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By: Jonathan Mayuga

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[Science, art addressing climate crisis through films](#)

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[Unlocking the green potential: Philippines eyes just energy transition partnerships](#)

By: Lenie Lectura

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CNN

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By: Rosa Rahimi

More than 43 million children have been driven from their homes by floods, storms, droughts and wildfires over the six years between 2016 and 2021, according to new data from UNICEF. That works out to 20,000 children displaced every single day due to extreme weather fueled by climate change.

GMA NEWS

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By: Philip Pullela

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MANILA STANDARD

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NIKKEI ASIA

[BlackRock targets Japan's climate tech in investment push: Larry Fink](#)

By: Kazuaki Fujita

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, looks to partner with Japanese businesses to invest in decarbonization technology, CEO Larry Fink said in an interview, adding that the company is considering expanding staffing at its Japanese arm.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[The climate crisis is a health crisis](#)

By: Maria Guevara

Climate change has disastrous health impacts. As a medical humanitarian organization, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has been seeing these impacts on the people we treat in over 70 countries around the world.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH, Australia to hold ministerial meeting as new 'strategic partners'](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Philippines and Australia's foreign and trade ministers will meet in Adelaide next week, just a month after the two states established a new "strategic partnership."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

['Call for justice': Advocates embark on month-long climate walk for Yolanda's 10th anniversary](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Climate and human rights advocates began Sunday their month-long journey from Manila to Tacloban City in Leyte to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) and amplify the call for climate justice.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC partners with JICA to boost PH's climate change actions](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has partnered with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to further enhance the country's climate change initiatives and programs.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

[ACB, Manila Observatory partner to spur biodiversity, climate strategies](#)

By: Jonathan Mayuga

The Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Manila Observatory (MO) entered a partnership, tagged as Asean Climate and Biodiversity Initiative (ACBI), to enhance biodiversity and climate synergy in the Philippines and within the Southeast Asian region.

The partnership was sealed through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) by ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim and MO Executive Director Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J. at the Manila Observatory in Ateneo de Manila University on October 2. It was followed by a media forum.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, in her keynote address, said the partnership is the first of its kind in the country and Asean.

“In this time of the climate emergency, working in silos is no longer effective. To abate the crisis, we must pursue transdisciplinary collaboration and action, and engage stakeholders in climate action,” Yulo-Loyzaga said.

The DENR chief was behind the linking of arms of ACB that promotes the protection and conservation of biodiversity, and MO, the oldest climate research institution in the country.

Established in 2005, the ACB is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the 10 Asean member states and with regional and international partner-organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of natural treasures.

Meanwhile, the Manila Observatory that was established in 1865, is a leading scientific research institution engaged in the atmospheric and earth sciences in the Philippines.

Using dynamical models, observational and data science, remote sensing, geographic information technologies, and lobbying for climate policy interventions, MO’s mission is to do science that empowers communities, especially the more vulnerable, to be adaptive and resilient in the face of development challenges arising from climate change.

The partnership launch also commemorated the MO’s 158th founding anniversary.

Nature-based solutions

According to the ACB and MO, the planet is now at a tipping point.

“The massive wildfires that burn for days, heat waves that can kill, floods that destroy infrastructure and livelihood—these are just a taste of what is to come should humanity fail to collectively act to curb greenhouse gas emissions,” they said in the MOU.

When human activities produce greenhouse gases, around half of the emissions remain in the atmosphere, while the other half is absorbed by the land and ocean.

“While extreme weather events and climate change may lead to ecosystem degradation and ultimately biodiversity loss, the natural world and the web of life it supports also hold the key to resolving this climate crisis. These ecosystems, together with the biodiversity they support, act as natural carbon sinks and offer what are known as nature-based solutions to climate change,” they added.

Climate scenarios, effects on biodiversity

Lim said the partnership will enhance climate and biodiversity synergy that will generate useful information relevant to public and private institutions, as well as to the communities directly affected by climate change.

Through the partnership, the ACB and MO will develop projections through modeling of different climate scenarios and their effects on biodiversity and ecosystems.

This will provide scientific data on how healthy or well-managed environments can mitigate adverse climate impacts, such as threats to food security, human health, and public safety.

Knowledge exchange, harmonizing efforts of similar initiatives from other institutions, and capacity building are also part of the objectives of this pioneering partnership.

“The Manila Observatory has had a longstanding tradition in the atmospheric and earth sciences for 158 years now and is presently training its sights on fine-scale climate change, air quality, environmental instrumentation, geographic information, and remote sensing systems,” Villarin said.

