



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### DAILY TRIBUNE

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### MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

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## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

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## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Mitigating climate change challenges](#)**

By: Dr. Fermin D. Adriano, PhD

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**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **Julian re-enters Philippine area**

Typhoon Julian re-entered the Philippine area of responsibility on Thursday, days after it slammed into northern Luzon, the state weather bureau said.

Julian (international name: Krathon) was located 245 kilometers northwest of Itbayat, Batanes at 10 a.m. It was packing winds of 120 kilometers per hour with up to 165 kph gusts, PAGASA said.

It said only Batanes remained affected by the typhoon, where Wind Signal No. 1 was up over Itbayat.

Moving east northeastward slowly, Julian will rapidly weaken into a low pressure area in 36 hours, PAGASA said.

The typhoon is also stirring heavy rains in Taiwan, where it would make landfall later in the day, PAGASA weather specialist Benison Estareja said.

Julian earlier this week cut power and communications and damaged "many" houses in Batanes, according to a local mayor.

The Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said on Wednesday eight people had been injured and one was missing due to Julian.

It said 5,431 people were displaced in the northern part of the Philippines, mostly from the regions of Ilocos and Cagayan Valley.

Meanwhile, Davao Region, Soccsksargen, and Caraga will experience cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms on Thursday due to easterlies or the warm winds from the Pacific, PAGASA said.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms.

Typhoons are common around the region at this time of year.

However, a recent study showed that they are increasingly forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change.

## Supercharged storms: how climate change amplifies cyclones

From Hurricane Helene to Typhoon Yagi, powerful storms are battering the globe, and scientists warn that a warming planet is amplifying their destructive force to unprecedented levels.

Here's what the latest research reveals about how climate change is supercharging tropical cyclones -- the generic term for both weather phenomenon.

### PACKING MORE PUNCH

First, the basics: warmer ocean surfaces release more water vapor, providing additional energy for storms, which intensifies their winds. A warming atmosphere also allows them to hold more water, boosting heavy rainfall.

"On average, the destructive potential of hurricanes has increased about 40 percent due to the 1 degrees Celsius (roughly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) warming that has already taken place," Michael Mann, a climatologist at University of Pennsylvania, told AFP.

In a recent paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Mann added his voice to calls for the Saffir-Simpson scale to be expanded to include a "new class of monster storms" -- Category 6, where sustained winds exceed 192 miles per hour.

According to experts, climate change set the stage for Helene, which peaked as a Category 4 hurricane.

"The oceanic heat content was at a record level, providing plenty of fuel and potential for a storm like this to gain strength and become a large and very damaging storm," David Zierden, Florida's state climatologist, told AFP.

### RAPID INTENSIFICATION

"Rapid intensification," defined as a hurricane speeding up by 30 knots within a 24-hour period, is also becoming more common.

"If intensification happens very close to the coast in the lead up to landfall, it can have a huge effect, which you saw last week in the case of Helene," Karthik Balaguru, a climate scientist at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, told AFP.

### Julian re-enters Philippine area

Balaguru was the lead author on a paper this year in journal Earth's Future that used decades of satellite data to show "a robust increase in the rates at which storms intensified close to the coast, and this is across the world."

The explanation is two-fold.

Warming climate patterns are reducing wind shear -- changes in wind speed and direction with height -- along both the Atlantic Coast of North America and the Pacific Coast of Asia.

"When you have strong wind shear, it tends to tear apart the core of the storm," explained Balaguru.

Climate change is also driving higher humidity along coastlines compared to the open ocean.

This is likely due to a thermal gradient created as land heats faster than water, causing changes in pressure and wind circulation that push moisture into the mid-troposphere where storms can access it. More data is needed to confirm this hypothesis.

Additionally, rising sea levels -- about a foot over the past century -- mean cyclones are now operating from a higher baseline, amplifying storm surges, said Zierden.

#### HOW OFTEN?

While the impact of climate change on how often cyclones happen is still an active area of research, studies suggest it can either increase or decrease frequency, depending on the region.

Particle pollution generated by industry, vehicles, and the energy sector blocks sunlight, partially offsetting the warming effects of greenhouse gases.

In a Science Advances paper, Hiroyuki Murakami, a physical scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, found that particle emissions from the US and Europe peaked around 1980, and their decline leading to a rise in hurricane frequency in the Atlantic.

