



## NEWS ROUNDUP

04 October 2022 [ 08: 00 am]

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### AL JAZEERA

#### [UN ups flood aid appeal as Pakistan enters 'second wave of death'](#)

By: Abid Hussain

Islamabad, Pakistan – The United Nations has increased its aid appeal for Pakistan, where more than five million people are facing a severe food crisis in the wake of recent catastrophic floods.

### ARAB NEWS

#### [Typhoon havoc triggers calls for urgent climate action in Philippines](#)

By: Ellie Aben

Manila: When a massive typhoon barreled through the Philippines last month, it left behind casualties and destruction, triggering calls for urgent climate action in the cyclone-prone country, where extreme weather events are on the rise.

## **BLOOMBERG**

### **[Climate Change Infused Hurricane Ian With 10% More Rain, Scientists Say](#)**

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Climate change made Hurricane Ian's most extreme rainfall about 10% worse than it would have been without two centuries of greenhouse gas pollution, according to a first-take analysis of the storm by two US climate researchers. Their rapid analysis, which they shared on Twitter, looked only at rainfall, and not other critical climate metrics related to hurricanes, such as strength, intensification and sea-level rise.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[\[Opinion\] EDCOM 2: Lifelong learning poverty crisis](#)**

By: Federico Macaranas

The Philippines has a lifelong learning (LLL) poverty crisis — perhaps even worse than the widely discussed learning poverty gap at the primary school level. Both must be addressed now if we are to remain competitive and provide a “socially cohesive, fulfilling, inclusive and sustainable future for all” as the Marrakech Framework for Action for Adult Learning and Education (adopted on June 17 by UNESCO members) states.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Pasig-San Juan bike ride held to promote climate change awareness, transition to cycling](#)**

By: Patrick Garcia

Two of Metro Manila's most bike-friendly cities launched a bike ride on Sunday, Oct. 2, to boost climate change awareness and transition to 100 percent renewable energy through cycling.

## **RELIEF WEB**

### **[UNIDO, Philippines to work on food security, innovation and climate change](#)**

Manila, 29 September 2022 – Gerd Müller, Director General of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Carlos D. Sorreta, Undersecretary for Multilateral and International Economic Relations at the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, met to discuss further strengthening of cooperation and sign a Joint Declaration.

## REUTERS

### [U.S. takes step to advance use of Cold War-era law for clean energy](#)

By: Timothy Gardner

Washington, Oct 3 (Reuters) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Monday took a step to advance use of a Cold War-era defense law for boosting the reliability of the electric power grid, deploying clean energy, and speeding domestic production of grid technologies such as transformers.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [PH's move to fully open renewable energy industry to foreigners cheered](#)

By: Alden Monzon

Allowing foreigners full ownership of renewable energy projects in the Philippines will help improve overall business sentiments and lure more investments into the country, according to business groups.

### [Research center in Chile's Cape Horn serves as climate change 'sentinel'](#)

By Reuters

SANTIAGO — Located at the tip of South America, where the Pacific and Atlantic oceans meet, Cape Horn in Chile is the closest land mass to Antarctica and home to a unique ecosystem that scientists say is a natural laboratory to study climate change.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### ['Green' energy open to foreigners – DoJ](#)

By: Franco Jose Barona

Foreigners can own 100 percent of renewable or "green" energy projects in the Philippines, the Department of Justice (DoJ) said.

### [\[Opinion\] Life during wartime](#)

By: Ben Kritz

THE orthodox version of climate change response is that between the two strategies to address — adaptation and mitigation — the latter must be prioritized. The reason for this is based on three assumptions: One, that it is still possible to keep global warming below a certain level (1.5 to 2.0 degrees Celsius) that avoids the most severe effects of it; two, it is absolutely necessary to do so because adapting to those effects, or even effects that are not as severe as those but simply worse than what would be

experienced under the ideal 1.5-to-2.0 C level, would be completely unmanageable; and three, accepting that climate change effects are inevitable would discourage the world at large from trying to do anything at all to prevent them.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

#### **[LANDBANK assures available climate finance for adaptation, mitigation](#)**

Manila -- The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) assures local development stakeholders of continued access to climate finance under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), in support of projects for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### **BUSINESS MIRROR**

#### **[Nestlé PHL partners with GMA to clean up coastal areas](#)**

By Roderick Abad

Following the onslaught of Typhoon Karding (international name Noru) while marking the International Coastal Cleanup Day and its Second Plastic Neutrality Anniversary, Nestlé Philippines has teamed up with GMA Network in cleaning up the shore of Las Piñas Parañaque Critical Habitat & Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA).

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## AL JAZEERA

### [UN ups flood aid appeal as Pakistan enters 'second wave of death'](#)

By: Abid Hussain

Islamabad, Pakistan – The United Nations has increased its aid appeal for Pakistan, where more than five million people are facing a severe food crisis in the wake of recent catastrophic floods.

Nearly 1,700 people, including more than 600 children, lost their lives and a total 33 million people were affected after record-breaking rains began lashing Pakistan in June.

Julien Harneis, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for the country, said on Monday that the world body was now seeking \$816m for flood-relief efforts, up from its initial appeal for \$160m in August, when heavy rains and floods swept through much of Pakistan.