“We look forward to working with the [ACB] to uncover the vital connections between biodiversity and climate, which can only increase our resilience in the face of climate challenges ahead of us,” he added.

For her part, Lim expressed enthusiasm for the partnership and explained that the initiative will highlight how biodiversity is one of the most effective nature-based solutions to the detrimental impacts of a warming planet.

“Biodiversity, through protection, ecosystem restoration and conservation, are nature-based solutions that are a crucial part of climate action. The diversity of ecosystems found in the Asean all serve as various layers of protection against climate change impacts,” she said.

An experts’ platform

The ACBI will serve as a platform whereby scientists, particularly climate and biodiversity experts, researchers and communicators, will actively engage and share scientific information to elucidate the connectivity between biodiversity and climate change while highlighting the role of biodiversity as a nature-based solution to the climate crisis.

The initiative will be piloted in selected areas in the Philippines and will then be scaled up to cover other critical areas in other Asean countries.

It is expected to create a strong network of climate and biodiversity experts in Asean to further establish linkages with other agencies developing similar initiatives.

Leveraging its strong collaboration and engagement with the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment-Southeast Asia (Cordex-SEA), the MO will focus on generating necessary climate information for impact studies on biodiversity.

Cordex-SEA climate data overlaid with biodiversity data will be analyzed to elucidate the sensitivity of ecosystems and priority species to the changing climate.

Meanwhile, the ACB will facilitate dialogues and information exchange and propose collaborative actions, to contribute to the achievement of relevant targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate vulnerability

Yulo-Lozyaga, a former executive director of the MO, highlighted the vulnerability of the Philippines to the worst impacts of climate change in her speech.

“The Philippines is among the most vulnerable to climate-related weather events and has been on the top of the list of disaster risk rankings. I should say, at the DENR

[Department of Environment and Natural Resources], that we have adopted a new perspective because of our megadiverse nature as a country. We are part of the global climate solution, and we have much to offer both to our country as well as the rest of the world,” she explained.

She said the adverse impacts of climate change will intensify over time as predicted by scientists in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.

“Unless we are prudent and immediately act in a concerted fashion, our fates are sealed. We need to address climate change decisively by ensuring resilience, sustainable development, poverty reduction, and low-carbon economic growth, all happening to our country,” Yulo-Lozyaga said.

“And very importantly, to do this, we need to protect, enhance, and value our biodiversity as a source of nature-based solutions to our crisis,” she added.

Inextricably linked

According to the DENR chief, climate change and biodiversity have a causal nexus where one directly influences the other in many different ways.

Moreover, she said climate change, biodiversity, and human development are inextricably linked, implying that there are responsibilities, and accountabilities in that linkage.

“According to a study, our biodiversity in Southeast Asia is gravely imperilled by massive habitat modifications, forest fires and the overexploitation of wildlife,” she said.

Yulo-Lozaga said that an estimated 24 percent to 63 percent of endemic species, which are important for the Philippines and in the Asean region, are actually at risk of extinction.

“This represents a good number of vertebrate species, including 66 percent of the region’s birds and 85 percent of the region’s mammals, as well as a good number of species of vascular plants,” she said.

In addition, the country’s reefs have been estimated to lose between 70 percent to 90 percent globally at a 1.5 degree Celsius (°C) increase in temperature, and of course, more at a 2°C global warming, she said.

The DENR chief added that studies have also noted that climate-related local extinctions are significantly higher in tropical species than in temperate species.

Science, art addressing climate crisis through films

By: Reine Juvierre S. Alberto

The world's present situation is at the "era of global boiling," said the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, a testament that the climate crisis is indeed a worldwide emergency.

With rising temperatures, extreme weather events and the loss of biodiversity threatening human existence, no one is safe from the effects of climate change.

The Philippines, identified by the Global Climate Risk Index as among the top 10 countries most affected by climate risk, was ravaged by extreme typhoons such as Super Typhoon Yolanda (international code name Haiyan) in 2013, leaving more than 14 million people to lose their homes and claiming the lives of more than 8,000 people.

"A situation as stark as this calls for international solidarity, thus, we bring together curated films from all over the world," said creative group Dakila's Managing Director Nini Oñate.

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Yolanda, the partnership of Dakila and the British Council kicked off Climate Film Lab through a screening of Climate Stories Playlist, at Sine Pop in Cubao, Quezon City as part of the 11th Active Vista Human Rights Festival: Rebelasyon (Revelation) on September 28.

