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By: Katrina Domingo

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BANGKOK POST

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President Marcos's urgent call for Congress to swiftly pass the Department of Water Resources (DWR) bill underscores a critical need: the Philippines is facing a growing water crisis exacerbated by climate change. While the upcoming recess presents a temporary hurdle, the urgency of the situation demands immediate attention upon resumption of sessions in November.

MANILA STANDARD

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THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Amado Tolentino Jr.

International environmental lawmaking and diplomacy have gone a long way. However, despite the availability of handbooks on negotiating multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) or environmental treaties as reference tools, there is much to be desired in their actual implementation. Proof are the reports of the Conference of the Parties (COPs) held once every three years to review and plan out strategies for the MEAs further implementation. COPs are often the venue for identifying implementation problems commonly encountered by developing countries but were not thought of during the treaty formulation stage.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Hurricanes, storms, typhoons... Is September wetter than usual?](#)

By: Emilie Bickerton

With typhoon Yagi, locally in the Philippines as Enteng, battering Asia, storm Boris drenching parts of Europe, extreme flooding in the Sahel and hurricane Helene racing towards Florida, September so far has been a very wet month.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Climate teachers spur national resilience](#)

By: Rafael De Leon

Behind every individual's success is a teacher who inspires us to achieve more and helps us navigate the world's complexities. Teachers shape our values, instill essential life skills, and guide us toward the aspirations we hold for ourselves.

[Ecosystems at risk: Safeguard our habitats from changing weather](#)

By: Shaira Mae Cabañas

One of the most immediate impacts of climate change is the intensification of severe weather events that lead to habitat deterioration and ecosystem disruption.

[From tradition to action: Integrating indigenous knowledge into NAP](#)

By: Shaira Mae Cabañas

The Philippines is home to an estimated 17 million indigenous peoples (IPs) from 110 ethnolinguistic groups. These communities often reside in ecologically fragile areas, making them highly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of both sudden-onset events like tropical cyclones and slow-onset climate risks such as rising sea levels.

MANILA STANDARD

[Plastics debacle: PH continues fight against mismanaged waste](#)

Severe flooding in the aftermath of tropical storm Enteng exposed the vast amount of waste that clogged waterways in Metro Manila, especially in Talayan Creek, Quezon City.

[Versatile bamboo a vital ally in the fight vs. climate change](#)

Bamboo has long been recognized as a tool in the fight against climate change due to its ability to sequester carbon dioxide.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC: Environmental health vital to overall well-being](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored Friday the critical connection between environmental health and public well-being in observance of World Environmental Health Day.

[PH calls for coordinated climate finance at OECD event](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the importance of coordinated efforts and inclusive financing mechanisms for developing nations.

POLITIKO

[CCC: Doctors are climate allies](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) recognized doctors as crucial allies in the fight against climate change during a national convention, emphasizing their vital role in preparing communities for climate disasters and emergencies.

THE MANILA TIMES

[CCC calls for shift to sustainable practices](#)

By: Kristina Maralit

As the world celebrated World Tourism Day, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Saturday called for urgent action to shift toward sustainable practices in Philippine tourism.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[PH campaigns for seat in UN Security Council, seeks 'reforms, revitalization' of international panel](#)

By: Katrina Domingo

The Philippines on Sunday openly urged members of the United Nations to give Manila a seat in the UN Security Council, underscoring the country's track record and commitment in upholding the rule of law.

The Philippines has "emphasized that the rule of law and the integrity of the multilateral system must prevail amidst the current global challenges," Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said in a speech delivered during the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Philippines "has consistently pursued peace, the sovereign equality of states, the rights and dignity of all persons," Manalo said, noting that the country is also recognized as the "first Asian Republic and a founding member of the United Nations."

"The Philippines is a trusted partner, innovative pathfinder and committed peacemaker. We bring experience, depth and steadfastness in working with the international community to address common global challenges," he said.

"We thus count on your support for our bid for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the term 2027 to 2028."

The Philippines has demonstrated that "stands alongside the pathfinders and bridge-builders of nations" with the successful transition of rebel fighters in Mindanao back to society, as well the the willingness of the country to host key international efforts, including the Board of the Loss and Damage fund for climate change, Manalo said.

"We offer constructive solutions across the spectrum of the work of the United Nations – from human rights, health and humanitarian action to development, disarmament and disaster and climate risk reduction, from peacemaking to peacekeeping to peace building," he said.

"President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. affirmed that multilateralism remains the single viable platform for collective action against transcendent global challenges," he said.

Manalo made no mention of other countries, but his speech at the UNGA was delivered at the backdrop of China's continued aggression in the West Philippine Sea, waters within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

A day before the UNGA, China's People Liberation Army Southern Theater Command organized its naval and air forces and tailed Philippine vessels conducting joint sea and

air activities with Australia, Japan, and New Zealand in the West Philippine Sea, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Earlier this month, Beijing rammed into one of the Philippines' Coast Guard vessels anchored near Escoda Shoal, its latest aggression after months of using water cannons and military-grade lasers against Filipino-manned ships sailing in the West Philippine Sea.

"Our world has been changing more rapidly than at any time in recent history," Manalo said.

"The UN must rise to the occasion with an agenda that fosters equity, justice, international peace and security, development, and adopts processes that are inclusive, transparent, responsive and effective," he said.

"One way to achieve this is to reform the Security Council and revitalize the General Assembly," he said.

"Security Council reform should be a package consisting of the enlargement of its membership and improvement of its working methods, in order to create greater transparency and accountability of the Council to the general membership of the UN," he said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs earlier said that securing a seat in the UN Security Council is "very important" for the Philippines.

"We'll be able to engage in the most important dialogues and debates and vote on important issues," he said.

"We have interests in the rule of law and international law, maintaining peace and stability," DFA Undersecretary Eduardo de Vega earlier said.

"We have millions of Filipinos overseas and we need the world to continue living and aspiring for goals for which the UN was created," he added.

The primary responsibility of the UN Security Council, composed of 15 members, is to maintain international peace and security.