“We are now entering a second wave of death and destruction. There will be an increase in child morbidity, and it will be terrible unless we act rapidly to support the government in increasing the provision of health, nutrition and water and sanitation services across the affected areas,” Harneis told reporters at a media briefing in Geneva.

The Pakistani government and UN have both repeatedly blamed climate change for the floods and sought debt relief as a means to support the country.

In its latest report on Saturday, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said 8.62 million people in 28 assessed districts were estimated to be in crisis and enduring the emergency phases of food security between September and November 2022, “including some 5.74 million people in flood-affected districts covered by the assessment”.

The OCHA report also noted that “water-borne and vector-borne diseases” are of “growing concern”, particularly in the hard-hit provinces of Sindh and Balochistan.

It added that close to 1.6 million women of reproductive age, including nearly 130,000 pregnant women, need urgent health services.

Addressing the UN General Assembly late last month, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country has been facing the wrath of climate crisis – even though it had little responsibility in causing it.

“Pakistan has never seen a starker and more devastating example of the impact of global warming ... Nature has unleashed her fury on Pakistan without looking at our carbon footprint, which is next to nothing. Our actions did not contribute to this,” he said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said during a visit to Pakistan in September that he had “never seen climate carnage” on such a scale.

Guterres also blamed rich countries for the crisis, as Group of 20 (G20) developed nations are responsible for 80 percent of current carbon emissions.

In Pakistan, the flooding situation was exacerbated by the melting of glaciers, resulting in one-third of the country being submerged when floods were at their peak.

The floods have wracked the economy of the country at a time when it was already facing a financial crunch, with authorities putting the cost at an estimated \$30bn.

Pakistan only managed to stave off default as it secured a loan package of \$1.17bn from the International Monetary Fund in late August.

## ARAB NEWS

### [Typhoon havoc triggers calls for urgent climate action in Philippines](#)

By: Ellie Aben

Manila: When a massive typhoon barreled through the Philippines last month, it left behind casualties and destruction, triggering calls for urgent climate action in the cyclone-prone country, where extreme weather events are on the rise.

Super Typhoon Noru, locally named Karding, made landfall on the evening of Sept. 25, sweeping the densely populated island of Luzon and plunging communities in the country's north underwater.

At least 12 people were killed and over 1 million affected by Noru, according to disaster response officials, who estimate that the landfall caused damages of nearly \$51 million, leaving farmland flattened just before the harvest season.

Poor rural communities have increasingly borne the brunt of climate-related disasters, which have battered the Philippines with growing frequency over recent years.

"The stormy season is far from over. We expect our farmers and fisherfolk to face more problems this year from climate change-intensified typhoons," the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment said in a statement.

"We need to improve climate change adaptation mechanisms," the network's national coordinator Jon Bonifacio told Arab News. "Typhoon Noru is another wake-up call that we really need to act on the climate crisis."

With winds of up to 240 kph and heavy rainfall, Noru quickly turned into the most powerful cyclone to hit the Philippines this year.

Emily Padilla, former agriculture undersecretary, who shared on social media photos from devastated areas, wrote after the landfall that it had brought flashbacks of the deadly Typhoon Santi, which struck Luzon in 2013.

"Trembling in fear last night, we had to cling on to God, and work on defending our only sanctuary, when it was being pounded by roaring Karding," she said on Facebook. "Climate change is real. We must collectively work to reverse the impending death of earth, and so humankind."

The typhoon had evolved from a tropical storm into a Category 5 typhoon over two days, which was one of the fastest such rapid intensifications ever recorded in the Pacific basin.

“This trend is caused by the effects of climate change, specifically the rising temperatures of the sea surface,” Greenpeace Southeast Asia consultant Jefferson Chua told Arab News.

“More extreme weather events will be coming our way. We are one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, and that won’t stop.”

An archipelago of more than 7,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean, the Philippines is highly vulnerable to cyclones. Each year, about 20 typhoons, equivalent to 25 percent of the global occurrence, enter the country and about half of them wreak havoc in its northern parts.

With the changing climate and global warming, the intensity of devastating incidents has increased. Seven of the 11 strongest landfalls in recorded history have occurred since 2006.

Addressing climate change has been high on the agenda of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, who during the UN General Assembly in New York last week said that developing countries had suffered the most from climate change effects.

“This injustice must be corrected and those who need to do more must act now,” he said. “Those who are least responsible suffer the most. The Philippines, for example, is a net carbon sink, we absorb (more) carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change.”

But as Marcos addressed UNGA, Greenpeace criticized him for not doing enough on the national level to help avert the disastrous effects of the changing climate, which it said will “heavily impact food security, as well as other fundamental issues such as water, energy, health and poverty alleviation.”

Mitigating the impacts of the changing climate should, according to Greenpeace, start with energy transition efforts in the country, which derives most of its electricity generation from coal.

“The introduction of renewable energy into our energy mix, and the gradual and eventual phaseout from fossil fuels, is one of the biggest solutions that governments can implement in the incoming climate crisis. What’s important here to note is that these are not being done at the level of urgency that we need,” Chua said.



## **BLOOMBERG**

### **[Climate Change Infused Hurricane Ian With 10% More Rain, Scientists Say](#)**

By: Eric Roston

Climate change made Hurricane Ian's most extreme rainfall about 10% worse than it would have been without two centuries of greenhouse gas pollution, according to a first-take analysis of the storm by two US climate researchers. Their rapid analysis, which they shared on Twitter, looked only at rainfall, and not other critical climate metrics related to hurricanes, such as strength, intensification and sea-level rise.