Climate Stories Playlist is a curation of short films highlighting the urgent need to address climate emergency as a human rights issue.

Highlighting the "power of the arts to be a means of creative solutions" with film as "one of the many ways" to do it, British Council's Country Director in the Philippines Lotus Postrado emphasized, "Through the lens of the camera and the art of storytelling, we have the ability to shed light on the impacts of climate change, to amplify the voices of those affected."

The Climate Stories Playlist featured nine short films: "Eve" (2020, UK), "The Elvermen" (2020, UK), "The Promise" (2020, UK), "To Keep As One" (2020, USA), "Blackthorn" (2020, UK), "Samaritan" (2020, UK), "The Fourfold" (2020, Canada), "Songs of the Earth" (2021, UK) and "To Calm the Pig Inside" (2020, Philippines).

The films explore the climate crisis from personal, political and cultural angles that reflect on the relationship with homeland, community, indigenous culture and climate change.

“To Calm the Pig Inside,” in particular, is a film about looking back to the aftermath of Yolanda in the Philippines.

Through the use of grainy black-and-white photos and videos, and narrating what transpired during that period, it showed both beauty and horror—the trail of devastation caused by the natural disaster, coupled with corruption in the government—there came hope in the form of social solidarity.

At the screening, Postrado encouraged the audience to “remember that each frame, word and narrative has the potential to ignite the spark of transformation.”

“Together, we can write a new story: one of hope, resilience, and shared commitment to preserving our planet for future generations,” she added.

It was pointed out that in the landmark case by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, climate change was declared as a human rights issue for it found evidence of the negative impacts on the established rights of Filipino people, such as their right to life, health, food security, water, and adequate housing.

“As we move forward with this landmark case, we call on our lawmakers to enact laws that impose legal implications on corporations that contribute to worsening the climate crisis. We also call on the national government to spearhead the transition to clean and renewable energy,” Oñate urged.

Recognizing film as a “powerful tool to convey and trigger action,” the British Council and Dakila have partnered in collaboration with Picture People (UK) and iMedia (UK) to bring Climate Film Lab, an intensive mentorship program for Filipino directors and producers committed to climate justice advocacy.

“We’re using the power of filmmaking to get the message out while also providing opportunities for Philippine organizations to come together and develop collaboration on shared interests,” Postrado said.

Climate Film Lab will empower storytellers to develop and produce impactful films that inspire global audiences to take meaningful action against climate change in the Philippines. After the training, selected participants will receive grant funding to realize their stories.

The deadline of submission of application is on October 15.

The Climate Stories Playlist and Climate Film Lab are innovative programs under the British Council’s Climate Connection. The organization is also running the Connections

Through Culture grant, which offers up to £10,000 for UK-PH artistic collaborations focusing on climate change, diversity and inclusion.

Unlocking the green potential: Philippines eyes just energy transition partnerships

By: Lenie Lectura

Developing countries, such as the Philippines, would need financial assistance from industrialized countries in order to fully enforce energy transition plans towards a sustainable and low-carbon energy future, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

The Philippines is committed to bring in more clean energy fuels and technologies for the next 17 years; specifically, 35 percent of renewable energy (RE) should comprise the country's power generation mix by 2030 and 50 percent in 2040.

"Any transition is going to entail costs. And this means therefore additional cost not only for the developed countries but also even for developing countries like the Philippines. I am glad that this is a concern common to Asean. But since most of the Asean countries are not the ones responsible for the climate emergency, then the developed countries must provide resources that will enable the developing countries to finance their transition to low carbon technologies," Lotilla said during a news conference.

No quick fix

LOTILLA also pointed out that the energy transition journey is not going to happen overnight. He said the Philippines needs to prepare for a longer period of transition, and if additional costs come with delays, then there should be "no transfer of burden and I have emphasized this in the past."

Of the Asean countries, Indonesia and Vietnam have already entered into just energy transition partnerships. In the case of Indonesia, it received a pledge for \$20 billion, while Vietnam got \$15.5 billion.

"But unfortunately, even with these two countries who have been ahead of coming up with agreements, the progress has been slow," and this accounts for "the realization that the transition is going to be slower than expected," he said.

"In the case of Indonesia, after one year of negotiations, the most positive news that they came up with is that they were able to establish a secretariat," Lotilla noted.

Financing scheme

THE Philippines is not yet part of any Just Energy Transition Partnerships, but Lotilla has already called on the World Bank to support the country's RE goals.

“My challenge to the World Bank and our other development partners... that the green transition or the climate transition or securing a clean energy future must be a just and fair transition.

