



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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#### [Marcos Jr departs for Vientiane, Laos for the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits](#)

By: Pia Gutierrez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr departed for Vientiane, Laos on Tuesday afternoon to attend the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits.

### BUSINESS WORLD

#### [UK offshore wind industry ready to advise Philippines](#)

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

The UK is open to working closely with the Philippines in developing its offshore wind resources, noting the country's many high-potential sites.

## **GMA**

### **[PH's clean energy transition to require \\$500B investments —Lotilla](#)**

By: Ted Cordero

The Philippines would need half-a-trillion dollars worth of investments to attain substantial clean energy transition, according to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[\[Opinion\] Embracing sustainable finance](#)**

By: Jaime Aristotle Alip , PHD

As I am writing this article, Typhoon Julian is unleashing violent winds and heavy rains over Northern Luzon, prompting officials to evacuate villagers, close schools and halt inter-island ferries. News reports showed the slow-moving super typhoon wreaking havoc in Cagayan and Batanes, flooding many areas, and destroying thousands of houses and coastal villages.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Environment takes center stage as global summits loom](#)**

By: Julien Mivielle

Global warming. Disappearing plant and animal species. Fertile land turning to desert. Plastic in the oceans, on land, and the air we breathe.

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## **DAILY TRIBUNE**

### **[Harnessing space technology for a disaster-resilient Philippines](#)**

By: Pamela Lira

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### **[How migratory birds maintain ecological balance](#)**

By: Rafael De Leon

Traveling thousands of miles and connecting ecosystems across the globe, migratory birds are vital in sustaining the health of our planet. Their incredible journey highlights the wonders of nature and reminds us of the delicate balance they help maintain in the environment.

### [Loyzaga emphasizes fair climate transition for vulnerable sectors](#)

By: Jing Villamente

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, also the Official Representative of the Philippine President to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), emphasized the importance of minimizing adverse impacts on vulnerable sectors as the country implements its climate response and promotes sustainable development.

### [Strengthening the role of girls in climate action](#)

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

The African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child,” is especially relevant when we discuss the collective responsibility of family, community and government in raising and protecting girls, and empowering them as they face the challenges of climate change. As the world grapples with an escalating climate crisis, the role of girls in climate action becomes ever more critical, yet they remain among the most vulnerable.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### [Cabinet members named to UNACOM-PH panels](#)

By: Jocelyn Montemayor

President Marcos Jr. has named several members of his Cabinet as representatives to the various committees of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM/ PH NatCom).

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### [Gov't launches tool for gender-responsive actions vs. climate change](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched on Monday the Philippines Nationally Determined Contributions Gender Action Plan 2024-2030 (NDC GAP).

### [PBBM names new UNACOM members, other gov't appointees](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has named the new members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM or PH NatCom).

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**Marcos Jr departs for Vientiane, Laos for the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits**

By: Pia Gutierrez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr departed for Vientiane, Laos on Tuesday afternoon to attend the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits.

In his departure speech at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City, Marcos Jr said that the annual meeting of the regional bloc “are essential for the Philippines to discuss the issues confronting ASEAN countries on geopolitical matters and also on functional cooperation.”

The Philippine leader vowed to champion the Philippines’ advocacies “in promoting an open, inclusive, and rules-based international order, and for the peaceful resolution of any disputes in accordance with international law” during the Summits. This, amid “sharpening regional tensions, including the recent dangerous incidents in the West Philippine Sea.”

“This administration will continue to ensure that our constructive and deepening engagements with ASEAN, our Dialogue Partners, and stakeholders serve our national interest and the well-being of the Filipino people,” he said.

ASEAN leaders and their external partners are also expected to discuss the West Philippine Sea issue during the summit, as well as other important regional and international issues that impact beyond the region, including the situation in Myanmar, conflict in Ukraine, and in the Middle East.

Leaders are also expected to “explore ways to promote regional connectivity amongst ASEAN Member States,” as well as ways to “strengthen resilience to promote sustainable development and inclusive growth,” Marcos Jr said.

“I will also be participating in meetings with ASEAN’s external partners. These engagements pave the way to advance cooperation in areas such as food and energy security, trade and investment, supply chain resilience, MSMEs, and addressing the impacts of climate change, and more,” he said.

Hoping for peaceful resolution

In the same speech, Marcos Jr. called on "all parties to refrain from escalating the violence and to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict" in the Middle East.

"We emphasize the need to adhere to international humanitarian law, especially the principles of proportionality and distinction in response to security threats, and to ensure the protection of civilians at all times," the President said.