Conversely, in Asia, high pollution levels in China and India may be suppressing more frequent storm in the western Pacific, Murakami told AFP.

Another study he led found that human activity has increased tropical cyclone activity off Japan's coast, raising the risk of rare precipitation events in the country's west through frontal rainbands—even when the storms themselves don't make landfall.

This year's North Atlantic hurricane season was initially projected to be highly active. However, various meteorological factors created a lull from August through September, according to Zierden and Murakami.

Now, though "we've seen a dramatic ramp-up over the past week," said Mann. With hurricane season running until November 30, we're not in the clear yet, he stressed.

Tokyo is tunnelling to stop climate change flooding the city.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [8 Cebu City rivers polluted, says DENR](#)

By: Rico Osmeña

A study conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas (DENR-EMB-7) revealed that eight major waterways in Cebu City are “highly polluted.”

“Changing land-use patterns and a growing population have put a strain on the natural resources,” said the report.

The eight rivers whose waters were sampled in 2023 are Bulacao, Butuanon, Estero de Parian, Guadalupe, Kinalumsan, Lahug, Mahiga and Tejero Creek.

The study recommended measures to consider which include strengthening policies on relocating informal settlers, accelerating the construction of transitional housing for affected communities, clearing illegal structures along river easements, and organizing barangay and residential-based river clean up initiatives.

Also, Cebu City need to strengthen the implementation of ordinances related to river management, particularly proper disposal of wastewater, garbage, domestic waste and septage, enforce stricter regulations on mining and quarry activities, encourage farmers to use organic fertilizers and adopt sustainable farming methods, and encourage businesses to adopt eco-friendly practices such as using biodegradable packaging.

Water testing to monitor water quality were conducted on 17 January, 19 April, 1 August and 29 November in 2023.

DENR-EMB-7 used parameters to assess the health of rivers and develop strategies for improvement.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **[DENR starts devt of Just Transition Program](#)**

By: Jed Macapagal

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) started the development of the Just Transition Program for the energy and transport sectors which account for 56 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

DENR said in a statement yesterday the program is intended to minimize the adverse impacts on vulnerable sectors while the country implements its climate response and promotes sustainable development.

A Just Transition Program is intended primarily for people who are at the frontline of the transition, especially workers or retiring sectors who are at risk of unemployment, displacement and economic dislocation apart from possible vulnerabilities due to climate change.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, who is also the official representative of the President to the Climate Change Commission, stressed the importance of re-skilling and upskilling the workforce in the energy and transport sectors as these are both heavily reliant on the use of conventional energy.

"The transition should focus not only on minimizing the negative impacts on affected sectors but also on equipping our workforce with the necessary skills for emerging opportunities in fields such as renewable and climate-friendly technologies," Loyzaga said.

DENR noted the need to consider the potential of new industries that can emerge from the transition as they can provide support to conventional ones.

The DENR also said other national government agencies like the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Transportation have been identified as leaders for the development of the Just Transition Program.

These agencies will also lead consultations across sectors and regions in the coming months with support from the Asian Development Bank.

These consultations will also inform the development of a National Just Transition Framework and Roadmap which will guide the Philippines in its shift to a low-carbon, sustainable and resilient economy.

In a separate statement, the DOE said the Philippines was honored at the recently concluded 2024 Asean Energy Awards, highlighting the nation's continued commitment



to energy efficiency and conservation (EEC) as well as sustainable development in the region.

DOE said for the EEC Best Practices Awards 2024 – Building and Industry Category, two local establishments were recognized for their outstanding practices in maximizing efficiency through innovative technologies and construction techniques aimed at reducing energy consumption and enhancing performance.

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CORA founder and executive director Antoinette Taus made the call during the recently concluded "SEA of Solutions 2024: Delivering actions to end plastic pollution" conference, held at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand last month.

During the meeting CORA and conservation organizations stressed the importance of adopting circular economy practices, particularly in waste value chains and marine areas affected by plastic pollution.

"We must ensure a just transition as we strengthen circular economy solutions to #BeatPlasticPollution. Our oceans, communities, and children depend on it. We have witnessed first-hand the powerful force of local communities in the Philippines, especially women and youth, in driving sustainable solutions. But we need greater collaboration to scale these efforts to tackle the problem at the source," Taus said.