“And that means that transition financing or climate financing or call it by any other name, such financing should be available to the country... unfortunately, we are not part of any of the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) that have already been put in place,” said Lotilla.

The JETP is a financing cooperation scheme that aims to help coal-dependent countries shift towards clean energy. It was launched at the November 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP26.

Signatories to the COP26 agreement agreed to phase out coal-fueled power generation in the 2030s for richer countries, and the 2040s for poorer nations.

In its report, the World Bank called the Philippines “uniquely positioned” to transition toward a renewable energy-dominated power system, seen to “not only improve energy security but also enhance affordability through primarily private financing.”

“The private sector, which has been driving developments and investments in the energy sector over the past decade, will need to take on more risks and hasten the pace of adoption of new technologies and innovations as the power system pivots to variable renewable energy sources,” said the report.

It added that the Philippines’s development partners would also be called upon to do more, especially in facilitating the flow of concessional climate investment funds and technology transfers.

Challenges up ahead

ASIDE from increasing the RE share, the Philippine energy transition plan includes a 5-percent energy savings on oil products and electricity by 2040; 10-percent electric vehicle penetration rate in road transport by 2040; exploring new and efficient technologies; adopting advanced and interoperable ICT in the energy chain; and resilient and climate-proof energy infrastructure.

While the DOE is confident such targets will be achieved, Energy Undersecretary Rowena Guevara said the country must address challenges in the electric power industry — the resiliency of infrastructures to natural calamities, and exposure to geopolitical conflicts.

“Specifically, we are challenged with providing affordable price of electricity to the consumers, while allowing the market forces to work and minimize the market distortions, such as market caps and subsidies. Second is ensuring supply security and grid reliability in this ongoing power sector transformation,” Guevara said in a recent forum.

As such, Guevara said the Philippines would welcome the opportunity to partner with the private sector, international donor community, and development partners to drive the transformation of the power sector in an “ambitious, just and sustained manner.”

USAID eyed

FOR instance, the DOE wants to tap again the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for its technical assistance in identifying RE zones suitable for offshore wind and floating solar technologies.

The agency’s intent to launch another Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) was conveyed to USAID, DOE Assistant Secretary Mylene Capongcol told a forum on wind energy organized by the Nordic Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and NIRAS.

“We will discuss this officially. We have sent our official request so we will meet on this to talk about scope of work, timeline, among others,” said Capongcol.

The USAID and the US Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory were instrumental in crafting CREZ 1, launched in September 2020.

“CREZ 1 did not include offshore wind, floating solar. In CREZ 2, hopefully, if USAID will support, it will include those technologies involving bodies of water like offshore wind, floating solar, and possibly tidal,” said Capongcol.

There are 25 CREZ for solar and wind across the Philippines, which can produce 58,110 megawatts (MW) and 93,987 MW from solar and wind power plants, respectively.

Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities Senior Policy Advisor Pedro Maniego Jr. had said that RE bares no supply limitations, and further increasing its share in the energy mix will entail more affordable, reliable and secure power to the country. He added that the country must move more aggressively and more urgently.

CNN

[Floods, storms and fires displaced 20,000 children every day over past six years, UNICEF report finds](#)

By: Rosa Rahimi

More than 43 million children have been driven from their homes by floods, storms, droughts and wildfires over the six years between 2016 and 2021, according to new data from UNICEF. That works out to 20,000 children displaced every single day due to extreme weather fueled by climate change.

The researchers found that floods and storms caused 95% of all child displacements recorded, with the rest due to drought and wildfires.

“It is terrifying for any child when a ferocious wildfire, storm or flood barrels into their community,” said UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell, in a statement.

The report is the first of its kind, according to UNICEF. “Until now, children displaced by weather-related events have been statistically invisible,” the organization said in a statement.

East Asia and the Pacific have been particularly affected. In 2020, Cyclone Amphan led to 1.5 million child displacements across India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan. In 2021, Typhoon Rai caused 1.5 million child displacements across the Philippines, Palau and Vietnam.

By overall numbers of displacements, three countries dominated: the Philippines, India and China, where a total of 23 million children were forced from their homes and schools across the six-year period.

The location and geography of these countries make them prone to floods and storms, which are set to worsen as the climate crisis intensifies.

However, the report noted that all three countries implement preemptive evacuation plans, meaning children can be moved before a disaster hits, which may account for the higher numbers of displacements.

A different picture emerges when looking at the number of children displaced relative to the size of each country’s population.