The council's five permanent members are China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Current temporary members include Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, and the United Arab Emirates.

The last time the Philippines assumed one of the elected seats in the Security Council was for the term 2004-2005.

BANGKOK POST

Storm Krathon heads for Philippines with chance of super typhoon

Tropical storm Krathon is headed for the Philippines as authorities place northern parts of the main Luzon island on alert, saying there's a high chance of rapid intensification and the possibility it could become a super typhoon.

Krathon, known as Julian in the Philippines, will continue to intensify and reach typhoon category by Sunday evening or early Monday morning, the Philippine weather bureau said in an advisory.

The weather bureau warned of heavy rainfall and strong winds. It placed mainland Cagayan and the eastern portion of Babuyan Islands under wind signal no. 2 alert.

Krathon is expected to accelerate over the waters east of Taiwan sometime on Tuesday, the bureau said. Japan's weather officials said Krathon will likely approach the southwestern islands of Okinawa prefecture mid-week, NHK reported Saturday.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[\[Opinion\] Addressing PHL's water crisis through legislative action](#)

President Marcos's urgent call for Congress to swiftly pass the Department of Water Resources (DWR) bill underscores a critical need: the Philippines is facing a growing water crisis exacerbated by climate change. While the upcoming recess presents a temporary hurdle, the urgency of the situation demands immediate attention upon resumption of sessions in November.

The President's coupling of this bill with waste-to-energy legislation highlights a holistic approach to environmental management, recognizing the interconnectedness of water scarcity and poor waste disposal.

The proposed DWR is not merely a bureaucratic reorganization; it represents a strategic shift towards proactive and integrated water resource management. The current system, fragmented and lacking centralized authority, is ill equipped to handle the complexities of water scarcity, flood control, and pollution. A dedicated department offers several crucial advantages:

Centralized expertise: The DWR would consolidate expertise and resources, allowing for more efficient planning, implementation, and monitoring of water-related projects. This centralized approach is vital for coordinating efforts across various sectors and geographical areas.

Proactive flood mitigation: The President rightly links poor waste disposal to worsening flood control problems. The DWR, in conjunction with the waste-to-energy initiative, could significantly reduce flooding by improving drainage systems and mitigating the impact of overflowing garbage. The ambitious 40 percent reduction target, while bold, underscores the potential impact of a unified approach.

Climate change adaptation: The Philippines' vulnerability to climate change necessitates a robust adaptation strategy. The DWR can play a pivotal role in developing and implementing measures to ensure water security in the face of changing rainfall patterns and more frequent extreme weather events. This includes investing in resilient infrastructure and promoting water conservation practices.

Improved water quality: The department can effectively address water pollution from various sources, protecting public health and the environment. This requires stringent monitoring, enforcement of regulations, and collaboration with industries and communities.

The passage of the DWR bill is not merely a legislative priority; it is a critical step towards ensuring the country's water security and resilience in the face of climate change. The potential benefits—from improved water supply and flood control to enhanced environmental protection—are too significant to ignore.

The establishment of a Department of Water Management can help ensure sustainable water resources for present and future generations while addressing the complex challenges related to water supply, quality, and resilience. Congress must prioritize this legislation and work swiftly to ensure its timely enactment. The time to act is now, and the passage of this law can become a defining moment in the country's journey towards a greener, more water-secure, and more resilient tomorrow. The future well-being of the nation depends on it.

MANILA STANDARD

[Stay or leave? Pacific Islanders face climate's grim choice](#)

Rising waters are slowly but steadily swallowing Carrie Riemers's backyard in the Marshall Islands, pushing her toward an agonizing choice: stay in the only home she's ever known or leave and face the prospect of becoming a climate refugee.

"It's not a comfortable topic to talk about," the 22-year-old activist tells AFP, explaining the emotional toll this looming reality has on the wider community, who are grappling with similar threats.

"We're deeply rooted in our country, and we don't want to be displaced or forced to live somewhere else — it would be hard to preserve our culture."

Climate change is dramatically reshaping life in Pacific Island nations, leaving them ever more vulnerable to storm surges, saltwater contamination, ruined crops, and relentless coastal erosion.

"Every day it's a constant battle," says Grace Malie, a 25-year-old from Tuvalu, the tiny archipelago facing the grim prospect of becoming the first nation to be rendered unlivable by global warming.

Speaking to AFP from the Climate Mobility Summit, held on the sidelines of the United Nations annual meeting, Malie recalls how her community was forced to ration just a few buckets of water among large extended families during a drought two years ago.

The freshwater "lenses" beneath Tuvalu's atolls, once tapped through wells, were contaminated by rising seas years ago, leaving the nation's 11,000 residents reliant on rainwater. Even their crops now grow in boxes rather than in the salt-poisoned ground.

This past February, storm waters surged from the lagoon on Tuvalu's main island, Funafuti, flooding roads and seeping into homes.

It wasn't even a tropical cyclone, says Malie — just a regular storm — but with higher sea levels now, any storm has the potential to wreak havoc.

Since the start of the 20th century, global mean sea levels have risen faster than at any time in the last 3,000 years, a direct result of land ice melt and seawater expansion from planetary heating, experts say.

According to NASA's latest projections, Pacific Island nations will experience at least 15 centimeters of sea level rise in the next 30 years.

“It’s the difference between flooding a few times a year, or none a year, to 30 times a year, 60 times a year, or every other day,” Nadya Vinogradova Shiffer, who directs ocean physics programs for NASA’s Earth Science Division, told AFP.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[A holistic approach to sustainable design](#)

By: Ar. Joan De Leon-Tabinas

In the Philippines, the urgency of adopting holistic approaches becomes painfully evident with each passing storm.

The nation faces recurring floods, casualties, and landslides, with each event a tragic reminder of the dire consequences of inadequate planning and infrastructure.

With every typhoon season, the question arises: Until when? How long can communities withstand the cycle of destruction and rebuilding? These disasters underscore the need for sustainable development strategies that do not just address the present but also anticipate and mitigate future risks.