"The Philippines will always stand for the principles of international law and the safety of Filipinos in the Philippines and overseas."

The President assured that the Philippine government is "doing everything it can" to ensure the safety of over 40,000 Filipino nationals in Lebanon and Israel.

"I am glad to report that no Filipino has been reported injured in the crisis that we hear about in the news and --- to the wave of attacks against Hezbollah targets in the past few days, and the consequent Iranian reprisal against Israel," he said.

Marcos Jr. also said that Philippine embassies "have been coordinating with the Filipino community on this matter and working on securing exit papers and transportation for those returning."

"Sa ating mga kababayan sa Lebanon at Israel, ang ating pamahalaan ay nakahanda sa pagtugon ng inyong pangangailangan. We hope that you will avail yourselves of our repatriation program while flights are available. In the meantime, heed the Advisories of the Philippine Embassy and the Lebanese and Israeli governments," he said.

"I expect the Secretaries of the DFA and the DMW and the Administrator of OWWA to report to me with updates daily."

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[UK offshore wind industry ready to advise Philippines](#)**

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

The UK is open to working closely with the Philippines in developing its offshore wind resources, noting the country's many high-potential sites.

British Deputy Ambassador to the Philippines Alistair White said on the sidelines of a conference last week that "the Philippines is showing real ambition and understanding of the urgency of addressing climate change and moving to renewables... I think where the UK and the Philippines can work most closely is potentially UK expertise, particularly in offshore wind. You have a lot of islands, you have a lot of wind from offshore, and the UK has a lot of expertise," he said, adding that solar is another potential area of cooperation.

Mr. White described the Philippines as a "young market" and "fast-growing economy."

"There's a clear need and appetite for foreign investment and partnerships, particularly in the energy sector. I think it's seen as a very attractive, interesting market," he said.

He said the UK recognizes the government's work in minimizing red tape and make the investment climate more attractive.

Philippine offshore wind resource potential has been estimated at 178 gigawatts, according to the World Bank's 2022 Offshore Wind Roadmap for the Philippines.

During the conference, Mr. White announced that the UK shut down its last coal-fired power station, the first among the Group of Seven (G-7) to do so.

"Just over 10 years ago, the UK still relied on coal for 40% of all of our energy needs, but today we have the largest fixed bottom offshore wind farm in the world and the world's first floating wind farm. We've installed enough solar power to power over three and a half million homes," Mr. White said.

"And today, the 30th of Sept. 2024, I'm delighted to be able to stand here and say that the UK's very last coal-fired power station will cease operations," he added.

Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottinghamshire shut down late last month ending the over 140-year history of coal power in the UK.

It had a generation capacity of 2,000 megawatts and was capable of producing electricity to power more than two million households, according to Uniper, which owned and operated the station.

Mr. White said that the UK has been committed to decreasing its fossil fuel generation since around 2008 and has been increasing the mix of renewable energy.

“Our trajectory is continuing the investment in renewable energy towards our net zero target in 2030,” he said at the sidelines.

Asked to comment, Jose M. Layug, Jr., former Energy undersecretary and president of the Developers of Renewable Energy for Advancement, Inc., said via Viber that the UK’s coal phaseout could serve as “a model for the Philippines’ own goal of energy transition: calibrated and responsive.”

Pedro H. Maniego, Jr., senior policy advisor of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, said that the Philippines has the third-lowest per capita power supply in ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and there needs to be reliable power to step in when it phases out its coal-fired power plants.

“We need reliable and sufficient power for continued economic growth and industrial development. There must be replacement plants for any retired power plants whether coal-fired or not,” he said in a Viber message.

Under the Philippine Energy Plan, the Department of Energy (DoE) plans to study the voluntary retirement and repurposing of coal-fired power plants to ensure a clean-energy transition.

The DoE has set a target of increasing the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

## **GMA**

### **[PH's clean energy transition to require \\$500B investments —Lotilla](#)**

By: Ted Cordero

The Philippines would need half-a-trillion dollars worth of investments to attain substantial clean energy transition, according to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

The government is targeting to increase the renewable energy's share in the country's power mix to 35% by 2030 and raise it further to 50% by 2050.

At the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines (EJAP)-AboitizPower Renewable Energy Forum in Makati, Lotilla said that “for the entire plan, we are looking at hundreds of billions of dollars.”

“Our energy sector is not government owned... so it is not going to be cheap. It will require up to \$500 billion of investments from both public and private,” the Energy chief said.