Storms in the small Caribbean island country of Dominica, which was devastated by Hurricane Maria in 2017, displaced 76% of the child population over the six-year period.

South Sudan and Somalia experienced the highest proportion of child displacement from flooding, with 11% and 12% of children having to flee their homes, the report found. Both countries implement far fewer evacuation plans, making children even more vulnerable, according to the report.

Meanwhile drought, particularly in Somalia, Ethiopia and Afghanistan has contributed to over 1.3 million children having to leave their homes. However these statistics are likely to be conservative, as there is less data available for slow-onset disasters like drought, the reported noted.

Wildfires in the US and Canada have also led to child displacement, and they are likely to cause larger-scale displacements in the future, the report found.

“For those who are forced to flee, the fear and impact can be especially devastating, with worry of whether they will return home, resume school, or be forced to move again. Moving may have saved their lives, but it’s also very disruptive,” UNICEF’s Russell said.

Whether short-lived or long-term, displacement can amplify risks of exploitation, child trafficking and abuse, while also exposing children to malnutrition, disease and inadequate immunization, the report found.

The situation is poised to get worse. As the human-caused climate crisis accelerates, extreme weather is becoming more severe and more common.

With every additional 1 degree Celsius of warming, the global risks of displacement from flooding are projected to rise by 50%, according to research cited in the report.

“We have the tools and knowledge to respond to this escalating challenge for children, but we are acting far too slowly,” Russell said.

GMA NEWS

[Climate change and its human causes cannot be denied, papal document says](#)

By: Philip Pullela

Pope Francis on Wednesday appealed to climate change deniers and foot-dragging politicians to have a change of heart, saying they cannot gloss over its human causes or deride scientific facts while the planet "may be nearing the breaking point".

In the new document, released ahead of the COP28 conference starting next month in Dubai, Francis said the transition to clean, renewable energy and the abandonment of fossil fuels was not going fast enough.

He warned against putting too much trust in technology to capture gas emissions, saying that while it was promising, it did not tackle the human causes at the root of global warming.

The 7,000-word document, called *Laudate Deum* (Praise God), is a follow-up to his 2015 encyclical on the environment "*Laudato Si*" (Praise Be). It was prompted by extreme weather events since then, which he called the earth's "cries of protest".

"The world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point," he said. "It is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons."

Good will

Addressed to "All people of good will on the climate crisis," it includes some highly technical sections that read like a scientific or foreign policy paper.

"Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident," he said.

"No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth that are only a few palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone," he said.

Francis called for an abandonment of "short-term interests of certain countries or businesses," and political forces, saying it was high time to rise to the occasion. "In this way, may they demonstrate the nobility of politics and not its shame".

Saying "it is no longer possible to doubt the human - 'antropic' - origin of climate change," he took aim at those who "deride these facts," saying they use "allegedly scientific data" to show that the planet has always had periods of warming and cooling.

He specifically faulted deniers and sceptics for refusing to acknowledge the speed of the current changes taking place over "one generation - not centuries or millennia".

"The rise in the sea level and the melting of glaciers can be easily perceived by an individual in his or her lifetime, and probably in a few years many populations will have to move their homes because of these facts," he wrote.

Timed for effect

"If we are confident in the capacity of human beings to transcend their petty interests and to think in bigger terms, we can keep hoping that COP28 will allow for a decisive acceleration of energy transition, with effective commitments subject to ongoing monitoring," he said.

Failure in Dubai, he said, "will be a great disappointment and jeopardize whatever good has been achieved thus far".

Activists groups should not be labelled as "radicalized," he said, because they are "filling a space left empty by society as a whole".

The footnotes of the document, which in some parts referred to highly specific projections of temperature increases, statistics about melting icecaps and other technical matters, refer to reports from Catholic sources, the United Nations, specific laboratories and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Francis acknowledged that even the Church was divided on climate change. He gave no examples but in the United States, for example, former President Donald Trump's assertion that climate change was "a hoax" was backed by some U.S. bishops.

"I feel obliged to make these clarifications, which may appear obvious, because of certain dismissive and scarcely reasonable opinions that I encounter, even within the Catholic Church," Francis wrote.

"Yet we can no longer doubt that the reason for the unusual rapidity of these dangerous changes is a fact that cannot be concealed."

MANILA STANDARD

[30-day 'walk for climate justice' begins](#)

Forty climate advocates set out on a 30-day walk from Rizal Park in Manila to Tacloban City, Leyte, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) on Sunday.

