



NEWS ROUNDUP

06 October 2022 [08:00 am]

- Marcos: Private help needed to 'green' economy
- COP27: Coca-Cola sponsorship 'undermines' climate objectives, campaigners say
- Marcos to DENR: Climate change agenda is top gov't priority
- Climate change adaptation part of nat'l agenda — Bongbong Marcos
- Climate change mitigation, adaptation top PBBM admin's agenda
- Pres. Marcos: Environment, climate change among admin priorities
- [OPINION] Small is beautiful: Ipil-ipil for a climate-challenged Philippines
- Climate change adaptation on top of Marcos agenda
- Europe must show 'far greater ambition' on climate -UN
- Young people demand climate justice in run-up to Cop27 UN talks
- Climate change heightens threats of violence against women and girls

BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Kyle Christopher Atienza

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EURO NEWS

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By Betheena Unite

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Daphne Galvez

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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PTV

[Pres. Marcos: Environment, climate change among admin priorities](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. reiterated his administration's commitment in prioritizing the environment through climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives as he called for cooperation among all stakeholders.

RAPPLER

[\[Opinion\] Small is beautiful: Ipil-ipil for a climate-challenged Philippines](#)

By: Kelvin S. Rodolfo

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REUTERS

[Europe must show 'far greater ambition' on climate -UN](#)

By Michele Kambas

Nicosia - Europe should show "far greater ambition" on climate change because its overall greenhouse gas emissions are still rising, and so countries must embrace recycling, tighten air quality and spend more on the environment, a UN report said yesterday.

THE GUARDIAN

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Activists from global south demand recompense for damage from countries most responsible for crisis.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Climate change adaptation on top of Marcos agenda](#)

By: Helen Flores

Manila, Philippines — Building the country's resilience to natural disasters and climate change adaptation are on top of the administration's agenda, President Marcos said yesterday.

UNITED NATION NEWS

[Climate change heightens threats of violence against women and girls](#)

Presenting a report to the General Assembly on its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls described climate change as "the most consequential threat multiplier for women and girls, with far-reaching impacts on new and existing forms of gendered inequities".

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

Marcos: Private help needed to 'green' economy

By: Kyle Christopher Atienza

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. called on the private sector to help in the “greening” of the economy, calling the building of resiliency to climate change a top administration priority.

Government agencies, private companies, non-government organizations, and the academic community must work together “to steer our practices and systems towards a greener direction,” Mr. Marcos said at a forum organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“I have always believed that there is no greater shared responsibility than the care of our environment,” he said.

“Let us identify each sector’s unique and shared challenges, bolster cooperation and gather information and priorities for possible inclusion in the DENR’s policy agenda and to be included in the multi-year roadmap for programs, activities and projects,” he added.

Participants at the DENR-hosted event are expected to provide their input on climate and disaster resilience policy.

“We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do,” Mr. Marcos said.

At the United Nations General Assembly last month, Mr. Marcos urged that developed nations provide financing to poorer countries to address the “historical injustice” of climate change, which is thought to have been caused by the countries that industrialized early.

Mr. Marcos also asked them to transfer adaptation technology to vulnerable nations like the Philippines.

EURO NEWS

[COP27: Coca-Cola sponsorship ‘undermines’ climate objectives, campaigners say](#)

By: Rosie Frost

Climate activists have been left “baffled” by Coca-Cola’s sponsorship of the COP27 climate conference. This year’s talks will be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt and the country’s government announced the deal last week.

But since then, there has been growing opposition from environmental campaigners who point out that the company is a major plastic polluter.

“It is baffling that Coca-Cola – the world’s biggest plastic polluter in all global Break Free From Plastic brand audits, including Kenya and Uganda – will sponsor this year’s UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Egypt,” says Greenpeace USA Oceans Campaign director John Hocevar.

In 2021, Break Free From Plastic audit collected 330,493 pieces of plastic waste from sites ranging from parks and city streets to beaches all over the world. 58 per cent of these items were clearly marked with a consumer brand, and for the fourth year in a row, Coca-Cola came out as the “world’s top polluter” among these brands.

“Coca-Cola produces 120 billion throwaway plastic bottles a year – and 99 per cent of plastics are made from fossil fuels, worsening both the plastic and climate crisis,” Hocevar says.

He adds that the company is yet to acknowledge that this is a problem or explain how it plans to meet climate goals without ending its “plastic addiction”.