Ian has devastated the state of Florida, with severe flooding among the impacts. President Joe Biden said it is likely to rank among the most destructive storms in US history, and the full death toll will likely not be known for weeks. Damage estimates range from \$68 billion to \$100 billion.

To arrive at their finding, Michael Wehner of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Kevin Reed of Stony Brook University relied on what they call a "storyline" approach. That involves using a publicly available model to replay the storm. Then they're able to remove the effects of climate change "using sort of a 'cookbook' from existing studies," said Wehner. With the effects of greenhouse gas pollution subtracted out, they re-run the simulation to develop a sense of "the world that might have been had there not been climate change," he said.

The difference between the two simulations yields the final estimate: that Ian was about 10% wetter because of climate change.

Reed and Wehner used the same method in research published in a peer-reviewed journal in April with a third colleague, Colin Zarzycki of Penn State University.

Wehner said the quick look at Hurricane Ian turned out to be "a little more interesting" scientifically than he had expected. The reason why lies in a discovery made in part by a French engineer, Benoît Clapeyron, in the 1830s. While trying to improve steam engines, Clapeyron figured out something interesting about air and water: For every degree Celsius rise in temperature, air seemed like it was able to hold about 7% more water vapor. This is now known as the Clausius-Clapeyron equation.

What's true for steam engines is also true in the global atmosphere. Nearly two centuries later, that same phenomenon allows scientists to estimate how much rainier greenhouse gas emissions have made tropical cyclones. With more than 1°C of global warming already behind us, the atmosphere can hold at least 7% more water.

But why would rainfall come down 10% harder if the amount of moisture added to the atmosphere is less than that? Plus, the air off Florida itself has warmed less than 1°C,

Wehner says. That means 10% is closer to two times the humidity that climate change has contributed to the state. So there's something else going on to intensify hurricane rainfall, Wehner says, perhaps having to do with higher wind speeds.

Not just Ian but other recent storms have dropped more rain than the increased moisture in the atmosphere indicates they should have. Why that's the case is the subject of continuing research.

Wehner says Hurricane Harvey's extreme rainfall in 2017 first signaled that cyclones could kick out additional rain at a rate much faster than the atmospheric moisture increase predicted by Clausius-Clapeyron. Climate change, according to studies, might have increased Harvey's rainfall by 19% to 24% over expectations from the preindustrial era.

The April study that was the starting point for the new analysis looked at the historically anomalous 2020 North Atlantic hurricane season, which saw 30 named storms, more than twice the seasonal average. Twelve of them hit the US, causing more than \$40 billion in damage. The scientists found that three-hour maximum hurricane rainfall was 11% higher than it would have been in the preindustrial world, and maximum three-day accumulated rainfall was 8% higher.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[\[Opinion\] EDCOM 2: Lifelong learning poverty crisis](#)**

By: Federico Macaranas

The Philippines has a lifelong learning (LLL) poverty crisis — perhaps even worse than the widely discussed learning poverty gap at the primary school level. Both must be addressed now if we are to remain competitive and provide a “socially cohesive, fulfilling, inclusive and sustainable future for all” as the Marrakech Framework for Action for Adult Learning and Education (adopted on June 17 by UNESCO members) states.

The primary school case was documented by an updated cross-country 2022 report of the World Bank on the subject, where we ended miserably on the development indicator on reading (the learning poverty indicator indicative of the ability to read a simple text with comprehension by age 10), writing, mathematics, and global citizenship by Grade 5.

### **WHAT LLL CRISIS?**

On the other hand, the indicators of a LLL poverty situation in the country had been and may continue to be equally dismal:

1.) Poor performance of professionals in licensure examinations. The latest data: about 56% of first-time takers pass the licensure examinations while 38% of graduates across disciplines pass licensure examinations, which House of Representatives Technology and Higher Education Committee Chairman Mark Go noted in the Sept. 8 Joint General Membership Meeting (GMM) of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP);

2.) Relatively low enrollment in adult learning compared to our neighbors in the region which the International Labor Organization (ILO) documented as early as 2007, e.g., participation rates of the population aged 15-64 in vocational education and training: 1.9% in the Philippines, compared to 33.4% in Singapore, 14.6% in Hong Kong, and 5.9% in Korea. These could have been alleviated by lowering structural barriers in the employers and employee training costs; and,

3.) Many areas for improvement in the major management concerns (skills for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity; English language proficiency, digital and technical competencies, people skills) where we now have very much appreciated global linkages (BPO, maritime, nursing, tourism) and potential products from a marine archipelagic nation.

### **EDCOM 2**

The review of the national education system through this new education commission — EdCom 2 — was the subject of a recent MAP GMM.

The new commission may give us a long-term set of concerns and vision beyond AmBisyon 2040. However, in the medium-term, we may succumb socially through a destabilizing confluence of factors. These include geopolitical forces, social technology misuse/abuse, and climate change that damage supply chains, profitability, and investment attractiveness which our much-vaunted people assets may not be able to answer for due to the gravity of the compounded problems.