“We don’t want another Yolanda to happen. This is why we are pushing to end fossil fuels, and more importantly, demanding reparations from polluter countries. We need resources to fast track our climate action efforts before another disaster strikes,” said Gregorio Bituin Jr., a founding member of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and a member of the contingent.

Hundreds more are expected to converge with the march as the contingent makes its way through the country, organizers said. They added that the “Climate Walk” is being held to raise awareness not only on Yolanda, but on climate change as a whole.

Combining walking and biking, the march is expected to go through four major stop-overs: Los Banos in Laguna, Lucena City in Quezon, Naga City in Camarines Sur, and Legazpi in Albay. In every stop-over, walkers will engage with the communities to raise awareness on climate issues. PMCJ coordinators across the country will also participate in these engagements in Lucena, Pagbilao, Atimonan, and Tagkawayan.

The Philippines is among the countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In 2013, Super Typhoon Yolanda, known internationally as Haiyan, took about 6,300 lives, and rendered 1,062 missing and 26,688 injured. Yolanda made landfall in Leyte, which suffered the brunt of the storm.

Ten years later, the Philippine government, especially the designated agencies on disaster risk reduction and management, have failed to learn from Yolanda’s wrath, PMCJ said. Storms occur more often and may soon become even more destructive, such as the case of Typhoon Odette in 2022 and Typhoon Rolly in 2020.

Meanwhile, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Mami Mizutori is set to visit the Philippines this October to kick off the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), which will be hosted by Manila.

During her visit, Mizutori is set to meet with President Marcos and Cabinet secretaries to discuss the Philippines’ hosting of the conference and strategies for accelerating disaster risk reduction in the country.

The launch of Asia Pacific's largest biennial conference on disaster risk reduction will be held on Oct. 13 and will include representatives from the national and local government, private sector, academe and scientific institutions, civil society, international development partners, and other stakeholder groups.

The conference next year is expected to draw over 3,000 high-level international delegates. The APMCDRR serves as the primary regional platform which brings together global leaders to monitor, review and enhance cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the regional level.

NIKKEI ASIA

[BlackRock targets Japan's climate tech in investment push: Larry Fink](#)

By: Kazuaki Fujita

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, looks to partner with Japanese businesses to invest in decarbonization technology, CEO Larry Fink said in an interview, adding that the company is considering expanding staffing at its Japanese arm.

Fink spoke with Nikkei on Friday during a trip to Japan, after a dinner Thursday with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and major global investors.

BlackRock's focus is on new technologies for the transition to a lower-carbon society. Fink stressed the importance of research and development to bring down the cost of clean energy, citing examples such as Japan's work on hydrogen power.

"We see some wonderful opportunities here in Japan, to co-invest with some of major Japanese companies as they move from brown to green," he said. BlackRock is also exploring such investments in the U.S. and South Korea.

Fink also noted that broader adoption of electric vehicles will necessitate a resilient global power grid.

The BlackRock chief said the asset manager is "evaluating" expanding its Tokyo office. "If we see the big opportunities here, let's say in infrastructure and brown to green, we will have larger staffs here in Japan and in Tokyo making sure that we are local," he said.

"There's great opportunities to move from brown to green. If Japan can be a leader in that movement, you're going to see more opportunities for Tokyo to be a financial hub," Fink said, as the market becomes more appealing to financial services and investment management companies.

Fink pointed out that what Japan needs is growth. He singled out robotics, artificial intelligence and decarbonization as areas of particular promise. Fink also sees Japan's declining population as an opportunity, with new technology, if introduced quickly, becoming a growth engine. He expressed a bullish view on Japan from a long-term perspective of 10 years to 20 years.

He welcomed the Kishida government's push to shift household assets from savings to investment.

"The administration has new plans related to NISA as a foundation to transform this giant pool of savings and to have more of a domestic policy for growth through taking savings and investing for the long run," he said, referring to the government's tax-exempt stock investment program.

Kishida announced in September plans to set up special business zones for asset management companies where administrative procedures can be completed in English.

"We have always found that Japan is a welcoming place and enjoyed success in Japan. I believe the special zone is going to encourage smaller companies that come to Japan and feel like they have a real opportunity," Fink said of the plan.

Fink emphasized that Japan, which carries significant government debt, needs to aim for growth by bringing together private and public funds, and that this could be a great opportunity if the pieces start moving.

He pointed to positive changes in Japan, such as the younger generation's increasing interest in startups in a shift away from focus on big corporations.