“This partnership undermines the very objective of the event it seeks to sponsor.”

Why is Coca-Cola sponsoring COP27?

Coca-Cola says it shares the goal of eliminating waste from the ocean and appreciates efforts to raise awareness about this challenge.

“We are prepared to do our part and have set ambitious goals for our business, starting with helping to collect and recycle a bottle or can for every one we sell – regardless of where it comes from – by 2030,” a spokesperson told Euronews Green.

Coca-Cola points to efforts including signing joint statements urging United Nations member states to adopt a global treaty to tackle the plastic waste issue through a holistic, circular economy approach. It also says that just two weeks ago it helped launch the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty.

“Our support for COP27 is in line with our science-based target to reduce absolute carbon emissions 25 per cent by 2030, and our ambition for net zero carbon emissions by 2050.”

Packaging represents around 30 per cent of Coca-Cola’s carbon footprint and it says reducing waste goes hand in hand with these commitments.

Campaigners call for an end to all corporate sponsorships
COP26 in Glasgow last year had a range of corporate sponsors including consumer goods giant Unilever, UK supermarket Sainsbury’s and tech firm Microsoft. Altogether these deals were thought to have been worth around £250 million (€286 million).

But the decision to have Coca-Cola as a sponsor for this year's talks in Sharm el-Sheikh has some campaigners asking why deals like this happen in the first place. A petition calling for the end of all corporate sponsorships for COP talks - starting with Coca-Cola - has so far gained around 10,000 signatures.

It accuses the company of spending millions of dollars to “greenwash” its brand, “making us believe that they are solving the problem.”

Georgia Elliott-Smith, a delegate at COP26 who started the petition, writes that these conferences are meant to be gatherings of global leaders engaged in urgent conversations to end climate change, “not a multi-million dollar jamboree for corporate polluters and their lobbyists.”

She says the UNFCCC must stop receiving corporate sponsorship today, “starting with ejecting Coca-Cola as sponsor of COP27”.

Euronews Green has reached out to the UNFCCC for comment on sponsorship deals but is yet to receive a response.

MANILA BULLETIN

<https://mb.com.ph/2022/10/05/marcos-to-denr-climate-change-agenda-is-top-top-govt-priority/>

Marcos to DENR: Climate change agenda is top gov't priority
By Betheena Unite

The country's resiliency and adaptation to the challenges pose by climate change will be on top of the administration's national agenda, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. assured.

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (RTVM Screenshot)
Speaking at the 2022 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Oct. 5, Marcos vowed to ensure environmental initiatives to combat climate change will be undertaken under his watch.

"I know it is only (the) beginning of a challenging but most important task of protecting the only earth and home that we know. As your president, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new norms of climate change are on top of the national agenda," he said.

"We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he added.

The President further said that he hopes the forum, which gathered the "country's big movers and shakers," will generate fruitful discussions that will harmonize the policy agency of the DENR.

"Along with the outcomes of this forum, I expect that we will be able to accelerate the DENR's mission of mobilizing our capacities and resources to preserve, conserve, and manage our environment," he said.

"I also expect this forum to lay down the strategic direction to maximize the use of the country's natural wealth and to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth," he added.

He also expressed confidence that the dialogues among the stakeholders will identify each sector's unique and shared challenges, bolster cooperation, and gather information and priorities for possible inclusion in the DENR's policy agenda which will eventually be included in the multiyear roadmap for programs, activities and projects.

He further hopes that the participants will maximize this opportunity to share the knowledge and experience on how different stakeholders can collaborate with the DENR and other national government agencies in crafting and implementing policies and programs towards climate disaster resilience and sustainable development.

“The road ahead will be long and will be tough but we must stay strong and accept that it will be a battle that we all must wage and even more importantly it is a battle that we must win,” Marcos said.

“May this three-day forum bring about substantial outcomes that will focus on enriching not only our natural resources but our country’s national wealth,” Marcos added.

The three-day forum aims to enable inclusive dialogues across all DENR stakeholders; share stakeholders’ experiences of working with different national government agencies; foster partnership among stakeholders; and identify multi-stakeholder initiatives that apply science, technology and innovation to achieve unique values across different sectors.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Climate change adaptation part of nat'l agenda — Bongbong Marcos

By: Daphne Galvez

Manila, Philippines — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday gave assurance that the country’s resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of his administration’s national agenda.