Traditional monetary and fiscal policies may not be able to mask long-term real factors shaping the structural problems of the economy intertwined with ESG (environment, social, and governance) principles. Over-reliance on these financial policies triggered balance-sheet recessions in Japan and the US in the past decades, although this time it can be the damaged asset bases of human and natural resources/green capital rather than physical property/grey capital of the Philippines. In complex adaptive systems, scenario plans should accommodate the possibility of balance-sheet recessions and stagflation. It is better that we be prepared rather than be surprised.

### **CALL FOR LLL BY ILO**

In 2007, the ILO released a study on the Philippines which contained the recommendation that the country must pursue “an integrated action plan (for lifelong learning which is)... multi-sectoral, multi-period, and go beyond the boundaries of the nation.” The context was the magnified archipelagic insularity of Filipino mindsets arising from the first commission that re-shaped the independent Philippines’ post-WWII education (EDCOM 1) that unfortunately splintered education policy implementation into three separate bodies.

EDCOM 2 should come into the picture now with the 2007 ILO study recommendation that “LLL in the Philippines must address not only socio-economic considerations but political matters as well since... welfare enhancements... are defined, for example, by changing international standards of governance.” Many education leaders are calling for the de-politicization of the education system.

“Cradle to grave” lifelong learning was advocated as an education strategy some 50 years ago. National laws were in place as early as the 1970s in France and the USA, and in the following decades in Japan, Germany, Sweden, Canada, etc. Adult education was integrated into LLL even in developing economies, with the 1976 Nairobi Conference commitment for its extension to “all aspects of life and all areas of skills and knowledge.”

By the new millennium’s second decade, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG) 2030 indicator No. 4 was designed to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

Indeed, the “right to lifelong learning” was reiterated at the June 2022 5th UNESCO Conference on Adult Learning and Education (ALE) and the ensuing Marrakech Framework noted in the opening paragraph above. However, the global reports on ALE do not capture the essence of individual country challenges because of the paucity of LLL system-wide data, the Philippines included.

## **URGENT NEED FOR A LLL NATION**

Yet, the ILO 2007 study on the Philippines, antedating the UN SDGs, was based on an extensive review of and data analysis on “the quality of schooling, the high unemployment rate in the face of the skilled human resources that can be made competitive with accompanying investment in science and technology, the mismatch in schooling-employment, general resource misallocation partly due to financial disincentives to parents, school owners, and employers, and the many good practices in lifelong learning in the Philippines that can be scaled up across firms, communities and disadvantaged sectors, not only for domestic but for global markets as well.”

While the 2007 study was initiated by the Department of Labor and Employment, no action was ever taken by the agency, nor any other government body thereafter for a system-wide understanding of what to measure and thus what to manage for a LLL nation.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Pasig-San Juan bike ride held to promote climate change awareness, transition to cycling](#)

By: Patrick Garcia

Two of Metro Manila's most bike-friendly cities launched a bike ride on Sunday, Oct. 2, to boost climate change awareness and transition to 100 percent renewable energy through cycling.

In a set of photos posted on his Facebook page, Pasig City Councilor Quin "Kin" Cruz said the bike ride, dubbed as "Pedal for People and Planet," coincides with 24 other cycling events in eight Asian countries which are all promoting cycling as a more environment-friendly mode of transportation. He added that around 1,000 cyclists from all around the metro participated in the bike ride.

"In the Philippines, the bike ride was held in nine provinces with routes that included sites of proposed coal and LNG plants. One of which is the 10km bike ride from San Juan to Pasig," Cruz said.

The councilor said that the event from San Juan to Pasig City was organized by Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development together with the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, Greenpeace Philippines, 350 PHILIPPINES, The Climate Reality Project Philippines, Firefly Brigade, Siklista Pilipino, Manila Water, Pasig Transport, Traffic and Parking Management Office of Pasig (T.P.M.O – Pasig City), and the Office of Coun. James Yap of San Juan City.

The Pasig City local government continues to promote cycling and responsible bicycle riding to the public since the pandemic started.

On Sept. 22, the city government and the Department of Education (DepEd), distributed bicycles and safety gears to public school students and teachers as part of the celebration of World Car-Free Day.

Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto and DepEd Undersecretary Kris Ablan led the distribution of the bikes to 20 Grade Seven to Senior High School students and 10 teachers of the Rizal High School.

The city also introduced Car-Free days in some city streets where motor vehicles are prohibited. It also encouraged the people to engage in outdoor activities such as walking, jogging, and cycling.

On May 22, Lopez Jaena Street in Barangay Sumilang started to become a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly area every Sunday to compensate for the lack of open spaces in the city. The "People's Street" initiative was made through the efforts of the barangay council of Sumilang and the Pasig City Transport Development and Management Office (CTDMO).

Recognizing Sunday as a “car-less day,” only pedestrians, bicycles, and light personal mobility devices may enter the street from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This allows residents to have freedom and the space to conduct their outdoor activities such as strolling, bonding with friends and family, or even holding Zumba sessions. It also serves as a playground for children where they can roam safely without the dangers posed by vehicles.

Other than Lopez Jaena Street, Emerald Avenue in Barangay San Antonio, Pasig City is also a well-known People’s Street that is open to the public.

In the month of April, Sotto and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on the implementation of a Climate Resilient and Localized Urban Greening Plan (CRLUGP).