Groundbreaking framework

The 360° Systemic Thinking approach emphasizes the importance of considering not just the immediate project scope but also the Zone of Influence—the space beyond the site boundary where design interventions connect to or transform the broader urban environment.

This comprehensive approach ensures that sustainable development extends its impact beyond the building itself.

Central to this philosophy is the belief that sustainability must be embedded as a non-negotiable norm within society. It's not just the responsibility of professionals and developers—bold government policies and active citizen participation are equally essential.

Core principles

Energy efficiency and innovation. Energy is fundamental to sustainable design, and 360° Systemic Thinking prioritizes energy efficiency from the outset. An optimized building design enables efficient cross-ventilation and maximizes daylight exposure, reducing the need for artificial lighting and mechanical ventilation.

In the Philippines, where airconditioning can account for up to 60 percent of a building's total energy load, it is essential to rethink conventional cooling methods. The concept of “designing low tech and low energy for high comfort” becomes integral, focusing on minimizing energy consumption without compromising indoor comfort.

Green spaces as integral components. Green spaces are essential elements that contribute to ecological balance and human well-being. In 360° Systemic Thinking,

green spaces are integrated into the design process, enhancing air quality, reducing urban heat islands, and providing biodiversity habitats.

Water management and conservation. Water is a precious resource, and its management is crucial to sustainable design. The 360° Systemic Thinking incorporates water-sensitive urban design, focusing on conservation, recycling, and efficient management. This includes strategies like rainwater harvesting, the use of permeable materials, and the creation of natural water bodies to manage stormwater.

Sustainable food systems. Incorporating food systems into urban design is a growing trend that 360° Systemic Thinking embraces. Urban agriculture, community gardens, and green roofs provide local food sources, reduce transport emissions, and contribute to food security. These also enhance the Zone of Influence, as they create vibrant community spaces and encourage sustainable living practices.

Public space as a catalyst for social interaction. Public spaces are the heart of any community. In this framework, public spaces are designed to be inclusive, accessible, and multifunctional, promoting social cohesion and community engagement. The Zone of Influence is crucial here, as well-designed public spaces can transform surrounding areas.

Materials and construction methods. The 360° Systemic Thinking emphasizes the use of sustainable, locally-sourced materials with low environmental impact. Innovative construction techniques, such as prefabrication, modular construction, and the use of recycled materials, are also encouraged to reduce waste and energy consumption.

Waste management and circular economy. Waste management is addressed from the beginning of the design process in 360° Systemic Thinking. The focus is on minimizing waste, optimizing material use, and creating systems for recycling and repurposing. This aligns with the principles of the circular economy, where waste is viewed as a resource. The Zone of Influence is relevant, as effective waste management strategies can encourage sustainable practices.

Interconnections and the 'Zone of Influence'

The strength of 360° Systemic Thinking lies in its recognition of the interconnectedness of these systems and their influence beyond the immediate project boundary.

Energy, water, food, waste, and public spaces are all interdependent components of a larger ecosystem. By considering these interconnections and the Zone of Influence, designers can create environments that also enhance the resilience and sustainability of the broader urban environment.

For example, efficient water management can reduce the energy required for treatment and distribution, while green spaces can support local biodiversity and sustainable food

systems. Public spaces, when designed with inclusivity in mind, can transform surrounding areas, creating a positive impact that extends far beyond the project site.

Sustainable living

Sustainable living reduces our demand for natural resources by ensuring we replace what we use to the best of our ability. This practice must be embedded in the fabric of society.

Sustainability should not be seen as an option but as a norm. This shift requires bold government policies, professional commitment, and active citizen participation. It is a collective mandate; our actions must lead the change, driving the transformation needed to create a more resilient and sustainable world.

The future of sustainable design

As the world faces the challenges of climate change, resource depletion, and rapid urbanization, the need for systemic, holistic approaches to design has never been more critical.

The 360° Systemic Thinking offers a robust framework for creating sustainable, resilient, and vibrant environments that can meet today's needs while safeguarding the resources of tomorrow.

It challenges us to think beyond the immediate project scope, considering the broader impact on the environment, society, and future generations. By integrating energy, green spaces, water, food systems, public spaces, materials, waste management, and the Zone of Influence into the core of design conception, we can create holistic, sustainable solutions.

This is the future of sustainable design, in which every decision contributes to a more sustainable and equitable world.

In the Philippines, this approach is necessary. The cycle of storm-induced devastation must end, and it is through holistic approaches like 360° Systemic Thinking that we can begin to build a more resilient and sustainable future.

Climate accountability

The Philippines, for the third consecutive year, is still the most at-risk country to extreme natural events and negative climate change.

The 2024 World Risk Report released two weeks ago rated countries according to exposure, vulnerability, susceptibility, and lack of coping and adaptive capacities. This is not exactly new information but, as the Office of Civil Defense said, the report is a clear reminder to keep working toward a multisectoral approach to disaster risk reduction and management. But how has the country progressed in addressing the issues and challenges, including responses, to extreme natural events? And what are the measures being taken to help vulnerable communities cope and survive natural hazards such as typhoons and earthquakes?

While nature is beyond human control, man-made activities like burning fossil fuels have greatly contributed to global warming. Those who live on the margins in less developed countries like ours bear the brunt of extreme weather events that damage properties and affect livelihoods. Heavy rains, for example, cause floods or landslides that wash away flimsy housing, or damage crops that double the debts of already burdened farmers.

Local loss and damage fund

It is then symbolic that the Philippines was selected as host of the Loss and Damage Fund board last July. The country will host the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction from Oct. 14-17, which will discuss disaster risk reduction financing, gender-responsive and inclusive disaster risk governance, and urban and rural resilience. The event is expected to draw over 3,000 high-level international delegates. This will be a perfect opportunity for the Philippines to use the platform to take the lead in highlighting the plight of climate-vulnerable countries.

The fund so far has received \$661.39 million in pledges. But this is not even 1 percent of the minimum \$447 billion, or the maximum \$894 billion, needed by 2030 for the estimated loss and damage brought by climate events. Climate justice activist Lidy Nacpil called it “shameful” that the United States, the “largest historical emitter” of greenhouse gasses, has pledged only \$17.5 million when it should take a bigger responsibility over the climate crisis.