In his speech at the Department of Environment’s (DENR) multi-stakeholder forum, Marcos described the effects of climate change as the world’s “first truly global crisis” pointing out that every single citizen worldwide is affected.

He also noted that mitigating and adapting to climate change will “take the assistance, the help, the understanding of every citizen of the world.”

“As your president, I assure you that our environment and our country’s resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda,” Marcos said.

“We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do,” he added.

He said he is glad about the DENR’s initiative to hold a multi-stakeholder forum to discuss measures to protect, conserve and manage the country’s environment.

It also gives the country hope that it has the “expertise, commitment, determination to steer our practices and systems towards a greener direction.”

“I look forward to seeing the activities ahead generate fruitful discussions that will harmonize the policy agenda of the DENR under this administration and together with our private sector partners, with all the agencies in government, once again, it requires the help, the assistance, the understanding, and commitment of every single sector of every single society,” Marcos said.

He also said he expects that the government will be able to accelerate DENR’s mission to mobilize resources to preserve, conserve, and manage the environment.

“I am confident we will be able to have these dialogues amongst all stakeholders and in that dialogue, let us identify each sector’s unique and shared challenges, bolster cooperation and gather information and priorities for possible inclusion in the DENR’s policy agenda and to be included in the multiyear roadmap for programs, activities, and projects,” the President said.

He also noted that combating climate change is a “battle we must wage and a battle that we must win.”

“In this collective fight, we are not soldiers, we are stewards. There will be no weapons to use, only behaviors and practices to improve upon,” Marcos said.

“And triumphant will we be when we’ll realize that our children will have clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and lands and oceans not only to explore but also to responsibly harness for their sake and for the good of all Filipinos and for all humanity,” he added.

Climate change mitigation, adaptation top PBBM admin's agenda

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila – President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday guaranteed that the Philippines' resiliency and adaptation to the "new normals" of climate change are on top of his administration's national agenda.

Marcos gave the assurance in a speech delivered during the 2022 multi-stakeholder forum organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the Diamond Hotel in Manila.

"As your President, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda. We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he said during the opening of the DENR's three-day forum.

"The road ahead will be long and it will be tough, but we must stay strong and accept that it will be a battle that we all must wage, and even more importantly, it's a battle that we must win," he added.

Marcos lauded the DENR for organizing a forum that gathers different stakeholders who are expected to forge collaboration with the agency and other state departments to craft and implement programs towards climate, disaster resilience and sustainable development.

He said he is confident that the forum will serve as a platform for the participants to identify each sector's "unique and shared" challenges, bolster cooperation, as well as to gather information on priorities for possible inclusion in the DENR's policy agenda and the multi-year Roadmap for Programs, Activities and Projects.

"I know it's only a beginning of a challenging but most important task of protecting the only Earth and home that we know," Marcos said. "In this collective fight, we are not soldiers; we are stewards. There will be no weapons to use; only behaviors and practices to improve upon."

Maximize use of PH's natural wealth, resources

Marcos also emphasized the importance of utilizing and developing the country's natural wealth and resources.

He expressed optimism that the forum would yield "fruitful" discussions that will harmonize the DENR's policy agenda.

This, as he acknowledged the need to discuss measures to protect, conserve and manage the environment, given the country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

"Along with the outcomes of this forum, I expect that we will be able to accelerate the DENR's mission of mobilizing our capacities and resources to preserve, conserve, and manage our environment," Marcos said. "I also expect this forum to lay down a strategic direction to maximize the use of the country's natural wealth and to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth."

The DENR forum aims to enable inclusive dialogues across all the agency's stakeholders; share stakeholders' experiences of working with different national government agencies; foster partnership among stakeholders; and identify multi-stakeholder initiatives that apply science, technology and innovation to achieve unique values across different sectors.

Marcos hoped that the forum would bring about substantial outcomes that will help enrich the country's national wealth and resources.

"More importantly, I wish this event to be an opportunity for the government and private partners to actively collaborate in translating an integrated and multi-stakeholder Resiliency Framework into actions that will sustain the growth of this sector," he said.

Marcos said the fight against climate change would only be successful, if everyone is committed and determined to "steer our practices and systems towards a greener direction."

"Victory will not come by defeating a visible enemy. It will come in certain moments when we can see that we are gradually averting a global crisis that we have attended to the difficulties that our people will face because of the onset of climate change," Marcos said.