The CRLUGP aims to integrate and develop green spaces in highly-urbanized localities through multi-sectoral exchanges of resources and expertise.

The plan seeks to respond to the challenges posed by the climate crisis such as extreme weather conditions that have led to an increase in typhoons in the country, as well as pollution and destruction of ecosystems.

Through the CRLUGP, the DENR-NCR will assist the local government in determining focal areas to establish green spaces within the city. It will provide the affiliated sectors of the local government with seedlings, planting materials, and technical assistance, along with ornamental plants and trees to aid in fostering these green spaces.

Sotto stressed the urgency of the issues presented by climate change, and stressed the local government’s commitment in environmental protection and conservation.

“Ito’y isa sa mga bagay na ayaw natin pagusapan, o tingin natin matagal pa ‘yan...Kung hindi natin pagtutuunan ng pansin ito, sooner rather than later mabibigla na lang tayo na ganito na pala ang effect [ng pollution, climate change]. Kailangan ngayon pa lang, pagtuunan na natin ng pansin ang ating kalikasan ([Climate change] is one of the things we don’t talk about or we delay discussions on...If we don’t address it, sooner rather than later, we will be caught unprepared by its effects. We need to conserve our environment as early as now),” Sotto said.

For its part, San Juan City also promoted cycling as an alternative mode of transportation with the construction of new bike lanes and the launching of cycling-oriented programs and initiatives.

“As someone who bikes around the city myself, I know the importance of protecting cyclists from fast-moving cars and trucks, that is why we put up these bike lanes. Biking

is also a cleaner and healthier alternative in the crawling traffic of Metro Manila,” San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora said during a cycling event in 2021.

Aside from the bike lanes, the city government also passed an ordinance that focuses on bike safety protocols.

San Juan also partnered with PNB-Allianz to construct the city’s first solar-powered bike pit stop along Pinaglabanan Street.

Yellow street lights were also replaced with bright white LED lights to help bikers and residents who ride around the city at night.

In 2020, San Juan City was awarded the Gold Award by the Mobility Awards for the city government’s efforts in promoting biking and installing infrastructure to protect bikers.



## RELIEF WEB

### [UNIDO, Philippines to work on food security, innovation and climate change](#)

Manila, 29 September 2022 – Gerd Müller, Director General of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Carlos D. Sorreta, Undersecretary for Multilateral and International Economic Relations at the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, met to discuss further strengthening of cooperation and sign a Joint Declaration.

The document touches on a number of shared priorities, which sit high on the agendas of both the Philippines government and UNIDO. Food security is among them, and the two discussed ways to increase the productivity of agriculture and fisheries - both very important productive sectors in the country - and how to further integrate Filipino food produce into global value chains.

Director General Müller and Undersecretary Sorreta also agreed on the importance of renewable energy and industrial energy efficiency in fast-developing countries such the Philippines. In this context, there is a common focus on finding avenues to mainstream innovative and affordable technologies appropriate to the local context. Director General Müller expounded on UNIDO's new motto: Progress by innovation.

Another area for strengthened cooperation is adaptation to climate change and environmental protection. The Philippines is the one of the countries most at risk from the climate crisis. In recent years, extreme weather events, such as tropical cyclones and heavy monsoon rain, have triggered disastrous floods and landslides. Just days before Müller arrived in Manila, a super typhoon hit the north-western Philippines, forcing thousands out of their homes and leaving many towns underwater.

Lastly, Sorreta and Müller discussed how to facilitate the inflow of finance and investment in national manufacturing, as well as the transfer of advanced technologies to Filipino small and medium enterprises, which are the country's economic backbone.

Müller highlighted how the Joint Declaration is a framework to bolster UNIDO's cooperation with the Philippines and further advance SDG9 and inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The meeting marked the beginning of celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the basic co-operation agreement, signed in 1993, which serves as the foundation of cooperation between the Philippines and UNIDO.

## REUTERS

### [U.S. takes step to advance use of Cold War-era law for clean energy](#)

By: Timothy Gardner

Washington, Oct 3 (Reuters) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Monday took a step to advance use of a Cold War-era defense law for boosting the reliability of the electric power grid, deploying clean energy, and speeding domestic production of grid technologies such as transformers.

The department issued a request for information, asking the public to determine how best to use the Defense Production Act, or DPA, to boost manufacturing and lower energy costs for consumers.

The DPA "provides us with a vital tool to make targeted investments in key technology areas that are essential to ensuring power grid reliability and achieving our clean energy future," U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said in a release.

In June, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, invoked the DPA to expand manufacturing of solar panels, heat pumps, transformers, and equipment for "clean electricity-generated fuels" such as electrolyzers and fuel cells. The 1950 law gives the Pentagon wide powers to procure equipment necessary for national defense.

The DOE wants to get input by Nov. 30 from industry, labor, environmental, energy justice, and state, local and tribal stakeholders on using the DPA authority to support the clean energy workforce and technologies needed to combat climate change.

Some Republicans in Congress have criticized Biden's use of the DPA. Late last month, Senator Pat Toomey, the top Republican on the Senate Banking Committee, called Biden's use of the law "irresponsible" and said that increasing use of it disrupted supply chains and violated the intent of the law to make goods available in actual national security emergencies.

Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, a Republican, invoked the DPA in 2019 to stockpile rare earths, the specialized minerals used to make magnets found in weaponry and EVs, and again in 2020 to order General Motors to produce life-saving ventilators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [PH's move to fully open renewable energy industry to foreigners cheered](#)

By: Alden Monzon

Allowing foreigners full ownership of renewable energy projects in the Philippines will help improve overall business sentiments and lure more investments into the country, according to business groups.

Reacting to a Department of Justice (DOJ) legal opinion, American Chamber of Commerce senior adviser John Forbes told the Inquirer: "We welcome this development and expect that this will result in new and large inflow of foreign direct investments into renewable energy projects."

"I think this is an excellent development because renewable energy is needed here. Basically, the whole world is looking into renewable energy. So, it's timely. And international, European businesses will love it," Henry Schumacher, president of the European Innovation, Technology and Science Center Foundation (EITSC), Inc. added.

In a legal opinion dated Sept. 29, the DOJ said Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution "only covers things that are susceptible to appropriation, thus excluding the sun, the wind, and the ocean."

It said the phrase "all forces of potential energy" in the Constitution excluded "kinetic energy," referring to the type of energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and ocean or tidal energy.

"Moreover, the intent of the constitutional foreign ownership restriction was to preserve for Filipinos limited and exhaustible resources," the DOJ said, adding:

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It said the phrase “all forces of potential energy” in the Constitution excluded “kinetic energy,” referring to the type of energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and ocean or tidal energy.

“Moreover, the intent of the constitutional foreign ownership restriction was to preserve for Filipinos limited and exhaustible resources,” the DOJ said, adding:

“The compelling reason behind the constitutional foreign ownership restriction finds no application to inexhaustible renewable energy sources.”

According to Schumacher, the Philippines stands out in terms of its solar and wind energy potential.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president George Barcelon also highlighted the country’s vast hydro and geothermal resources.

For Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion, however, foreign firms would be better off tapping local companies.

“The country needs help in the exploration, development and utilization of renewable energy sources to help us become more resilient and self-reliant,” he said in a statement sent to the Inquirer.

The Department of Energy had said that the country needed at least \$121 billion in investments to achieve its clean energy goal.

## [Research center in Chile's Cape Horn serves as climate change 'sentinel'](#)

By Reuters

SANTIAGO — Located at the tip of South America, where the Pacific and Atlantic oceans meet, Cape Horn in Chile is the closest land mass to Antarctica and home to a unique ecosystem that scientists say is a natural laboratory to study climate change.

Ricardo Rozzi, director of the almost-completed Cape Horn International Center (CHIC), said the area has at least 10 features – including the world's southernmost forest – which make the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve ideal to monitor plant and animal life on a warming planet.

“[Organisms] in the north are coming south, but what happens to the ones here in the south? Do they vanish? Do they not vanish?” Rozzi said. “That’s the primary function of the center, to be a ‘sentinel’ for climate change.”

Aside from researching the under-studied subantarctic region, Rozzi said the center will observe plant and animal life, glacier retreat and give recommendations to the state for preservation and sustainable tourism.

Preserving the region is essential, scientists say, because its pristine ecosystems give it a unique vantage point to measure global alterations that result from human action or presence.

“We can study the effects of global changes here, because there aren’t any big changes yet,” said Andres Mansilla, a professor at Magallanes University and researcher at CHIC.

“So it’s a great opportunity for us to use pristine ecosystems that haven’t been interfered with, to see how climate change is affecting them.”

The CHIC is 90% complete and will be inaugurated in November. The research center spans 2,582 square meters, cost about \$16 million and will host a visitor and education center in addition to its research facilities.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### 'Green' energy open to foreigners – DoJ

By: Franco Jose Barona

Foreigners can own 100 percent of renewable or "green" energy projects in the Philippines, the Department of Justice (DoJ) said.

In a legal opinion it issued on September 29, the DoJ said the renewable energy sector is not covered by the 60-40 ownership rule in Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution.

It said, "the Constitutional foreign ownership restriction on the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources only covers things that are susceptible to appropriation, thus excluding the sun, the wind, and the ocean."

The DoJ said the phrase "all forces of potential energy" in the Constitution should be interpreted to exclude "kinetic energy" such as renewable energy.

Potential energy is defined as "energy at rest," while kinetic energy is "energy in motion." Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, hydro, and ocean or tidal energy are therefore considered kinetic energy sources.

The DoJ said the investment cap only seeks to "preserve for Filipinos limited and exhaustible resources."

The "appropriation of waters, direct from the source, for power generation" should continue to be subject to the foreign ownership restriction, the DoJ said.

Before more foreign investments in renewables are allowed, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 (Republic Act 9513) must be amended to conform with the opinion, it said.

The government is planning to increase the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix to 35 percent by 2030, and increase it further to 50 percent by 2040.

Based on Department of Energy (DoE) data, renewables make up 22 percent of the generation mix, with coal having the biggest share at 58 percent.

As of June, a total of 998 renewable energy contracts with a combined installed capacity of 5,460.59 megawatts and a potential capacity of 61,613.81 MW have been awarded by the DoE.

Under current rules, foreign firms may go into renewable energy development through a service or operating contract with the government, but they cannot own more than 40 percent of a project.

In a statement, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the DoE is already revising the IRR of RA 9513 which places the exploration, development, production and utilization of natural resources under the government's full control and supervision.