Lotilla said that with such whopping amount of capital, “we can retrofit or phaseout fossil fuel plants.”

As of end-2023, the total share of renewable energy in the grid —comprising of hydro, geothermal, wind, biomass, and solar— stood at 29.7%.

Coal, however, still dominates the power mix at 43.9% share.

The Philippines was recently selected by global fund Coalition for Emerging Market Infrastructure Investment (CEMII) as its initial focus market for infrastructure investment across the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) economies.

The CEMII, a coalition of global investors, manages a fund of \$25 billion for energy investment in IPEF economies.

“Well, of course, if we can get the total of \$25 billion, yes, we should aspire for that,” Lotilla said.

Ramping up the transition to clean energy is imperative to avert more carbon emissions from the power sector and limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.



## MANILA BULLETIN

### [\[Opinion\] Embracing sustainable finance](#)

By: Jaime Aristotle Alip , PHD

As I am writing this article, Typhoon Julian is unleashing violent winds and heavy rains over Northern Luzon, prompting officials to evacuate villagers, close schools and halt inter-island ferries. News reports showed the slow-moving super typhoon wreaking havoc in Cagayan and Batanes, flooding many areas, and destroying thousands of houses and coastal villages.

Climate change is real, and we all need to brace ourselves.

The financial sector, under the leadership of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), is embracing the sustainability agenda amidst climate change. BSP Circular No. 1085, s. 2020, adopts the Sustainable Finance Framework, which exhorts financial institutions to integrate sustainability principles in their operations and develop products or services for climate change mitigation and adaptation. In 2022, BSP also launched the Sustainable Central Banking Strategy to address the potential impact of climate and environmental risks on the prices of goods and services and on the safety and soundness of financial institutions.

Heeding the call

In February 2024, the Board of Trustees of the Rafael B. Buenaventura Microfinance Resource Center Foundation (RBB Foundation) made a courtesy call to BSP Governor Eli Remolona. With me were former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, Leonilo Coronel, Roberto Panlilio, and Benjamin Castillo. The other Board members, Cesar Buenaventura and Deogracias Vistan, were not able to join us, but two financial industry leaders were with us: Jose Teodoro Limcaoco, president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines and Eduardo Jimenez, Vice-Chairperson of the Microfinance Council of the Philippines.

I recall Governor Remolona's warm response to our ongoing initiatives to support BSP's financial inclusion agenda, like the promotion of QRPH, digitalization, support to MSMEs, and others. But he also challenged us: wouldn't you like to integrate climate change adaptation to your operations?

We are responding positively to this challenge. Apart from strengthening the capacity of microfinance institutions (MFIs) on digitalization, agriculture value chain, and MSME financing, we are including climate adaptation and sustainability in our training programs. Just last week, we organized an online focused group discussion (FGD) with 25

participants from 11 MFIs, to discuss how to support BSP's sustainable finance advocacy.

### MFIs' response

Prior to the FGD, we administered a questionnaire to gauge the participants' awareness and interest in climate change issues. According to Patricia Calilong, RBB Foundation's executive director, the pre-FGD survey showed that:

48 percent of respondents have a moderate level of awareness of climate adaptation and resilience. 28 percent of the respondents were slightly aware and 24 percent were very aware.

100 percent of the respondents believe that their organizations have a role to play in climate change adaptation.

Almost all (96 percent) of the respondents have noticed the impact of climate change, citing agricultural damage, displacement, and loan delinquency among clients.

The respondents identified the following as needed support in climate change adaptation: for their clients - financial support (loans, savings, microinsurance), business advisory, and educational services; for their organizations - technical and institutional capacity enhancement and collaboration; and support for their staff and clients in leveraging technology for education and online training.

The FGD yielded a three-pronged approach to bolster MFIs' sustainability programs:

1. Supporting partnerships between banks and MFIs. It was mentioned that some commercial banks have green/blue financing windows that MFIs can access and utilize as conduits.

2. Provision of technical assistance to MFIs. The BSP, RBB Foundation and other groups could train MFIs on how to : (a) apply/enhance available climate risk assessment tools, incorporating them into loan appraisals; (b) design financial products for climate resilience, such as crop insurance, solar loans, and greenhouse loans; (c) monitor and assess the impact of climate risks for their organizations and clients, integrating their findings into loan appraisals and operational strategies; (d) demonstrate the benefits of climate adaptation to clients; (e) prioritize investments in sustainable infrastructure and technologies, like resilient housing, solar energy systems, and digitalization to reduce paper use; (f) expand disaster preparedness and climate

resilience training for staff and clients using online platforms and social media; (g) collaborate with government, international organizations, and other MFIs to share best practices and resources; (h) create platforms for knowledge sharing and collaboration to enhance collective climate resilience.