"And triumphant will we be when we realize that our children will have clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and lands and oceans not only to explore but also to responsibly harness for their sake and for the good of all Filipinos and for all humanity," he added.

PTV NEWS ONLINE

[Pres. Marcos: Environment, climate change among admin priorities](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. reiterated his administration's commitment in prioritizing the environment through climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives as he called for cooperation among all stakeholders.

In his speech during the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Wednesday, Marcos stressed the need for shared responsibility for environment protection and preservation.

"As your President, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda," he said.

"We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he added.

Marcos said the three-day forum will generate productive discussions that will harmonize DENR's policy agenda under the current administration, as the country heads towards a greener direction.

"Along with the outcomes of this forum, I expect that we will be able to accelerate the DENR's mission of mobilizing our capacities and resources to preserve, conserve, and manage our environment," he said.

"I also expect this forum to lay down a strategic direction to maximize the use of the country's natural wealth and to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth."

The chief executive commended the DENR for organizing the event which serves as an avenue for inclusive discussions on the environment.

He also expressed confidence that the dialogues will result in a strengthened collaboration between stakeholders and the DENR in crafting and implementing policies and programs towards climate, disaster resilience, and sustainable development.

"Victory will not come by defeating a visible enemy. It will come in certain moments when we can see that we are gradually averting a global crisis that we have attended to the difficulties that our people will face because of the onset of climate change," he said.

"And triumphant will we be when we realize that our children will have clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and lands and oceans not only to explore but also to responsibly harness for their sake and for the good of all Filipinos and for all humanity," he added.

RAPPLER

[\[Opinion\] Small is beautiful: Ipil-ipil for a climate-challenged Philippines](#)

By: Kelvin S. Rodolfo

So much of my writing has criticized the nuclear effort of the first President Marcos, that it feels good to say something nice about another of his energy programs. It failed, but deserves a second effort, modified to serve a nation and people struggling with climate change.

Steep oil prices from the 1973 OPEC embargo are why Marcos went nuclear and started building BNPP in 1976. But in March 1979 the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania stopped construction. Marcos' Commission on Nuclear Reactor Plants then concluded that BNPP wasn't safe, so he proclaimed it dead "unless...Westinghouse introduces fundamental changes in design and adapts additional, adequate, and acceptable safeguards to ensure its safety and protect the health of the public." But construction eventually resumed anyway.

The 1979 Three Mile Island accident also seems to have triggered Marcos' Dendro Thermal Program that year...as an alternative to BNPP? It was designed to generate 676 megawatts, slightly more than BNPP's 621. By raising and burning fast-growing ipil-ipil trees, the program was intended to replace the 30% of the imported oil the country was burning to generate electricity. Dendro- means "tree" and thermal pertains to "heat."

Ipil-ipil

Ipil-ipil was the "miracle tree" of the 1970s and 1980s because of its many uses. Like so many other good things from southern Mexico, the Spanish brought ipil-ipil to us on 16th century Manila galleons, to use its leaves and pods as fodder for their horses and cattle. From the Philippines it spread rapidly throughout Southeast Asia – so rapidly it can be invasive, crowding out native species if unmanaged. But it can be used to deliberately choke out undesirable plants.

Being a legume, ipil-ipil adds nitrogen to the soil. It serves as "green-mulch" nitrogen fertilizer for rice. And growing ipil-ipil can absorb hazardous contaminants from soil, air, and water.

For such a fast grower, ipil-ipil is surprisingly hard! American makers of musical instruments and fine furniture call it "merbau" and prize its dark brown color; dense, straight grain; and stability.

It is most used as firewood and charcoal and feed for horses, cattle, goats, sheep, chickens, prawns, and fish in ponds. People eat the young pods, leaves, and seeds. But, like cattle, if you eat too much you may lose your hair.

Some enzymes in both ipil-ipil and bacteria in cattle intestines make mimosine, a substance that slows weight-gain and causes hair loss, goiter, and throat ulcers. But

Hawaiian *Synergistes jonesii* bacteria neutralize mimosine, and can inoculate animals from it elsewhere. Mimosine can also be reduced in feed by heating or soaking in water, or storing moist above 70 °C.

Mimosine isn't all bad! It has long been a folk remedy for worms in children and chickens. Dr. Godofredo U. Stuart Jr.'s astonishing compilation of medicinal uses for mimosine include anti-cancer, anti-inflammation, anti-fibrosis, anti-influenza, and anti-virus.