"Private sector investments are central [to] achieving our renewable energy targets and vision for the Filipino people and this is a welcome development for our foreign investors to invest in renewable energy production here in our country," Lotilla said.

He thanked Justice Secretary Crispin "Boying" Remulla "for this favorable development which will pave the way for the opening of foreign investments in renewable energy development."

In 2020, the government allowed full foreign ownership of large-scale geothermal projects through financial and technical assistance agreements as long as the minimum investment amounted to \$50 million.

## [Opinion] Life during wartime

By: Ben Kritz

THE orthodox version of climate change response is that between the two strategies to address — adaptation and mitigation — the latter must be prioritized. The reason for this is based on three assumptions: One, that it is still possible to keep global warming below a certain level (1.5 to 2.0 degrees Celsius) that avoids the most severe effects of it; two, it is absolutely necessary to do so because adapting to those effects, or even effects that are not as severe as those but simply worse than what would be experienced under the ideal 1.5-to-2.0 C level, would be completely unmanageable; and three, accepting that climate change effects are inevitable would discourage the world at large from trying to do anything at all to prevent them.

This perspective on climate change policy is manifested in practice. According to a report by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in the wake of the 2015 Paris climate summit, about 77 percent of all funding for climate action is directed toward mitigation. Individual countries are a bit more balanced; the average proportion of climate funding for mitigation among OECD countries is 56 percent. Multilateral development banks (MDBs) such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and the European Investment Bank (EIB), however, are all-in for mitigation, devoting about 81 percent of their total climate funding for that, and just 19 percent for adaptation efforts.

The stubborn adherence to prioritizing mitigation over adaptation is frustrating, because it is based on an optimism that is not supported by scientific knowledge. There is virtually no evidence that merely halting the human activities that cause climate change is enough to reverse or even appreciably slow its effects. On the other hand, there is a large and rapidly growing volume of empirical evidence that climate change impacts are happening more quickly and are more severe than assumed by most models used to inform climate policy.

Two recent news items serve as good examples to illustrate this continuing disconnect between hopes and reality.

The first was a commentary from climate policy expert Philippe Benoit, a veteran of both the World Bank and the International Energy Agency, published by Inter Press Service (IPS) about two weeks ago. In it, Benoit argues that the unprecedented scale of the devastation caused by the recent floods in Pakistan, which submerged about a third of the country and displaced or otherwise severely impacted more than 30 million people, "shows the shortcomings of invoking notions of 'adaptation' as a meaningful strategy to respond to climate change's destructive force."

Benoit explains that while adaptation measures such as more climate-resilient crops and infrastructure, better weather forecasting, and better disaster response are still good and necessary practice, "[T]he recent events in Pakistan illustrate the shortcomings of an adaptation strategy in the face of widespread devastation. Any notion of 'adapting' to these events is tragically misplaced. We cannot, just as countries



cannot adapt to the destruction of war. They can resist, fight, look to recover, but the tragedy they suffer cannot be undone." Thus, he argues, the only real answer is the orthodox one: "But what the events in Pakistan show is that so much more needs to be done to reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions and thereby limit the degree of climate change and accompanying destructive forces people will need to face."

The second news item was the publication last month in the journal *Nature* of a multi-year study of the Greenland ice sheet by researchers from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the US, who sought to more accurately determine the amount and rate of melting of the planet's second-largest ice sheet. The results of the study were startling, even to the scientists who carried out the research: They discovered that, even under the absolutely best-case scenario, that is, if all GHG emissions and the resulting global warming were to instantly cease, the dynamics of the ice sheet are such that it will lose at least 3.3 percent of its volume — about 110 trillion tons of water — between now and the end of this century, which will raise the average global sea level by at least 25 centimeters.

That's not a "possibility if we don't do something to halt global warming," that's a "better move back from the beach, because the water is coming," take-it-to-the-bank warning. The only uncertainty is if the melting of the ice sheet will go beyond the unavoidable 3.3 percent, because that figure actually does assume an ideal situation in which global warming stops increasing. If it does, the Greenland ice sheet will lose just that much and then settle back into a state of equilibrium; if global warming continues for any significant length of time — and other research already indicates it will, no matter what we do right now — then who knows; the amount of sea level rise will be something between 25 centimeters and 7 meters.

What is truly frightening about the new findings is that the amount of sea level rise that we will experience from just 3 percent of the Greenland ice sheet is at least twice as much as the most pessimistic existing model of what would happen if most of it melted. And no amount of "climate mitigation" is going to stop it. Yet experts who have access to all the information and should thus know better continue to exhort the public and political policymakers to "do something to stop climate change before it's too late."

This is why I will continue, in the absence of hard scientific data to compel me to question it, to stick to the view that the state of orthodox climate change response has gone beyond hopeful to becoming irresponsibly naïve. It is analogous to telling a chain-smoker who has set his house on fire by carelessly dropping lit cigarettes all over the carpet that he can salvage his situation by simply quitting smoking and replacing the rugs. When the first discarded butt, or even the first two or three hit the floor, that might have been possible; now, if he wants to survive, he needs to evacuate the building and call the fire department.