3. Advocacy. Advocate for government infrastructure, such as roads and bridges (especially those supporting farm-to-market access), to be insured. This will ensure the smooth flow of agricultural goods and services, protecting both farmers and consumers.

It is important for the microfinance industry to heed the call for sustainability because our country is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and our clients – the poor and disadvantaged — suffer the most whenever disasters strike. We know because we are usually the first responders due to our strong community presence.

MFIs, perhaps, more than any other financial institution, understand the impact of climate change disruptions on vulnerable people and communities, on businesses and livelihood. It is important for all of us to adopt sustainable practices.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Environment takes center stage as global summits loom](#)

By: Julien Mivielle

Global warming. Disappearing plant and animal species. Fertile land turning to desert. Plastic in the oceans, on land, and the air we breathe.

These urgent environmental challenges will be in the spotlight over the next few months as the United Nations hosts four major sessions to address key threats to the planet.

#### Biodiversity

First up is a "Conference of the Parties" — a COP — dedicated to biodiversity being held in Cali, Colombia, from October 21 to November 1.

These are called every two years to debate how the world can cooperate to better protect the rich variety of plant and animal life in the natural world.

The COP16 isn't expected to break new ground but will take stock of progress since the last summit secured historic assurances for biodiversity.

In 2022 in Montreal, nations agreed to place 30 percent of the planet under environmental protection by 2030 in a landmark pact aimed at arresting biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems to health.

In Cali, countries will put forward national strategies to meet this global objective, and observers hope Colombia as host will provide a model for others to follow.

#### Climate

The world's most important conference on climate change is this year being hosted by Azerbaijan, a former Soviet republic heavily dependent on oil and gas exports, from November 11 to 22.

While the last summit in Dubai in 2023 delivered a historic commitment to transition the world away from fossil fuels, supporting poorer countries with climate change will top this year's agenda.

The summit, known as COP29, is expected to land a new agreement on "climate finance": money from rich nations most responsible for global warming to developing countries vulnerable to climate change.

There isn't an agreed figure yet, or even consensus on where the money should come from, who should receive it, and what form it could take.

But developing countries are pushing for much more than the \$100 billion pledged in 2009. This was only reached for the first time in full in 2022.

The result of the US election, just six days before COP29 begins, could throw a last-minute curveball into the final negotiations, which have proved divisive so far.

It also remains to be seen how many world leaders travel to Baku, the capital on the Caspian Sea, with some expected to focus their energy on COP30 in Brazil next year.

#### Desertification

The least high profile of the three COPs, this session in Saudi Arabia addressing the loss of fertile land to desert is nonetheless critical.

Climate variation like droughts and human activities like overgrazing can result in desertification, a process mainly in dry areas where land degrades and becomes unproductive.

Experts hope the COP16 on desertification, scheduled to take place in Riyadh from December 2 to 13, can act as a turning point in addressing this problem.

"Discussions will focus on ways to restore 1.5 billion hectares of land by 2030, as well as putting in place agreements to manage the droughts that are already affecting many regions of the globe," said Arona Diedhiou from the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development.

#### Plastic

In 2022, some 175 nations agreed to fast-track negotiations toward a world-first treaty on plastic pollution, and the final session gets underway on November 25 in South Korea.

The treaty aims to marshal an international response to the plastic trash choking the environment, from oceans and rivers to mountains and sea ice.

Some nations want the treaty to restrict how much plastic can be made while others — particularly oil and gas producing countries that provide the raw materials to make plastic — want a focus on recycling.

Hellen Kahaso Dena, head of Greenpeace's Pan-African Plastics Project, hopes that countries "will agree on a treaty that prioritises reducing plastic production".

"There is no time to waste with approaches that will not solve the problem," the activist told AFP.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DAILY TRIBUNE

#### [Harnessing space technology for a disaster-resilient Philippines](#)

By: Pamela Lira

In a country as highly vulnerable to climate change as the Philippines, where intensified typhoons, rising sea levels and environmental degradation pose daily threats, timely and accurate data is more crucial than ever.

As recent tropical cyclones, such as super typhoon “Carina” and tropical storm “Enteng,” have shown, we need better tools to predict and reduce the impact of these human-induced disasters.