What went wrong?

Ipil-ipil's fast growth lent itself well to the Dendro Thermal Program. But, being a pioneer country trying to make megawatts of electricity from biomass, the Philippines had no earlier experience to learn from, and of course it made mistakes.

The program had good intentions, to electrify rural areas and provide livelihood there. But Marcos always was impatient and went too big; that and the same lack of attention to science at BNPP led to its collapse.

The program was supposed to generate 3 megawatts each at 217 thermal plants. Each would burn ipil-ipil grown on a 1,200-hectare plantation of public land, farmed in 100-hectare sectors by associations of families. The electricity would be fed into the national grid – a mistake, because that would guarantee line losses.

Serious problems from the start: farmers were not well-trained; centralized decisions were not transmitted properly to local operators, who should have been independently empowered in the first place. There was no system for farmers to share experience. Yearly yields were only a quarter as much as the expected 75-100 cubic meters of wood per hectare.

People call programs that start burning hot but die down quickly ningas-kogon, "tall-grass fires." Financial support ended after only two years. Political instability, increased by the 1983 Aquino assassination was unhelpful. By 1984, there was only enough ipil-ipil for 17 thermal plants. In 1985, only nine were operating, and only two had enough fuel. Then oil prices fell to only \$10 per barrel in 1986, reducing the urgency that had driven the project.

But the worst disaster was brought about by psyllids, tiny "Jumping Plant Lice".

Psyllids

Its scientific name is *Heteropsylla cubana* because they were discovered in Cuba in 1914, although psyllids may have arisen elsewhere in central America. Importantly, *Heteropsylla* eat only ipil-ipil! This means that they first evolved into a stable community with organisms that moderated their numbers, most likely by eating them. Otherwise, unchecked, they would have devoured their only food source, and themselves, out of existence.

The Pacific trade winds had blown the Manila Galleons carrying ipil-ipil saplings and seeds to the Philippines. Centuries later in 1984, high trade winds wafted psyllids – but not their predators – from Central America to Hawaii. From there, the winds carried them on to the Philippines and most of Southeast Asia, devastating ipil-ipil everywhere.

Adults psyllids stick their eggs to new ipil-ipil branches with threads. In days, the eggs hatch into juveniles that undergo several nymph stages as they graze, tethered to the plants, sucking out their juices for two to three weeks. Finally, adulthood and the ability to jump into the air that gave them their name.

The psyllid plague started waning as local predators discovered it, and as researchers in Cebu, Leyte and the University of the Philippines at Los Baños discovered remedies. But the dendro thermal experience was so bad for the farmers that they abandoned the project.

Reviving Philippine ipil-ipil in a changing climate

Plantations are not simply wood factories! To be healthy and self-sustaining like natural forests, they must be complex, balanced communities of plants, animals, and fungus, as the psyllid disaster taught. “Monocultures,” large, single-crop plantations, are especially vulnerable to adversity.

As our coastal plains drown, the growing population must crowd into higher areas, closer to deforested slopes and landslides. Ipil-ipil’s deep roots, fast growth, and tolerance for poor soils are ideally suited for stabilizing steep, denuded slopes.

Let’s plant ipil-ipil locally on bare slopes, in 100-hectares plots! If communities coordinate cattle-raising, rice and vegetable farming, fishponds, charcoal- and furniture-making, and herbalists, many local eyes will look out for psyllids and other problems and seek solutions. This would generate much employment and distributed wealth.

Oh. Electricity? Barangay-sized, barangay-maintained dendrothermal systems?

A well-funded and staffed Ipil-Ipil Center at UPLB could coordinate, not just for the Philippines, but for Southeast Asia. Did you know that UPLB, founded in 1909 by the Commonwealth, served as the model for all the younger land-grant state agricultural colleges in America? UPLB remains world-class today.

REUTERS

[Europe must show 'far greater ambition' on climate -UN](#)

By Michele Kambas

Nicosia - Europe should show "far greater ambition" on climate change because its overall greenhouse gas emissions are still rising, and so countries must embrace recycling, tighten air quality and spend more on the environment, a UN report said yesterday.

Cuts in emissions mostly in western European countries have been offset by rises elsewhere in the region, a United Nations assessment of strategies among 54 European nations found.

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Air quality still falls short of international guidelines, and taxes collected in the name of environmental protection were not being used for their stated purpose, the report presented to European environment ministers meeting in Cyprus said.