The circular economy plays a crucial role in addressing the pressing issue of plastic pollution, particularly in coastal areas. Landfills and marine environments are often the final destination for discarded plastics, posing a grave threat to precious ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

A study by the World Bank revealed that the Philippines discards a staggering 163 million sachets, 48 million plastic bags, and three million diapers daily.

The latest findings from the 2023 Rapid Assessment Standing Stock Survey carried out by CORA at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park revealed that food wrappers and sachets constitute the predominant type of marine litter, comprising 33 percent of the total waste collected. This alarming statistic is closely followed by plastic bottles, accounting for 15 percent of the accumulated waste.

"Plastic pollution threatens ecosystems, and both marine and human life. By advancing a circular economy, we minimize waste and pollution by creating closed-loop systems where materials are reused, recycled or regenerated," Taus added.

CORA currently implements the "Eco-Ikot Sustainable Cities" program, which aims to promote awareness, drive behavioral change, and implement sustainable solutions for waste management.

As part of the program, the organization set up 'Eco-lkot Centers' in Paranaque and Manila. These centers are inclusive, women-led collection and diversion facilities that provide incentives, such as e-cash and goods, to citizens in exchange for their clean, dry, and segregated recyclables.

This program is supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Our Sea of East Asia Network (OSEAN).

In addition, CORA regularly conducts citizen science activities through regular marine litter monitoring, monthly coastal clean-ups, and social behavior change campaigns through the 'My OSEAN Mission' program.

The SEA of Solutions 2024 is organized by SEA circular, an initiative led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) with support from the Government of Sweden. The event aims to facilitate partnerships and catalyze actions that lead to innovative and scalable solutions to plastic waste and marine litter challenges.

CORA is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing environmental sustainability and social issues. CORA promotes circular economy systems, zero-waste principles, and the empowerment of marginalized communities through its community-based programs.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [RE firm contributing clean energy to grid; 24K homes to benefit](#)

By: Kris Crismundo

A renewable energy company has started the testing and commissioning of its fourth solar power plant (Raslag-4) in Pampanga, adding capacity of clean energy to the grid.

In a statement Thursday, Raslag Corp. said the new solar power plant in Barangay San Pablo in Magalang town went online on Oct. 2, becoming the firm's largest operating power plant at 36.48 megawatt peak (MWp).

The new power plant uses a 670-watt mono crystalline solar module to maximize energy generation and ensure long-term reliability.

Raslag-4 has a planned capacity of 53 gigawatt hours (GWh), providing electricity from clean energy to 24,000 households.

The facility is also expected to generate PHP285 million in revenues in the first full year of operations.

"We are thrilled to have already completed four organic projects to help meet our nation's growing energy demand. The Raslag-4 project marks another step towards putting power back into the hands of Filipinos," Raslag president and chief executive officer Robert Nepomuceno said.

The Raslag-4 increased the firm's total capacity to 77.84 MW two years after it went public.

Raslag will also be putting up another solar plant in Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija by 2026, contributing to its goal of increasing its RE portfolio to at least 1,000 MW by 2035.

These projects help the Philippine government achieve its goal of raising the share of RE in the overall energy mix to 35 percent in the next six years.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### Mitigating climate change challenges

By: Dr. Fermin D. Adriano, PhD

The Philippines is ranked among the countries highly vulnerable to climate change. Out of 184 countries examined on their vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change, the United Nations ranked the Philippines at 114, clustered among the bottom 60 countries.

This is not surprising given that the country is visited by around 18 to 20 destructive typhoons a year and is located along the "Ring of Fire" belt where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes periodically occur. Expectedly, agriculture bears the brunt of the adverse impacts of climate change.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has noted that agriculture suffers around P29 billion in damage and losses yearly to natural disasters. According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), our rice farmers experienced the highest damages and losses due to climate-related disasters, particularly the occurrence of destructive typhoons.

The country has recognized the threat of climate change to lives and the economy in general. In 2009, Congress enacted the Climate Change Act, which also provided for the creation of the Climate Change Commission as the lead policymaking body on climate change-related concerns.