On the part of the Philippines, the legislature must pass the proposed Climate Accountability (CLIMA) Act, which creates a local loss and damage fund that would work as a counterpart to the global fund. The bill, filed in November 2023, is still pending at the House of Representatives committee on climate change.

Strategic role

The CLIMA bill has been dubbed the world’s first climate accountability bill and provides a framework for limiting fossil fuel expansion, helps facilitate the payment of climate

reparations to victims and survivors of climate change, and provides for the rehabilitation of affected communities. It also aims to make the fund easily accessible to marginalized or disadvantaged groups who are more vulnerable to the climate crisis.

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“Corporations have known the impact of their business on the environment for decades, yet they continue to engage in defensive tactics and greenwashing to deflect responsibility for the climate crisis. This is why this legal framework is urgent and necessary, to curb this industry’s unbridled burning of fossil fuels and prevent further harm to the communities our state is mandated to protect,” said Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto, one of the bill’s authors.

Passing the bill will show the country’s commitment to the fight against climate change especially given its strategic role as host of the Loss and Damage Fund board. However, this is not enough. Stakeholders must ensure that the bill coming out of the legislative branch is not watered down due to business interests. Further, it must have enough teeth to make entities accountable for causing damage to the environment.

Legal loopholes

In a position paper published last Monday on the website of the Manila Observatory, an Ateneo-based nonprofit research institute, former environment undersecretary Tony La Viña, et al. said the CLIMA law should “leave little to no room for ambiguity that could result in legal loopholes to evade accountability.” It should also incentivize businesses to go above and beyond what they are legally required to do rather than rewarding them for doing the bare minimum.

“The CLIMA Act, if passed, is by no means a panacea for climate change and for loss and damage,” the authors said. They added that it can serve as a “preventive measure to shape future business behavior and decisions” by placing greater responsibility on the private sector and limiting their impact on the worsening climate change.

Legislators have lost the timely window to pass the bill before the October meetings but it must do so when sessions resume in November. That it passed a landmark measure will certainly serve as this Congress’ significant legacy. As La Viña said: “Nothing less is demanded by the urgency of the climate crisis.”

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] To spur public climate action](#)

By: Amado Tolentino Jr.

International environmental lawmaking and diplomacy have gone a long way. However, despite the availability of handbooks on negotiating multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) or environmental treaties as reference tools, there is much to be desired in their actual implementation. Proof are the reports of the Conference of the Parties (COPs) held once every three years to review and plan out strategies for the MEAs further implementation. COPs are often the venue for identifying implementation problems commonly encountered by developing countries but were not thought of during the treaty formulation stage.

Thus, there is the perception that these treaties have not been an effective means of addressing issues they intended to resolve. To illustrate, extremely destructive consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss have worsened and continue to be so in spite of implementation strategies employed in accord with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

What are the perceived limitations of those treaties?

Despite MEAs, the rate of fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions increase unabated. With regard to biodiversity, "Species are going extinct at rates 1,000 times the background rates typical of the Earth's past." (Global Biodiversity Outlook 2). Take note, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the soil that grows the food, the water that we drink are all interconnected ecosystem services provided but not fully understood by a great majority of us beneficiaries.

Add to species extinction is the fact that we face a cooling dilemma as the world heats up. Less understood are the impacts of extreme heat — reduced crop yields and worsened health outcomes.

In this connection, there is an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant to understanding climate change. Likewise, there is the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Some quarters believe that the IPCC could adequately serve the needs of the biodiversity convention. The issues of climate change and biological diversity are closely and mutually interrelated, and intricately tied up with other issues such as poverty and development in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In short, climate change should not be pushed forward without a thorough analysis of their consequences for biodiversity, food security, health, etc.

In fact, as early as August 2021, the IPCC released its massive work showing the scale of the impacts and the need for rapid action around the globe illustrating the world on the brink, with terrible damage already done, but still with some prospect of stopping short of a disaster — if somehow people will muster the will on the window of the short time remaining.

Concerned about the negative impacts that climate change and loss of biodiversity have on each other, the UN General Assembly called for synergy between the two conventions. The objective was to address the causes of climate change and biodiversity loss that lie in the patterns of production and consumption around the world. An accurate identification of those causes will be achieved only when the various ecological problems we face are seen in conjunction with one another and equally in relation to problems associated with development.

This perception will necessarily hinge on the participation of those least advantaged not only in the implementation of strategies to deal with the problems but also in the process of understanding and assessing them, and setting the strategy for response.

The role of developing countries in scientific analysis and agenda-setting should be enhanced even before the treaty negotiation stage. This could be achieved by improving the level of scientific education and practice within developing countries. Specifically, by communicating climate science through the topic air pollution and how it affects people. The goal is to empower people to take social or political action about air quality at the local level — empowering communities to ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for all. This was the thrust of the United Nations Development Program's lead in the observance of International Day of Clean Air for blue skies last Sept. 7, 2024, calling on everyone to invest in clean air now.

In view of developing countries' inadequacy in terms of funding, scientific information and staffing, a concerted effort at expert assistance and advice to enhance their capacity in the area of scientific awareness and education should be seriously pursued for an accurate understanding of the environmental crisis itself and for searching an effective transformative strategy to deal with it.

In this connection, we should not lose sight of this generation's super utility, one that will transform every facet of people's lives with solutions for the most strategic sectors including health care, smart cities, public safety, energy and education.

Reference is to the benefits of AI (artificial intelligence) as a transformative force for good which include efficiency through task automation, data analysis for informed decisions and the advancement of autonomous vehicles. Despite AI's drawbacks (e.g., job displacement, ethical concerns about bias and privacy, security risks from hacking, lack of human-like creativity and empathy), the best minds worldwide will solve the complex challenges and discover humane technology that will propel better tomorrows for the coming generations.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Hurricanes, storms, typhoons... Is September wetter than usual?](#)

By: Emilie Bickerton

With typhoon Yagi, locally in the Philippines as Enteng, battering Asia, storm Boris drenching parts of Europe, extreme flooding in the Sahel and hurricane Helene racing towards Florida, September so far has been a very wet month.