"The findings of this assessment .. must be a wake-up call for the region," said Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, known as the UNECE.

"Despite progress in certain areas, governments in the pan-European region must show far greater ambition in tackling climate change," the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) statement said.

The UNECE report compiled with UNEP said financial incentives could be offered to boost recycling, where rates differed significantly among countries and were 'particularly low' in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

It found that while all countries in the pan-European region had undertaken commitments to cut emissions of the gases causing global warming, reductions mostly achieved in western Europe were offset by increases elsewhere.

The use of renewables increased in 29 countries between 2013 and 2017, though overall, fossil fuels still accounted for about 78% of total energy consumption, it said.

The report said more effort was needed in dealing with air pollution. Forty-one countries recorded a 13% reduction in premature deaths due to exposure to fine particulate matter, but concentrations still exceeded WHO guidelines.

THE GUARDIAN

[Young people demand climate justice in run-up to Cop27 UN talks](#)

Activists from global south demand recompense for damage from countries most responsible for crisis.

Young people from some of the countries most affected by climate breakdown have warned they are not victims but a force to be reckoned with in the run-up to a UN climate conference in Egypt.

Led by climate groups across Africa and the Middle East, hundreds of activists from countries that are the least responsible for the crisis but are experiencing the worst impacts have gathered in Tunisia to prepare for what they say will be a collective fight for justice for their countries and communities, which they will take to Cop27 next month.

They are campaigning on issues including adaptation funding and recompense for damage from countries that have been the most responsible for global heating.

At Cop26 in Glasgow, delegates promised to give a total of \$350m to help the worst affected countries adapt to the climate emergency. But promises for funding have been broken in the past, and the issue of adaptation funding, along with demands for loss and damage funding to be paid to vulnerable countries by the US and Europe, is a clash point with the global south.

Maria Reyes, 20, from Mexico, attended the Tunis climate camp because her experience as a representative of the global south at Cop26 was so disappointing. She said the gathering was exclusive and member states wasted time arguing over commas, rather than tackling the issues that mattered.

“I came home after the Cop with a deep need to get involved in local resistance, because Glasgow made me lose all confidence in international politics and made me realise that the real resistance against the climate crisis comes from grassroots and indigenous communities,” she said. “I wanted to join the camp to be part of the construction of a space in which we can develop capacities and plan how we can articulate ourselves during Cop.”

Ayisha Siddiqa, 23, an activist from Pakistan, who has organised many school strikes for climate since 2019, believes in order to fight the crisis, people have to address the injustices that mean people from Middle East, Africa, Latin America and southern Asia, whose countries contributed least, are suffering the most.

“I come from a tribal community in northern Pakistan and our way of life is in extreme danger as heatwaves become more common, our glaciers melt and flash flooding wipes away entire villages. These are things we cannot adapt to, and loss of community, culture and families we can not recover from ... I was very eager to attend this camp in

Tunisia and build a community with people who have been doing environmental work on ground.”

Some of those who attended the camp will travel to Egypt for Cop27, in the hope that the conference will this time properly address the needs of countries least responsible for the climate emergency.

Omar Elmawi, 34, from Kenya, is a climate activist who has coordinated a campaign to stop the world’s longest heated crude oil pipeline in east Africa, which is forecast will contribute at least 700m tonnes of CO2 in the 20 years it is expected to be operational.

“Cognisant that I am one of the 3.6 billion people in the developing countries that are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis while we have done little to nothing to cause the problem, joining the camp allowed me to meet and know my fellow climate victims from other global south countries,” Elmawi said.

“My aim is to rise from the ashes to show that we are not just victims but a force to reckon with. All we have to do is move past our small differences and find unity of purpose to stop the exploitation of global south resources, including oil and fossil gas, for the wealthier nations and instead push for real solutions that provide accessible and affordable energy to the millions of people that are energy poor.”

Greenpeace, one of the organisers of the climate camp in Tunisia, has expressed its anger at revelations that Cop27 is to be sponsored by the Coca-Cola company, a major international polluter.

The government of Egypt announced last week the drinks company was to be a sponsor. In audits by Breakfree from Plastic, Coca-Cola is consistently identified as the world’s biggest plastic polluter. More than 99% of plastic is made from fossil fuels.

