined Contribution reflects the Philippines' commitment to progressive climate change mitigation, fostering low-carbon, sustainable and climate-resilient development.

Through Green Jobs, the CCC and other government agencies incentivize environmentally friendly practices within businesses, contributing to job creation and green investments.

CREBA convened the Golden Jubilee National Convention and Housing Expo to celebrate its 50th founding anniversary. The event aimed to reaffirm CREBA members' commitment to drive land and housing development as a catalyst for economic and social progress.

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