Space technology is stepping in to fill this gap, offering the ability to monitor, predict and respond to changes in our atmospheric conditions with unprecedented precision. Since the establishment of the Philippine Space Agency in 2019 under the Philippine Space Act (Republic Act 11363), the country has concentrated its efforts on space-based solutions to strengthen environmental protection and enhance climate resilience.

Key satellites like Diwata-1 and Diwata-2 have been critical for climate observation. These satellites help monitor deforestation, track weather patterns, and assess damage from climate hazards.

The Copernicus program, launched last year under the EU Earth Observation initiative, also supports the Philippines’ resilience efforts by providing data that aids in disaster response and climate change adaptation.

Recently, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. announced the upcoming launch of the Filipino-made Multispectral Unit for Land Assessment satellite, scheduled for 2025. Developed by 16 Filipino engineers, MULA will capture multispectral images across various wavelengths, including those related to heat and pollution levels. The satellite is expected to enhance the country’s capabilities in monitoring marine resources and terrestrial ecosystems, which is crucial for maintaining agricultural productivity and environmental integrity while improving disaster management through the assessment of environmental conditions.

This capability will bolster disaster resilience, environmental protection and national security efforts. With its ability to monitor 1,200 kilometers of the country in a single pass, MULA is projected to improve how the government addresses hazards like typhoons and droughts.

Through collaborations with major international space organizations such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

and the European Space Agency, the Philippines also contributes valuable data to global initiatives in shaping climate adaptation policies.

The Climate Change Commission recognizes the vital role space science and technology play in the country's efforts to monitor the climate, prepare for disasters and protect the environment. As the government continues to integrate space technology into national climate strategies, the country is better equipped to handle the complex challenges posed by climate change.

This year, as we celebrate World Space Week with the theme "Space & Climate Change," it is a fitting time to reflect on how space technology is enhancing the Philippines' ability to address climate change and protect its sustainability. The promise of space-based solutions propels our efforts toward a more sustainable and climate-resilient future, where the impacts of extreme weather events like "Carina" and "Enteng" can be better managed, and environmental protection becomes more effective.

World Space Week, held annually from 4 to 10 October, is organized by the World Space Week Association in partnership with the United Nations. It celebrates the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of humanity, and this year's theme highlights the growing role of space in addressing the climate crisis.

## How migratory birds maintain ecological balance

By: Rafael De Leon

Traveling thousands of miles and connecting ecosystems across the globe, migratory birds are vital in sustaining the health of our planet. Their incredible journey highlights the wonders of nature and reminds us of the delicate balance they help maintain in the environment.

Migratory birds are species that move between regions and continents in search of food, better climates, and suitable breeding conditions. Many follow specific migration routes called “flyways,” often guided by natural landmarks like mountain ranges, river valleys or coastlines, which help them navigate across geographic areas.

These birds play a crucial role in keeping ecosystems healthy, particularly by controlling insect populations. Acting as natural pest controllers, they feed on insects, preventing overpopulation that could damage crops and harm agricultural productivity. This ecosystem service is crucial to natural habitats and human food security.

In addition to pest control, migratory birds contribute to pollination, helping plants grow and sequester carbon — critical for combating climate change. By supporting plant biodiversity, they ensure ecosystems function properly and maintain their resilience in the face of ecological changes.

However, these environmental stewards face increasing threats from habitat loss and shrinking food sources. Urbanization and expanding agricultural areas have reduced their natural habitats. Light pollution from cities disrupts their migration patterns, and the widespread use of pesticides diminishes their primary food sources, such as insects.

When insect populations decline, the entire food chain suffers. This weakens the ecological balance and puts added pressure on migratory birds, whose survival depends on a thriving environment. The decline in these birds can serve as a warning signal for broader environmental health issues.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission, highlighted the crucial role of migratory birds.

“These species are integral to the health of our ecosystem, making it imperative that we take immediate action to ensure their preservation,” he stated.

To address these challenges, proactive conservation efforts are needed. Reducing pesticide use, promoting organic and sustainable farming, and preserving natural habitats are crucial steps to protect migratory birds and the ecosystems they support. For example, creating wildlife corridors and maintaining safe nesting grounds can provide them with the shelter they need during their journeys.



Moreover, reducing gas emissions and embracing sustainable practices can help mitigate the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events like tropical cyclones and droughts that further threaten these birds' habitats. Protecting migratory birds ultimately means safeguarding the natural systems on which we all depend.