But while scientists can link some extreme weather events directly to human-caused global warming, it remains too early to draw clear conclusions about this sodden month.

"You will always have some sort of extreme weather events, but their intensity has been magnified by global warming, especially in the context of rainfall," Paulo Ceppi from Imperial College London's Grantham Institute told AFP on Thursday.

"That's probably one of the common drivers of these different events in very different parts of the world."

Early indications from monthly data show some record-breaking precipitation levels in the regions affected.

In central Europe, the torrential rains accompanying storm Boris were "the heaviest ever recorded" in the region, according to the World Weather Attribution (WWA) network of scientists, inundating homes and farmland.

Global warming has doubled the likelihood of severe four-day downpours since the pre-industrial era and the costs of climate change are "accelerating", WWA said in a report published Wednesday.

Meanwhile in Japan's city of Wajima, more than 120 millimetres (4.7 inches) of rainfall per hour from typhoon Yagi was recorded on the morning of September 21 -- the heaviest rain since comparative data became available in 1929.

Hotter, and wetter?

"Attributing different weather patterns around the world at the same time to climate change is very challenging," said Liz Stephens, science lead at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

"But the fundamental principle remains that for every 1 degree Celsius of warming the atmosphere can hold seven percent more moisture," she told AFP.

With global warming on track to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times "you can do the math pretty quickly and that will have a measurable impact," said Ceppi from the Grantham Institute.

The 2024 northern summer saw the highest global temperatures ever recorded, beating last year's record, according to the EU's climate monitor Copernicus.

A hotter planet, in other words, could also signal a wetter one.

The sweltering summer in the Mediterranean this year "gives a lot of extra evaporation, pumping more water vapour into Europe if the conditions are right and allowing for all that moisture to be dumped in certain places," Ceppi said.

"The global temperatures -- both over the land and the ocean -- were anomalously high during August-September despite La Nina-like conditions evolving in the Pacific," Roxy Mathew Koll at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology told AFP.

"Anomalously high temperatures assist in supplying additional heat and moisture for storms and weather systems to intensify."

La Nina refers to a naturally-occurring climate phenomenon that cools the ocean surface temperatures in large swathes of the tropical Pacific Ocean, coupled with winds, rains and changes in atmospheric pressure.

In many locations, especially in the tropics, La Nina produces the opposite climate impacts to El Nino, which heats up the surface of the oceans, leading to drought in some parts of the world and triggering heavy downpours elsewhere.

Currently, "neutral" conditions prevail, meaning neither El Nino nor La Nina are present.

Large swathes of South America and Southern Africa suffered from drought in 2024.

The global September update from Copernicus is due early next month and will provide hard data on precipitation levels.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Climate teachers spur national resilience](#)

By: Rafael De Leon

Behind every individual's success is a teacher who inspires us to achieve more and helps us navigate the world's complexities. Teachers shape our values, instill essential life skills, and guide us toward the aspirations we hold for ourselves.

While we often think of teachers as educators in a classroom setting, their role extends far beyond that. Our parents, for instance, are often our first teachers. Others may look to mentors in their careers or seek guidance from an elder sibling or close friend.

No matter how we define them, teachers are the people who help us grow in various aspects of life. This is especially true for "climate teachers" — those who help us understand the intricacies of climate change. They break down complex environmental issues, guide us toward solutions, and inspire us to take action for a sustainable future. These climate teachers, our "climate heroes," are at the forefront of driving climate action.

One of the significant barriers to collective action on climate change is a lack of public understanding. Many feel overwhelmed by the complexities of climate science, which can seem difficult to grasp. However, with the right approach, these concepts can be made accessible through simple explanations and resources.

From scientists and environmental advocates to non-government organizations and policymakers, climate heroes educate us about climate science. Their work is instrumental in safeguarding our environment and directly supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Through their efforts, they inspire more people to engage in climate action and mobilize communities toward a sustainable future.

As we experience more extreme weather events, heavy rainfall and severe flooding — often linked to climate change — the impacts are increasingly felt by communities, particularly the most vulnerable. These challenges threaten livelihoods, lives and food security.

Given this growing threat, the need for action has never been more urgent. This is where climate educators come in. They empower us to combat climate change by equipping us with the knowledge and tools needed to address these challenges. Through raising awareness and encouraging community engagement, they lay the groundwork for a more resilient future.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission, emphasized the critical role of climate educators, saying, “Climate heroes are the torchbearers of sustainability, using education to empower communities and ignite meaningful climate action for a more resilient future.”

As we recognize these educators, we must also support them. Their work is invaluable in helping us understand our responsibility to protect the planet. Their dedication inspires a collective movement toward a more sustainable world, ensuring future generations inherit a healthier environment.

While climate educators play an important role, the responsibility for action lies with all of us. Education alone is not enough — it must be paired with disciplined action and a commitment to practicing sustainability in our daily lives. This responsibility extends beyond educators to the individuals and communities receiving their knowledge.

In this spirit, we must also advocate for the professional development of teachers, ensuring they have access to training and resources on climate education. By doing so, we enable them to effectively impart knowledge, equipping more people to address the impacts of climate change.

As we celebrate Teachers’ Month and Teachers’ Day, let us remember that education and action go hand in hand, guiding us toward a brighter, more sustainable future.

Presidential Proclamation 242, s. 2011, declares the period from 5 September to 5 October each year as National Teachers’ Month, recognizing the vital role, loyal service, and dedicated commitment of our teachers in shaping globally minded citizens.

Ecosystems at risk: Safeguard our habitats from changing weather

By: Shaira Mae Cabañas

One of the most immediate impacts of climate change is the intensification of severe weather events that lead to habitat deterioration and ecosystem disruption.

According to the Philippines' National Adaptation Plan (NAP), extreme events including stronger tropical cyclones, droughts and floods degrade various habitats, threatening the species that depend on them. Chronic changes, such as rising temperatures and sea levels, further jeopardize biodiversity and disturb the ecological balance.