The commission formulated the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (2010-2022) and the National Climate Change Action Plan (2011-2028). These set out to ensure the mainstreaming of climate change in policy formulation, such that policies and measures that address climate change are integrated in development planning and sectoral decision-making.

On the part of the DA, it created the Systems-Wide Climate Change Office in 2013 and later renamed it to the Climate Resilience Agriculture Office (CRAO). The CRAO was initially placed under the Office of the DA Secretary to ensure that various units of the department embed climate-resilient agricultural practices in their programs and projects.

It is obvious that these climate-resilience measures cannot remain at the document or theoretical level if the adverse impacts of climate change are to be mitigated. They have to be implemented at the ground or local level where one can see their results.

Along this line, the CRAO initiated the establishment of Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) villages in selected sites as pilots for climate-resilient agriculture practices. AMIA aims to provide information on the challenges posed by climate change.

It promotes climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices to target communities, for them to manage climate risks while pursuing livelihood activities. The project extends support services to communities from the DA, local government units (LGUs) and DA partner organizations.

While AMIA is a commendable project, its implementation is however limited to a few hundred villages. From its launching until the end of June 2024, there were only 187 villages in 61 provinces where AMIA is being implemented. This is a disservice to communities suffering from climate change-related challenges.

AMIA mitigates these challenges as it provides information to highly vulnerable areas regarding weather disturbances, satellite-based weather updating, training for farmers and fishers on how to cope with climate-related challenges, etc.

By now, the AMIA experience should have been upscaled on a nationwide basis given the country's vulnerability to climate change. But given limited resources and attention (which ironically occurs in the aftermath of climate-related disasters), AMIA's massive replication will proceed at a turtle pace. Why is this so?

First, our policymakers, particularly politicians, will not give priority to climate change-related mitigation measures because these do not have immediate visible physical results that can be attributed to them. The gestation period for the positive effects may take longer than three years — beyond our three-year election cycle. Thus, politicians cannot latch on to these beneficial results in aid of their reelection bids.

Second, our leaders suffer from the absence of a long-term development vision for the country. A cursory examination of the provision of our infrastructure will reveal this. Many of these facilities should have been built and completed 10 years ago. This is the simple explanation why we suffer daily traffic gridlocks or shortages of basic services such as energy, water and telecommunications.

And third is our "bahala na" (come what may) attitude that permeates our collective psyche. Filipinos think that we are good at improvising when emergencies happen. The thinking is that we will be able to cope with the crisis ("makakaraos din" or we'll get through this) because we are resilient and ridiculously patient with and forgiving of our leaders.

Moving forward, the climate change agenda in agriculture will necessitate a number of decisive actions from our leaders.

One, there will be a need for a strong and properly supported CRAO office complete with plantilla positions and staffed with technically qualified personnel hired on a regular basis. The CRAO cannot remain effective discharging its functions when most of its staff are hired under a "job order" (contractual) arrangement. Inevitably, there will be a rapid turnover of qualified staff given high demand for their services in the private and civil society sectors, both here and abroad.

If it wants to, the DA can find the necessary resources to strengthen the CRAO. It has done this with its organic agriculture thrust, as part of the National Organic Agriculture Act, by creating plantilla positions to hire qualified regular staff to promote the practice. While promoting organic agriculture commendable, its relevance pales in comparison to advancing climate challenge-related responses as these impact across agricultural commodities.

Two, there has to be an intensified campaign for more active LGU participation in climate change-related responses given that the effectiveness of these measures can only be tested at the ground level. Such responses will have to be tailor-fit to the local ecological situation if these are to be successful in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

Whether our policymakers and politicians ignore climate change or not, it will remain a key factor in determining if we will have a resilient agricultural sector capable of meeting the country's food security needs. Climate change is similar to the theoretical "market" (Adam Smith termed it as the "invisible hand") that economists are wont to discuss.

One can ignore the market for the moment by pouring more of the country's resources to counter its effect. But in the medium and long run, market forces will assert themselves at a greater intensity and in the process, bring the economy down to its knees and mire its people in economic misery.

In the same vein, we can ignore the impacts of climate change by not providing the agenda with the proper resources and attention. However, given the trajectory of the world ecology, the challenges of climate change are predicted to intensify, and a country which is unprepared to respond to its challenges will experience terrible losses in terms of resources and more importantly, human lives.

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