World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated every second Saturday of May and October, emphasizing the positive participation in raising awareness about the importance of these remarkable creatures and the environments they rely on. It offers individuals and communities an opportunity to take part in protecting migratory birds through small yet impactful actions, from planting trees to reducing light pollution.

## Loyzaga emphasizes fair climate transition for vulnerable sectors

By: Jing Villamente

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, also the Official Representative of the Philippine President to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), emphasized the importance of minimizing adverse impacts on vulnerable sectors as the country implements its climate response and promotes sustainable development.

Loyzaga highlighted the need for the Philippines to join the global effort in ensuring that the transition to a net-zero economy is fair and inclusive for all.

As the country kicks off the development of the Just Transition Program, prioritizing the energy and transport sectors—which account for 56 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions—Loyzaga underscored the importance of reskilling and upskilling the workforce in these industries, both of which heavily rely on 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,” she emphasized.

She also pointed out the potential for new industries to emerge from the transition, providing support to conventional sectors.

National government agencies, including the DENR, Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Transportation (DOTr), have been identified as the lead agencies in developing the Just Transition Program.

With support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), these agencies will lead consultations across sectors and regions in the coming months. These consultations will inform the development of a National Just Transition Framework and Roadmap, guiding the Philippines in its shift to a low-carbon, sustainable, and resilient economy.

## Strengthening the role of girls in climate action

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

The African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child,” is especially relevant when we discuss the collective responsibility of family, community and government in raising and protecting girls, and empowering them as they face the challenges of climate change. As the world grapples with an escalating climate crisis, the role of girls in climate action becomes ever more critical, yet they remain among the most vulnerable.

The United Nations (UN) estimates that around 1 billion children globally are exposed to high-risk environments where extreme weather events such as droughts, cyclones and flooding are becoming more frequent. In the Philippines, the situation is especially dire. The World Risk Report 2024 ranked the Philippines as the most vulnerable country to extreme natural disasters and climate change, driven by high exposure and socio-economic inequalities.

These vulnerabilities disproportionately affect girls, as climate change worsens existing inequalities, especially in marginalized communities where women and girls are often denied access to essential resources including education, healthcare and social and economic opportunities.

Extreme weather events, such as droughts and tropical cyclones, damage agricultural lands, coastal zones and other food production areas — severely affecting food security. This leads to malnutrition, particularly among children. In the Philippines, only 66 percent of children under five with acute respiratory infections receive medical care. Gender-based discrimination still prevalent in many communities further reduces girls’ access to healthcare, increasing their vulnerability to climate-related health crises.

Disruptions caused by climate-induced disasters like typhoons often force girls out of school to help with household responsibilities. This is particularly true in our country where several schools are flooded and damaged by tropical cyclones. In some communities, adolescent girls face additional challenges, including early marriage, driven by economic insecurity worsened by climate events. The UN estimates that climate-induced poverty could put 10 million more girls at risk of early marriage in the coming decade.

Our families and communities are crucial to ensure that girls grow up in safe, supportive environments. However, in developing countries like the Philippines, many families still struggle to provide basic necessities like food and shelter due to climate impacts on their livelihoods. Coastal and rural communities, where survival depends on the environment, are particularly affected.

This is where the proverb “it takes a village” comes into play. Beyond the immediate family, religious groups and communities — including extended family, teachers, community-based organizations — play a crucial role to make sure that girls have the resources they need to thrive. However, communities cannot do this alone. Our national and local governments, along with businesses and civil society organizations, must also contribute.

Local government units, for example, can collaborate with schools to build climate-resilient infrastructure that functions as both educational facilities and safe evacuation centers during disasters. We must also work to strengthen health systems, ensuring access to healthcare and nutrition, especially in remote areas.

Our programs should focus on reducing gaps in healthcare and sanitation services. Data from the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund shows that in 2022, only 46.97 percent of the Philippine population had access to basic drinking water services. Addressing these gaps can significantly reduce the health risks that disproportionately affect children, especially girls.

Keeping girls in school must also be a priority. Investing in their education yields economic gains, as educated girls grow into professionals, skilled workers and public leaders. Ensuring girls continue their education after climate-related disasters should be integrated in disaster preparedness and recovery efforts.

Despite the overwhelming challenges they face, girls are emerging as active participants in climate action. The theme of the 2024 International Day of the Girl, “Girls’ Vision for the Future,” highlights how today’s generation of girls is advocating for climate action, gender equality and human rights. From joining local coastal cleanups to participating in tree-planting activities, girls are already making a difference in their communities.