In addition, decades of poor management, deforestation, urbanization and pollution have accelerated the degradation of Philippine ecosystems. Vital areas such as mangroves, coral reefs and forests, which are essential for both biodiversity and local communities, are under severe threat. Climate change worsens these pressures, with stronger storms, rising seas and changing rainfall patterns causing waterlogging, landslides and habitat destruction.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission underscored the urgent need for action.

“As our ecosystems face unprecedented threats, we must focus on restoring and preserving our natural habitats. Addressing the vulnerabilities of our ecosystems is crucial to ensure sustainable development and safeguard communities from the impacts of climate change,” he stated.

Borje further emphasized, “We must prioritize our efforts to restore damaged ecosystems and protect critical habitats. Investing in biodiversity bolsters climate adaptation and fosters economic resilience for communities reliant on these natural resources.”

He stressed that collaboration among government agencies, local communities and stakeholders is vital to implement effective science-based strategies that will safeguard our ecosystems for future generations.

Grounded in national policies, the theme of the Philippines' National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Ecosystems and Biodiversity, “Safeguard and Nurture Biodiversity: Restore and Sustain Natural Assets,” emphasizes the protection and rehabilitation of ecosystems. A key outcome of the NAP is to ensure the protection and restoration of biodiversity within these habitats.

The NAP highlights the need to rehabilitate and restore critical ecosystems, such as mangroves, coral reefs and coastal areas, which act as natural buffers against climate impacts. Through the managed realignment of coastlines and ecosystem restoration, the Philippines can protect these areas while enhancing biodiversity.

The NAP also outlines strategies such as the Ridge-to-Reef Approach and Ecosystem-based Adaptation to protect biodiversity and sustain ecosystem services. In addition, eco-certification programs encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices that promote habitat protection and pollution reduction, which help build ecosystem resilience.

“As we strive for sustainable development, the growing threat of climate change to habitats demands urgent attention. We must maintain biodiversity and its habitats while safeguarding ecosystem services by identifying priority areas, assessing vulnerabilities, and implementing timely interventions. This will ensure that natural systems continue to provide clean air, water and food, while also enhancing community resilience,” Borje remarked.

From tradition to action: Integrating indigenous knowledge into NAP

By: Shaira Mae Cabañas

The Philippines is home to an estimated 17 million indigenous peoples (IPs) from 110 ethnolinguistic groups. These communities often reside in ecologically fragile areas, making them highly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of both sudden-onset events like tropical cyclones and slow-onset climate risks such as rising sea levels.

From 2020 to 2022, over 15 million Filipinos were displaced by 245 natural hazards, with indigenous communities disproportionately affected. As the climate continues to change, displacement due to climate-induced disasters — including extreme weather events and environmental degradation — threatens the ancestral lands that are crucial to the cultural identity and traditional practices of these communities.

Ancestral lands are integral to the identity, social structures, and livelihoods of IPs. These lands form the foundation of their cultural and spiritual practices, passed down through generations. Climate-related hazards and displacement disrupt this delicate balance, further endangering their cultural heritage.

As climate risks escalate, addressing human mobility, particularly migration and displacement, becomes a critical component of the country's adaptation strategy. Climate-induced shifts often result in the forced migration of IPs, making it essential to integrate indigenous knowledge systems into adaptation planning.

IPs possess a profound understanding of their ecosystems, which can serve as a critical resource in shaping sustainable, long-term solutions to climate challenges. Their traditional knowledge, especially in resource management and sustainable living, offers valuable insights into climate resilience, rooted in centuries-old practices and deep environmental connections.

Recognizing this, the Philippines' National Adaptation Plan (NAP) emphasizes the integration of indigenous knowledge systems, alongside science-based approaches, to ensure that adaptation efforts are inclusive and culturally sensitive. The NAP is guided by the principles of equity, participation and transparency that bring together various stakeholders — including indigenous communities.

A key component of the NAP, nature-based solutions highlight the importance of indigenous knowledge in managing ecosystems and addressing climate vulnerabilities. IPs have long practiced sustainable farming, forest conservation and biodiversity protection — all critical in reducing the adverse impacts of climate change. By harnessing these time-tested approaches, the NAP not only preserves cultural heritage but also ensures the protection of vital ecosystems.

Involving indigenous communities in every stage of climate adaptation planning and implementation is essential. Through meaningful engagement, these communities can contribute to decision-making processes, ensuring that their rights, knowledge and

needs are acknowledged and integrated into national policies. This protects their cultural heritage and empowers them to lead their own climate resilience efforts.

MANILA STANDARD

Plastics debacle: PH continues fight against mismanaged waste

Severe flooding in the aftermath of tropical storm Enteng exposed the vast amount of waste that clogged waterways in Metro Manila, especially in Talayan Creek, Quezon City.

The accumulation of waste, coupled with inadequate or outdated drainage infrastructure, significantly contributes to severe flooding in Metro Manila and nearby cities and provinces whenever a typhoon strikes.

Typhoon Carina and tropical storm Enteng are recent examples of this problem. As heavy rains overwhelm drainage systems, the massive volume of improperly disposed plastics, food wrappers, and other debris blocks waterways, preventing floodwaters from receding quickly.

This leads to inundation in key areas such as Quezon City, Manila, and parts of Bulacan and Rizal, leaving communities vulnerable and increasing the damage caused by natural hazards.

The World Bank's 2021 report, "Market Study for the Philippines: Plastics Circularity Opportunities and Barriers," reveals the country's heavy reliance on single-use plastics, such as multilayer sachets and pouches. The dependency has earned the Philippines the term "sachet economy" and further intensifies marine plastic pollution. The Philippines consumes 163 million sachets daily.

Each year, the country generates around 2.7 million tons of plastic waste, with an estimated 20 percent ending up in the ocean. Given its more than 7,600 islands, the Philippines' coastal communities, along with its fishing, shipping and tourism industries, are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of marine debris.