The Thursday dinner with investors is said to have attracted a lot of interest from the U.S., Europe, Asia and the Middle East, in a sign of growing interest in Japan.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[The climate crisis is a health crisis](#)

By: Maria Guevara

Climate change has disastrous health impacts. As a medical humanitarian organization, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has been seeing these impacts on the people we treat in over 70 countries around the world.

This year, powerful Tropical Cyclone “Mocha” hit Myanmar and Bangladesh and destroyed not only communities, but also refugee camps. In years past, we have seen strong typhoons such as Supertyphoon “Yolanda” (international name: Haiyan) in 2013, which laid waste to Tacloban in central Philippines, and caused widespread flooding in Indonesia that submerged homes and destroyed properties.

But it is not just cyclones and supertyphoons that are proving disastrous to many parts of the world. July 2023 was recorded as the planet’s hottest month in 174 years, resulting in Canadian wildfires, major heatwaves in France, Spain, Germany, Poland, and Italy, and marine heatwaves along coastlines from Florida to Australia. In short, these weather events are happening all over the globe with greater frequency and impact.

While these are the most obvious, climate change has other impacts on health, particularly on disease. MSF is responding to high levels of vector-borne, food-borne, and water-borne diseases in our projects, a worrying prospect as these are seen to increase as the climate crisis accelerates. It is predicted that there will be 15 million more cases of malaria yearly, with 30,000 deaths linked to it in addition to what we are already seeing now. One billion more people are expected to be exposed to dengue across the world. European Union officials recently warned that there is a growing risk of mosquito-borne viral diseases such as dengue and chikungunya in Europe due to climate change.

We have seen cholera outbreaks in at least 30 countries. While this is due to multiple factors, climate change is most definitely one of them. Climate change is also linked to food insecurity and malnutrition. With extreme weather events such as heatwaves and increased rainfall come droughts and floods that impact farming and fishing communities, affecting everything from the yield of crops, to the animals that till the soil, and the number of fish caught in the ocean. It does not end there. Other impacts of climate change include the spread of noncommunicable diseases, forced displacement and migration, and the emergence of conflicts, among others.

All of these are expected to intensify over time—unless we take urgent action. But we can only do so much. We are seeing huge needs everywhere we go, from Asia Pacific to the Middle East, and the African nations. Countries with limited resources are enduring the worst of the devastation brought about by the climate crisis. Our Rohingya patients in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh—who have endured decades of persecution and are confined in refugee camps—are repeatedly threatened by floods and cyclones that come their way. Our patients in the island nation of Kiribati face climate and environmental changes that threaten their livelihood and exacerbate their disease risks.

We have been sounding the alarm. We see these huge needs brought about by the climate crisis, and fear that these needs are outstripping our capacity to respond. We need the countries most responsible for this global warming of 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to help those who are most affected, to take responsibility, and to provide financial and technical support to those most vulnerable. Governments of the most affected countries, including in Asia Pacific, must not only compel the top polluters to help them mitigate and manage the impacts of climate change, but must also put in place policies and affirmative climate actions in addressing and reversing the impact of these issues.

Already we are seeing commitments from world leaders. At their recent meeting, Group of 20 nations have committed to a greener and more climate-resilient health system. Asean—which has five of the 20 most at-risk countries located in the region—has announced an ambitious strategy to work toward carbon neutrality. The COP28 agenda in November has an increased focus on health, relief, and disaster response.

This is an important and critically urgent moment. These commitments are ambitious, but member states of these regional blocs must see them through and take real action. Today, we are dangerously off track and must take urgent action now. The climate crisis requires a whole-of-society approach. People and organizations must also understand that our behavior is a part of the problem. We need to respond together, in solidarity with all, for the health of all.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH, Australia to hold ministerial meeting as new 'strategic partners'](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Philippines and Australia's foreign and trade ministers will meet in Adelaide next week, just a month after the two states established a new "strategic partnership."

Australian Ambassador to the Philippines HK Yu said the 6th Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (PAMM) will be held on Oct. 10, with Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo present as co-chair.

"The main purpose of this very important meeting will be to put our strategic partnership into action," she said during a journalist reception at her Makati City residence on Friday.

"Our ministers will be coming together only just after a month of our leaders' meeting to get to work and work out what it is that we can do more," she added.

Yu did not disclose if bilateral agreements will be signed but said there will be "some announcements" to be made after the meet.

PAMM is regularly convened every two years and was virtually held in August 2021 due to pandemic restrictions.

The meeting comes after President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met in Manila in September and finally elevated the two states' comprehensive partnership into a "strategic" one.