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Climate change adaptation on top of Marcos agenda

By: Helen Flores

Manila, Philippines — Building the country's resilience to natural disasters and climate change adaptation are on top of the administration's agenda, President Marcos said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources multi-stakeholder's forum in Manila, the President called for a more robust collaboration to protect the environment.

"As your President, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda," Marcos said.

"We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he said.

He called on Filipinos to do their part in protecting the environment, saying "it's a fight that must be waged by all."

"In this collective fight, we are not soldiers; we are stewards. There will be no weapons to use; only behaviors and practices to improve upon," Marcos said.

"I have always believed that there is no greater shared responsibility than the care of our environment," he said.

Marcos also cited the importance of the three-day forum in allowing Filipinos to better understand climate change.

"It is an important initiative because as we all know, the issue of climate change is no longer the issue of the day, it is the issue of our times. And because of that, it requires the help, the assistance, the understanding of all of the citizens of the Philippines and, for that matter, of the world," he said.

The Chief Executive described the effects of climate change on the countries around the world as the "first truly global crisis that we have had to face."

"And I described it as such for the simple reason that every single citizen of the world is affected by climate change. And it will take the assistance, the help, the understanding of every citizen of the world to mitigate and to adapt to climate change," he said.

"So, let us join our efforts. I am certain we will pass on to our children a country and a world that are in a much better state than they came upon. We are only custodians of

this beautiful planet that we live on. Let us take that responsibility seriously for many generations that will still follow,” he said.

Marcos also said partners in different countries have made offers of assistance to the Philippines’ climate change adaptation programs.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the private sector, non-government organizations, academe, among others.

The Department of Budget and Management has allocated P453.11 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the 2023 National Expenditure Program. The amount is 56.4 percent higher than this year’s P289.73 billion.

In a speech at the Asian Development Bank last week, Marcos said the country’s post-pandemic economic recovery must be pro-environment, sustainable and responsive to people’s needs.

In his recent visit to the US for the 77th United Nations General Assembly, Marcos lamented how the Philippines has become vulnerable to the effects of global warming and called on countries to cut their carbon emissions and provide technology transfer.

UNITED NATION NEWS

Climate change heightens threats of violence against women and girls

Presenting a report to the General Assembly on its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls described climate change as “the most consequential threat multiplier for women and girls, with far-reaching impacts on new and existing forms of gendered inequities”.

She maintained that the “cumulative and gendered consequences” of climate change and environmental degradation “breach all aspects” of their rights.

Climate inequality

Ms. Alsalem emphasised the damaging ways in which violence directed towards women and girls intersects with socio-political and economic phenomena, including armed conflict, displacement and resource scarcity.

And when coupled with climate change, they result in the feminisation and intensification of vulnerability, she said.

“Climate change is not only an ecological crisis, but fundamentally a question of justice, prosperity and gender equality, and intrinsically linked to and influenced by structural inequality and discrimination”.

Survival options

Emerging evidence shows that the negative impacts of climate change globally, aggravate all types of gender-based violence ranging from physical to psychological and economic, “all the while curbing the availability and effectiveness of protection mechanisms and further weakening the potential to prevent violence,” the UN expert said.

“When slow or sudden-onset disasters strike and threaten livelihoods, communities may resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as trafficking, sexual exploitation and harmful practices like early and child marriage and drop out from schools – all of which force women and girls to choose between risk-imbued options for survival”.

‘Understand the nexus’

She said women environmental human rights defenders, indigenous women and girls, women of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, older women, women with disabilities, women in poverty, and those forcibly displaced were at particular risk, and yet often fall through the protection gap.

“Despite the irreparable and significant harm to the wellbeing of women and girls, more efforts and resources are necessary to understand the nexus between climate change and violence against women and girls”.

She urged the international community to double down on the commitment to gender equality and anchor the response to climate change and disaster risk mitigation in human rights.

Powerful stakeholders

“For our concerted efforts against climate change to be truly gender sensitive and transformative, measures to address the vulnerabilities faced by women and girls must build on a recognition of their role and agency as powerful stakeholders in the policy space,” Ms. Alsalem underscored.

“The wellbeing and the rights of women and girls should not be an afterthought and must be placed at the centre of policies and responses”.

She upheld that if designed and implemented with a robust gender lens, “the global response to climate change and environmental degradation can be truly transformative, rather than reinforce a vicious cycle”.

Special Rapporteurs are appointed by the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council to examine and report back on a specific human rights theme or a country situation. The positions are honorary and the experts are not paid for their work.

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