In Metro Manila, human activities in residential and commercial areas lead to plastic waste ending up in waterways, especially creeks that feed into the Pasig River that eventually flows into Manila Bay.

The situation underscores the urgent need for better waste management practices, heightened public awareness and coordinated cleanup efforts to protect ecosystems.

The ridge-to-reef approach highlights the extensive effects of mismanaged waste—from upland areas to coastal communities. Waste discarded in urban centers and upland communities travels through rivers and creeks, like Talayan Creek, and ultimately reaches the oceans.

The waste not only intensifies floods but also endangers coastal ecosystems. In the ocean, it contaminates marine habitats, harms coral reefs and depletes marine

biodiversity. This degradation leads to declining fish populations, threatening food security for communities dependent on fishing.

Addressing the crisis requires comprehensive cleanup efforts across rivers, creeks, upland areas and coastal zones.

The ridge-to-reef approach aims to safeguard the entire ecosystem by preventing the spread of waste from land to sea. By adopting proper waste disposal and cleanup practices, we can reduce further ecological damage and foster healthier, more sustainable ecosystems.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission, stressed the importance of collective action:

“Collaborative efforts are essential in addressing this situation. This includes cleanup initiatives and promoting proper waste disposal practices,” he said.

The crisis highlights the need for individuals to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics and commit to responsible waste management. Small, daily actions can significantly reduce the waste that threatens our environment.

Versatile bamboo a vital ally in the fight vs. climate change

Bamboo has long been recognized as a tool in the fight against climate change due to its ability to sequester carbon dioxide.

As a fast-growing plant, bamboo absorbs more carbon than most tree species, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and supports the country's commitments under the Paris Agreement. Studies show that bamboo captures over five tons of carbon dioxide per hectare annually.

Beyond carbon sequestration, bamboo's extensive root system prevents soil erosion and enhances water retention, making it a valuable tool in disaster risk reduction, especially in flood-prone and drought-affected areas.

The Philippines ranks as the sixth-largest exporter of bamboo in the world, with bamboo stands covering between 39,000 and 53,000 hectares.

As part of the National Greening Program and the country's reforestation efforts, bamboo is increasingly used to rehabilitate degraded lands and improve biodiversity. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources plans to cover 16,867 hectares nationwide with bamboo trees.

"The versatility of bamboo makes it an ideal ally in our fight against climate change," said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission. "Bamboo serves as a carbon sink and contributes to disaster risk reduction. It strengthens community resilience by providing sustainable livelihoods, reducing the need for wood-based products, and preventing deforestation," he said.

Borje said the strategic integration of bamboo in national and local climate initiatives enhances the country's mitigation and adaptation efforts and empowers communities, especially in rural areas.

"Through bamboo cultivation, we create economic opportunities and build resilience against the adverse effects of climate change," he said.

Bamboo offers significant economic opportunities as a renewable and versatile material used in construction, furniture, handicrafts, and as an alternative to single-use plastics.

The Sustainability Slingshot and Bamboo Innovation Initiative, led by Bukidnon 1st District Representative Jose Manuel F. Alba, focuses on engineered bamboo and bamboo charcoal production. The initiative supports local processing industries, creates jobs, and provides income streams for farmers and artisans.

"By harnessing the transformative power of bamboo innovation and trade, we can cultivate prosperity from the roots up, lifting communities out of poverty and building a sustainable future for all," said Alba.

This year's celebration of Philippine Bamboo Month, themed "Buhay Kawayan: Haligi ng Industriya't Kalikasan, Pag-asa sa Kinabukasan," highlights bamboo's crucial role in driving economic development and addressing environmental challenges.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

CCC: Environmental health vital to overall well-being

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored Friday the critical connection between environmental health and public well-being in observance of World Environmental Health Day.

The quality of air, water, food and living conditions directly affects human health, while environmental issues like pollution, deforestation and climate change pose immediate and long-term risks not only to the environment but to human lives, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said in a news release.

“Polluted air worsens respiratory illnesses, contaminated water leads to disease outbreaks, and degraded ecosystems increase our vulnerability to floods and droughts,” Borje said.

The CCC said environmental protection is not only about conservation but also about ensuring the health and safety of current and future generations.

Environmental degradation, Borje added, imposes a heavy economic burden on healthcare systems and communities.

“The rise in environment-related diseases, such as asthma and waterborne illnesses, leads to higher healthcare costs and loss of productivity. Therefore, prioritizing environmental health translates into significant public health and economic benefits,” the CCC said.

Borje urged the public to take active steps toward protecting the environment, noting that even small actions, such as reducing waste, conserving water and planting trees, can have a meaningful impact on improving environmental health.

The World Environmental Health Day every Sept. 26 serves as a reminder of the urgent need to address environmental challenges to safeguard public health, Borje said.

The commission also reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening policies that promote environmental health, aligning these efforts with the country’s sustainable development goals and global climate action initiatives.

World Environmental Health Day was officially recognized in the Philippines through Presidential Proclamation No. 595, s. 2018, which aims to raise awareness about the vital connection between environmental quality and human health.

“Let us all take this opportunity to reflect on how we can actively contribute to protecting the environment to safeguard the health of current and future generations,” Borje said.

[PH calls for coordinated climate finance at OECD event](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the importance of coordinated efforts and inclusive financing mechanisms for developing nations.

Speaking at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Peer Learning Workshop on Paris Alignment and Effectiveness in France on Sept. 19, CCC Deputy Executive Director Romell Antonio O. Cuenca emphasized the urgent need to streamline financial flows for climate action, ensuring that developing nations such as the Philippines can meet their climate goals under the Paris Agreement.

"We recognize the urgency to ensure that our collective efforts under the Paris Agreement translate into tangible, effective actions on the ground," Cuenca said at the session on the "Practical Delivery of Climate Action in a Complex and Fragmented Finance Landscape."

Cuenca detailed the Philippines' comprehensive climate strategy, which is anchored in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

He highlighted the country's NDC target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030.

He said while 2.71 percent of this target will be achieved using domestic resources, a significant 72.29 percent is conditional on support from developed countries through climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building.