However, girls cannot achieve this without support. They need allies — families, communities, governments and international bodies — that listen to their needs and invest in their potential. Governments and organizations must create platforms where girls can actively contribute to climate solutions. Initiatives like local youth councils, where girls can participate in policymaking processes and disaster risk reduction efforts, are vital for building inclusive and resilient communities.

In the end, it truly does take a village — composed of family, community and government — to raise a girl child and safeguard her future. Now is the time to come together and take collective action to protect girls from the impacts of climate change and ensure they have the opportunities they deserve.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **Cabinet members named to UNACOM-PH panels**

By: Jocelyn Montemayor

President Marcos Jr. has named several members of his Cabinet as representatives to the various committees of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM/ PH NatCom).

The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Saturday night announced the appointments of Education Secretary Sonny Angara, Commission on Higher Education chairperson J. Prospero de Vera III, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority Director General Jose Francisco Benitez, and Bangsamoro Education Minister Mohagber Iqbal as members of the UNACOM Committee on Education.

The President designated Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, Philippine Commission on Women executive director Khay Ann Magundayao-Borlado, and National Statistician Claire Dennis Mapa as members of the UNACOM Committee on Social and Human Sciences.

Marcos also named Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco, acting Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque, National Museum of the Philippines director Jeremy Robert Barns, and National Commission for Culture and the Arts chairman Victorino Manalo as members of the UNACOM Committee on Culture.

Also appointed were Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. as members of the UNACOM Committee on Science and Technology members; Information and Communications Technology Secretary Ivan John Uy, Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino chairman Arthur Casanova, and National Academy of Science and Technology-Engineering Sciences and Technology and Division chairperson Alvin Culaba as members of the UNACOM Committee on Communication and Information.

UNACOM, or the PH NatCom, was established in 1951 through Republic Act 621 to honor the Philippines' international commitment to UNESCO. It was later amended in 1953 through RA 892 in 1953 and in 1964 through RA 3849.

UNACOM was created to serve as an advisory and liaison body bridging the work of relevant Philippine partners to UNESCO's own work in educational, scientific and cultural matters and concerns.

Its mandate also includes the dissemination of public information on UNESCO's work and the formulation of policy feedback.

## **OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

The PCO also announced the appointments of Sarah Mae Cruz, Jennifer Fandialan-Legaspi, and Jane Yu as assistant solicitor generals; Rosalinda Bautista as deputy national statistician; and Mariflor Castillo as special prosecutor at the Ombudsman's office.

Also appointed were Felicitas Bay as Migrant Workers undersecretary; Farwa Hombre as Health assistant secretary; Rodolfo Castil Jr. as Agrarian Reform assistant secretary; Roger Masapol as Education assistant secretary; and Reymundo de Guzman Jr. as chairman of the Office of Transportation Cooperatives.

The other appointees were Silvestre Barrameda Jr., Yvonne Purisima Flores, and Juan Pulhin as new members of the Climate Change Commission's People Survival Fund Board; Carmen Leonor Alcantara and Roy Mahinay as members of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council; Francisco Gil and Ericson Velasquez as members of the board of the Philippine Rice Research Institute's Board of Trustees;

Dante Elcinas and Kenneth Fabila as members of the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board; Glady Bunao a member of the National Authority for Child Care; Romeo Racadio as Director IV at the National Security Council; and Rosalinda Chiong as Director II at the National Bureau of Investigation.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Gov't launches tool for gender-responsive actions vs. climate change](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched on Monday the Philippines Nationally Determined Contributions Gender Action Plan 2024-2030 (NDC GAP).

"We recognize that climate change is not gender neutral therefore we decided to pursue this gender action plan," CCC Commissioner and National Focal for Gender and Climate Change to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Rachel Anne Herrera said during the launch held at the ADB head office in Mandaluyong.

She said women are not only more likely to be affected by extreme weather events, but also play a vital role in post-disaster recovery efforts.

The NDC GAP 2024-2030, as mandated by CCC Resolution No. 2024-006, was developed by the CCC under the guidance of Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as Official Representative of the President to the CCC; CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje; and Herrera as project lead.

The project received technical assistance from the ADB, through its Knowledge Support Technical Assistance Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion Dimensions in Climate Change Interventions in Southeast Asia, and from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through its NDC Support Project for the Philippines.

The NDC GAP is an essential tool to guide government and stakeholders in the climate change sector, including in energy, transport, agriculture, waste, and industrial processes and product use, to integrate gender considerations across the NDC process.