Philippe Benoit says that the destruction and disruption that can be caused by climate change is like that caused by warfare. If that is true, we are all going to experience life during wartime, very soon.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

#### [LANDBANK assures available climate finance for adaptation, mitigation](#)

Manila -- The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) assures local development stakeholders of continued access to climate finance under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), in support of projects for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The state-run Bank expressed its continuous commitment in contributing to address the climate crisis at the Disaster and Climate Emergency Policy Forum on 22 September 2022, organized by the Local Climate Change Adaptation for Development (LCCAD), University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI), 4K Foundation, Komunidad Global, Albay Embassy and Climate Change Commission (CCC), in partnership with the House of Representatives and the Office of Albay Rep. Joey S. Salceda.

“LANDBANK stands ready to extend necessary credit assistance to boost national and local resiliency and adaptive capacity to climate change. We are collaborating with various development partners, such as the GCF, towards building a more sustainable future,” said LANDBANK President and CEO Cecilia C. Borromeo.

The GCF is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement, dedicated to support global efforts to respond to the challenge of climate change.

The program aims to help developing countries limit or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change, by supporting programs and projects that promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development.

As a Direct Access Entity (DAE) of the GCF, LANDBANK channels grants and loans provided by the GCF to finance local projects that aim to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Bank leads the project development, management, monitoring and evaluation, in partnership with public and private entities.

In April of this year, LANDBANK and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) started the implementation of the very first GCF-approved project in the country.

The GCF project titled, “The Multi-Hazard Impact-Based Forecasting and Early Warning System,” aims to shift from a traditional hazard-based to an impact-based forecasting and early warning system, to help the public take pre-emptive measures and improve disaster risk reduction in the long run.

The project will benefit communities in the disaster-prone areas of Palo, Leyte; New Bataan, Davao de Oro; Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; and Legazpi City, Albay.

LANDBANK is proposing for GCF approval eight other projects designed to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation and resiliency in the sectors of agriculture, health, transportation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, water resource management and ecosystem management.

LANDBANK's contribution to the GCF underscores its commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection, alongside facilitating the uninterrupted delivery of financial services to key economic development sectors.

In his first address at the UN General Assembly on 21 September 2022 (Tuesday, September 20, New York Time), President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. also urged developed countries to extend climate financing to countries that are most vulnerable to climate change. (LANDBANK)

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **Nestlé PHL partners with GMA to clean up coastal areas**

By Roderick Abad

Following the onslaught of Typhoon Karding (international name Noru) while marking the International Coastal Cleanup Day and its Second Plastic Neutrality Anniversary, Nestlé Philippines has teamed up with GMA Network in cleaning up the shore of Las Piñas Parañaque Critical Habitat & Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA).

A total 1,307 kilograms (kg) of wastes was retrieved by 207 volunteer-employees of both organizations.

Plastic wastes contribute a lot to global pollution, pose a big threat to the health of the oceans that sustain humanity, and endanger the lives of marine species and habitats, as well as the livelihood of the people.

Based on a market study of the World Bank, the Philippines is among the top contributors to global pollution, generating 2.7 million tons of plastic waste annually, with estimated 20 percent ending up in bodies of water and even coastal areas.

Data from the United Nations Environment Regional Office's 2019 report showed that every Filipino uses or produces 10 kg of plastic waste a year.

Nestlé Philippines said it has been conducting such an activity since 2020 as part of its commitment to sustainability.

"We have already retrieved 52 million kilos of plastics over the last two years," Nestlé Philippines Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kais Marzouki told reporters on the sidelines of the coastal cleanup drive last September 30.

Nationwide in scope, the company conducted the closed loop cleanup simultaneously with same activities it spearheaded in other parts of the country in collaboration with local communities.

"The Philippines has the fifth longest coastline in the world and it contributes to our economy, it protects us from calamities and crisis, provides us opportunities for economic well-being, and it's a place for us to enjoy and feel protected also," said Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert E.A. Borje.

Similar initiatives were held in Umalag River in Cagayan de Oro, wherein 1,430 kg of liters were collected; Latag River in Lipa, Batangas, with 547 kg of wastes retrieved; and Taal Lake in Tanauan, Batangas.

All of the retrieved wastes were then delivered to eco-friendly endpoints by segregating and turning them over to the local government units and proper waste management facilities so they will not end up as marine litters again.

“We’re very proud of this achievement, and we’ll continue [to do this],” Marzouki said, while expressing his gratitude for Nestle’s partnership with GMA. “This partnership makes all the difference because every step counts, but alone we cannot do it all the way. We have to be together.”

Nestlé Philippines and GMA Network have joined forces as Kapuso at Kasambuhay ng Kalikasan to address the plastics crisis in the country.

Together, they aim to inform consumers about pressing environmental challenges, especially the plastic waste problem in the country; educate the public about their responsibility in caring for and preserving the planet via reducing, reusing, and recycling plastics; and encourage them to become more involved in the eco-advocacy.

The broadcasting network’s reach and influence, through the artists of the Sparkle GMA Artist Center (SPARKLE), help engage more people and forge a powerful movement.

“I’m very happy because we have social [and environment-]conscious artists,” SPARKLE Assistant Vice President Joy Marcelo said of their volunteer-talents who graced the event, namely, Rabiya Mateo, Rain Matienzo, Vanessa Peña and Yasser Marta. “We’re glad that Nestlé partnered with us for this.”

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