"This conditional aspect reflects the Paris Agreement's principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which underscores the obligation of developed nations to assist developing countries like the Philippines in achieving their climate goals," Cuenca said, urging developed nations to increase their financial support for vulnerable countries.

Cuenca also emphasized the importance of the NAP, which serves as a blueprint for building climate resilience across eight key sectors, including agriculture, health, and water resources.

He underscored the need to localize adaptation efforts, tailoring measures to the specific vulnerabilities and needs of communities in the Philippines.

He further shared insights on how the Philippines is leveraging international climate finance, citing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for key projects including the Multi-Hazard Impact-Based Forecasting and Early Warning System and the Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change initiative.

Domestically, Cuenca cited the People's Survival Fund (PSF), which has been crucial in financing community-based adaptation projects in the most vulnerable areas. He described PSF as an example of how targeted, localized finance can directly improve resilience and livelihoods.

As the world heads toward the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29), Cuenca stressed the need for the international community to assess the progress of climate finance mechanisms.

He reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to international cooperation, robust national planning, and inclusive, gender-responsive strategies to build a resilient and sustainable future for all.

"By doing so, we can ensure that the Paris Agreement's goals are not just aspirational but are realized through concrete actions that benefit our people and our planet," Cuenca said.

The OECD Peer Learning Workshop, organized by OECD and the Network on Environment and Development Co-operation (ENVIRONET), provides a timely opportunity to evaluate practical approaches by development partners in supporting their partner countries' climate readiness and leadership in transitioning to climate-resilient, low-emissions development pathways.

This year's event gathered representatives from various governments, international organizations, and development partners to exchange knowledge and experiences on effective climate finance strategies. It served as a platform for countries like the Philippines to share best practices in mobilizing resources for climate action while addressing the complexities of a fragmented global finance landscape.

"The outcomes of the workshop will contribute to the Philippines' preparations for the upcoming COP29 negotiations, where the country will continue to advocate for greater support for developing nations, particularly in terms of finance, technology transfer, and capacity building," Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, said as quoted in a news release on Friday.

POLITIKO

CCC: Doctors are climate allies

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) recognized doctors as crucial allies in the fight against climate change during a national convention, emphasizing their vital role in preparing communities for climate disasters and emergencies.

At the recent Midyear Convention of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP), hosted by its Southern Mindanao Chapter (PCCP SMC), the CCC highlighted the need to address climate change through intersectional approaches and sustainable adaptation strategies. CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera emphasized that the expertise of medical professionals strengthens these efforts.

“Climate change affects human health both directly and indirectly,” Herrera said. “Extreme weather events increase the risk of vector-borne diseases, waterborne infections, and heat-related disorders.”

She stressed that doctors understand the links between health outcomes and environmental factors, which shows that combating climate change requires a collective effort. “We must make our healthcare system more climate-resilient,” Herrera stated. “With stakeholders and frontliners like you on our side, we can achieve this goal.”

She further noted, “We aim to reduce patient mortality from climate-sensitive diseases by strengthening primary care, improving healthcare accessibility, availability, and affordability.”

The annual convention brought together pulmonologists from across the Philippines, along with internists, family medicine physicians, general practitioners, Department of Health personnel, and residents and fellows from pulmonary medicine training institutions.

The PCCP has consistently engaged with climate change issues in the Philippines and worldwide, integrating climate advocacy into its organizational priorities. The CCC values their active participation in government-led climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, particularly since discussions on the links between health and climate often do not take center stage in climate policy.

“Climate change’s impact on our health and health infrastructure often gets overlooked, even though its implications are significant,” Herrera said. “These connections aren’t always immediate or apparent. It’s difficult for patients to link a chronic illness that emerges weeks after record flooding to the experience of surviving a super typhoon.”

The CCC is committed to supporting medical professionals and public health experts in pushing for policies that address the intersection of climate change and health.

“Medical professionals are uniquely positioned to identify, respond to, and prevent health issues worsened by climate change. Together, we can build stronger, more climate-adaptive healthcare systems that protect our people, especially the most vulnerable, from the growing threats of a changing climate,” said CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

THE MANILA TIMES

[CCC calls for shift to sustainable practices](#)

By: Kristina Maralit

As the world celebrated World Tourism Day, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Saturday called for urgent action to shift toward sustainable practices in Philippine tourism.

"The realities of climate change are already upon us, and tourism, as a key economic driver, must evolve to meet these challenges," Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairman and executive director of the CCC, said in a statement.

"It's not just about protecting our destinations, but ensuring that tourism development supports the health of the environment and the communities that rely on it," he added. Borje further noted that without decisive action, climate change could drastically alter the country's tourism landscape.

"We must move swiftly to mainstream sustainable practices across all aspects of tourism. This includes not only reducing carbon emissions but also mitigating the local environmental impacts of tourism activities, from waste management to resource use," he said.

Domestic tourism remains a key pillar of the Philippine economy, contributing 8.6 percent to the country's gross domestic product and has churned out 6.2 million jobs in 2023.

Meanwhile, world tourism significantly contributes to global carbon emissions — around 8 percent — primarily through transportation, accommodation and infrastructure development.

Recent extreme weather events highlight the tourism sector's vulnerability to climate change. The most recent Tropical Storm Enteng caused widespread flooding in Metro Manila and Rizal province, while Super Typhoon Carina last July severely impacted coastal areas and key tourist destinations, disrupting flights, ferry schedules and tourism operations.

To address these challenges, the CCC pushes for the strengthening of waste management systems in tourism areas to prevent environmental degradation and flooding. It also supports community-based, low-impact tourism that empowers local economies while protecting cultural heritage and biodiversity.

"Through a whole-of-government approach, combined with active participation of local communities and private stakeholders, we can ensure that tourism development does not worsen the effects of climate change which brings us closer to realizing a sustainable and resilient future," Borje said.

The commission encourages all stakeholders in the tourism sector to actively participate in the fight against climate change by adopting sustainable practices and supporting green investments that will ensure the long-term health of the country's tourism destinations.

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