It is designed to serve as a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of gender-responsive NDC implementation.

Herrera said the action plan supports gender-mainstreaming across all aspects of NDC process such as governance, adaptation and mitigation, measurement and reporting, and finance.

According to Herrera, under the action plan, strategic actions for 2024 to 2030 include creating a gender and climate change advisory group, harmonizing gender and development guidelines for climate change, establishing gender-responsive laws, policies, and guidance on climate change, sex-disaggregated database, capacity development, and career advancement for women on climate-related sectors.

## **PBBM names new UNACOM members, other gov't appointees**

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has named the new members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM or PH NatCom).

The list of new UNACOM members representing the government organization was released by the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) in its official Facebook page on Saturday.

Education Secretary Sonny Angara, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority director general Jose Francisco Benitez, Commission on Higher Education chairperson J. Prospero de Vera III, and Bangsamoro Education Minister Mohagber Iqbal will serve as members of the UNACOM Committee on Education.

Named UNACOM Committee on Social and Human Sciences members were Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, Philippine Commission on Women executive director Khay Ann Magundayao-Borlado, and National Statistician Claire Dennis Mapa.

Marcos picked National Museum of the Philippines director Jeremy Robert Barns, Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco, and National Commission for Culture and the Arts chairperson Victorino Manalo, acting Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque as members of UNACOM Committee on Culture.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. were appointed UNACOM Committee on Science and Technology members.

Marcos tapped Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino chairperson Arthur Casanova, Information and Communications Technology Secretary Ivan John Uy and National Academy of Science and Technology-Engineering Sciences and Technology and Division chairperson Alvin Culaba as members of the UNACOM Committee on Communication and Information.

Established by virtue of Republic Act 621 signed in 1951, UNESCO's original mandate was to serve as an advisory and liaison body bridging the work of relevant Philippine partners to UNESCO's own work in educational, scientific and cultural matters and concerns.

UNACOM's mandate further evolved to include a role in the formulation of policy feedback.

Other appointees



Meantime, Sarah Mae Cruz, Jennifer Fandialan-Legaspi, and Jane Yu were appointed assistant Solicitor Generals; Rosalinda Bautista as deputy National Statistician; Mariflor Castillo as special prosecutor at the Ombudsman's office; Felicitas Bay as Migrant Workers undersecretary; Farwa Hombre as Health assistant secretary; Reymundo de Guzman Jr. as chair of the Office of Transportation Cooperatives.

Marcos also named new appointees to the Department of Agrarian Reform, including Rodolfo Castil Jr. (assistant secretary); Abdullah Balindong and Elpidio Santos (Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officers II); and Josephine Aguinaldo and Virginia Batosalem (Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officers I).

At the Department of Education, Roger Masapol was appointed assistant secretary; Paolo Mikael Quilala as Director IV; Guia del Valle-Ramos as Director III; and Gaudencio Aljibe Jr., Juan Araojo Jr., Cynthia Ayles, Anelito Bongcawil, Melanie Estacio, Soraya Faculo, Jinky Firman, Nicasio Frio, Rommel Jandayan, Ernesto Servillon Jr., Bernadette Susvilla, Ferdinand Sy, and Novelyn Vilchez as schools division superintendents.

Marocs designated Silvestre Barrameda Jr., Yvonne Purisima Flores, and Juan Pulhin as new members of the Climate Change Commission's People Survival Fund Board, representing the non-government organizations, business sector, and the academe and scientific community, respectively.

Carmen Leonor Alcantara and Roy Mahinay were appointed members of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council. Alcantara will represent affected landowners in Mindanao, while Mahinay will serve as representative of agrarian reform beneficiaries in Visayas.

Francisco Gil Garcia will join the Philippine Rice Research Institute's Board of Trustees to represent the academic community, while Ericson Velasquez will represent the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Community.

Dante Elcinas and Kenneth Fabila were named members of the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board, representing the workers sector in the Bicol Region and the employers sector in Eastern Visayas, respectively.

Glady Bunao will serve as member of the National Authority for Child Care, representing the non-government organizations; Romeo Racadio as Director IV at the National Security Council; Rosalinda Chiong as Director II at the National Bureau of Investigation; and Emmanuel Ferrer, Norman Uyvico, and Remedios Vegim-Teves as Directors II at the Labor department.

Marcos also named Janet Quizon as Director III at the Science and Technology department; Gloriece Glen Do as Deputy Executive Director III at the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving; and Frances Cabana as Director IV at the NEDA.

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