The Australian government said the strategic partnership is founded on the two nations' shared interests in promoting a peaceful Indo-Pacific region and a common vision for the region where sovereignty is upheld.

Yu said the ministers will discuss wide-range issues as Australia seeks to step up its engagements with the country on defense, economic, combatting climate change, education, peace building, environment and people-to-people relations.

In the same reception, she said Canberra will continue to closely monitor developments happening on the South China Sea while helping the country enhance its capabilities in maritime protection.

"I would say prevention is more important and that's exactly what Australia is already doing in the Philippines when we engage in exercises, when we are helping strengthen

your governance, when we are helping with even marine environment,” she said when asked if Australia will help the Philippines in the event tensions escalate in the contested sea.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[‘Call for justice’: Advocates embark on month-long climate walk for Yolanda’s 10th anniversary](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Climate and human rights advocates began Sunday their month-long journey from Manila to Tacloban City in Leyte to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) and amplify the call for climate justice.

This year’s climate walk will retrace the steps of the first climate walk held in 2014, starting from Kilometer Zero in Rizal Park, Manila and ending at the ground zero of Yolanda’s impact in Tacloban.

The 1000-kilometer journey on foot and on bicycles will culminate on November 7, on the eve of Yolanda, one of the world’s most devastating cyclones that left at least 6,000 people dead. More than 1,000 people listed as missing were never found.

Organizers said that the walk aims to amplify the call for climate justice and urge immediate action from global leaders to tackle the climate crisis.

The Philippines is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis, with poor and rural communities bearing the brunt of disasters.

“Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded, has been pushed back into memory. The importance of conscious and intentional global ambition is all the more urgent as more and more people are reeling from the climate emergency’s impacts,” said Yeb Saño, lead walker and executive director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

“Filipinos refuse to accept the vicious cycle of destruction and reconstruction. We also refuse to accept that we are reduced to numbers, so it is our aim to remind the whole world,” he added.

Ian Rivera, national coordinator of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, said that the walk serves as a reminder of the responsibility of developed countries to act with ambition and ensure a rapid and just energy transition.

Climate scientists have warned that the window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future is rapidly closing and stressed that urgent climate action is important.

“There is no other solution to the crisis but governments pursuing a path to climate justice and democracy and ending inequality. Failure would mean placing the Filipino

people in harm's way and perpetuating the injustice already being experienced by those who are reeling from the impacts of the climate crisis," Rivera said.

The climate walk is expected to have four major stopovers: Los Baños In Laguna, Lucena City in Quezon province, Naga City in Camarines Sur and Legazpi in Albay. At each stop, participants will engage with local communities to raise awareness of climate issues.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC partners with JICA to boost PH's climate change actions](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has partnered with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to further enhance the country's climate change initiatives and programs.

The CCC and JICA formalized this collaboration through the signing of a Letter of Understanding (LOU) on Oct. 3.

This partnership, centered on the Data Collection Survey for Climate Change Measure and Green Transformation, marks the first direct and official collaboration between the CCC and JICA.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized that JICA has been a "proven bilateral partner in climate change initiatives."

With JICA's vast experience in addressing climate-related challenges, Borje said the collaboration "presents valuable opportunities to enhance our programs, to fine-tune our strategies, and to build the capacities to broaden knowledge and skills."

Through the Data Collection Survey, the Philippines can count on JICA for fit-for-purpose and needs-based technical support and capacity-building, crucial for the timely and effective implementation of policies and measures set out in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The Philippine NDC underscores the country's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent, aligned with global mitigation goals and sustainable development aspirations.

Historically, the Philippines found support from esteemed bilateral partners like JICA, emphasizing the significance of international collaboration in confronting climate and environmental challenges.

"Japan has already committed, in the 'ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0,' to collaborate with ASEAN countries, including the Philippines, to achieve a decarbonized and resilient society," Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative of JICA Philippines, said.

"We are very keen to support your efforts for the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs, considering the concept of the Paris Agreement," he added.

The CCC conveyed its appreciation to JICA for their "steadfast support over the years and in the upcoming years, and for entrusting the Climate Change Commission to lead this cooperative data collection effort alongside various Philippine government agencies stakeholders."

"We recognize that climate policies and actions are most successful when stakeholders and partners actively participate in the development, implementation and monitoring. When we effectively engage and actively work at every stage, we bridge gaps, and create a coherent and effective approach to climate change, and this is when we make a difference," Borje added.

JICA is an established bilateral partner in climate change initiatives, offering multiple collaborative opportunities that significantly benefit the Philippines' government programs.

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