



NEWS ROUNDUP

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ABS CBN

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By: Deutsche Welle

What is the water cycle?

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By Caecent No-ot Magsumbol

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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What is the water cycle?

Put simply, the water cycle — also known as the hydrological cycle — is the process by which water moves through the Earth's land, seas and atmosphere. Water in its three natural phases, be it gas, liquid or solid, forms part of the natural cycle that continuously refreshes the supply of water that we, and every other living thing, need to survive.

Of the world's finite supply of water, around 97% is salty. The remaining 3% is fresh water which we use for things like drinking, bathing or irrigating crops. Most of that, however, is out of reach, locked away in the ice or deep underground in aquifers. Only around 1% of the world's total water supply is readily available to sustain all life on Earth.

How does the water cycle work?

The water held in lakes, rivers, oceans and seas is constantly heated by the sun. As the surface warms, liquid water evaporates and becomes vapor, escaping into the atmosphere. Wind can speed up that evaporation process. Plants also release water vapor through the pores, or stoma, of their leaves and stems, in what's known as transpiration.

Once in the air, vapor begins to cool and condense around tiny, suspended particles of dust, smoke or other pollutants, and forms clouds. These clouds can move around the planet in horizontal bands known as atmospheric rivers — a key feature of the global cycle that fuels weather systems.

When enough water vapor collects, the droplets suspended in the clouds begin to merge and grow larger. Eventually, they get too heavy and fall to the ground in the form of rain — or snow and hail, depending on the air temperature. This precipitation recharges the rivers, lakes and other bodies of water down below, and the cycle begins again.

Water also percolates through the soil under the influence of gravity and pressure, where it collects in underground reservoirs or aquifers. It continues moving to lower elevations, sometimes for thousands of years, in a process called groundwater flow before eventually seeping into a body of water to rejoin the cycle.

How climate change is disrupting the water cycle

Recent research shows that in some parts of the world, the water cycle is speeding up in response to human-caused climate change.

Warmer temperatures are heating the lower atmosphere and increasing evaporation, adding more water vapor to the air. More water in the air means a greater chance of precipitation, often in the form of intense, unpredictable storms. Conversely, increased evaporation can also intensify dry conditions in areas prone to drought, with water escaping into the atmosphere rather than staying on the ground where it's needed.

A recent study by researchers at the Institute of Marine Sciences in Barcelona, Spain, illustrated how climate change is accelerating the cycle by analyzing ocean surface salinity, which increases as water evaporation intensifies.

"The acceleration of the water cycle has implications both at the ocean and on the continent, where storms could become increasingly intense," said Estrella Olmedo, the lead author of the study, in a press release. "This higher amount of water circulating in the atmosphere could also explain the increase in rainfall that is being detected in some polar areas, where the fact that it is raining instead of snowing is speeding up the melting."

What can we do to help?

It's become clear that drastic cuts to fossil fuel emissions won't be easy, and any noticeable improvements won't be quick. But some more immediate fixes to stabilize the water cycle are possible.

Restoring wetlands and rethinking agriculture, to incorporate farming techniques that conserve water and preserve and build up the soil, can help to maintain and restore the capacity of the ground to absorb, purify and store water.

Bringing rivers and waterways back to a more natural state can also help to reverse some of the damage. Projects to remove obsolete dams and weirs in Europe and elsewhere are a major step in the restoration of floodplains, which absorb water and help replenish groundwater reserves.

Cities can also turn to nature-based solutions to support the water cycle, by making urban surfaces more permeable. "Sponge cities" use porous surfaces to allow water to filter through streets, squares and other spaces rather than see it funneled away. This stores water for use during periods of drought, while at the same time helping to combat flooding.

What's at stake?

Cities and regions in the watershed of the Hindu Kush and Himalayan mountain ranges in Central Asia may need to start turning to solutions like these in the coming years. Billions of people there rely on the seasonal accumulation of packed snow and ice stored in mountains and glaciers for their fresh water.

But a third of the regions' major ice fields are expected to disappear by the end of this century, according to a 2019 study by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in Nepal — and that's if we manage to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit).

Without a consistent flow of meltwater, water scarcity will increase for billions of people. And while groundwater can make up some of the shortfall, that's also projected to decrease in the coming decades due to climate change. Agriculture has already become more difficult in places like the India-administered region of Ladakh, in the Hindu Kush Himalayan range, where scientists have recorded a drop in snowfall and glacier retreat over the last few decades.

"This is the climate crisis you haven't heard of," said Philippus Wester of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. "Impacts on people in the region, already one of the most fragile and hazard-prone mountain regions in the world, will range from an increase in extreme weather events, a reduction in agricultural yields and more frequent disasters."

MANILA BULLETIN

[Makati City to push for use of climate-financing instruments — Mayor Binay](#)

by Patrick Garcia

Makati City Mayor Abby Binay on Tuesday, Oct. 11, expressed her support for the use of climate-financing instruments which would give the city access to grants, loans, and funding opportunities to boost climate action as part of her administration's goal of improving Makati's climate change response initiatives.

Binay explained that after attending the Daring Cities 2022, a global virtual forum of urban leaders focusing on climate emergency finance challenges the local governments are facing around the world held in Bonn, Germany, she learned that there are three climate-financing instruments that can be applied in Makati: the city climate finance gap fund, green cities program, and the local climate adaptive living facility.

The mayor said the city government is planning to apply for support from the World Bank and the European Investment Bank through its city climate finance gap fund. The city climate finance gap fund is a climate action trust fund providing technical assistance and capacity building to help cities in developing countries turn climate-focused ideas into concrete project proposals.

Binay said she is also exploring the possibility of tapping the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development through its green cities program which supports cities by helping them create a green city action plan that includes sustainable infrastructure investments and policy measures.

The city government is also considering applying for the local climate adaptive living facility, a mechanism designed and hosted by the United Nations Capital Development Fund that provides technical assistance and tools for local governments to access climate funds and integrate climate change adaptation into local planning and budgeting system.

"I will introduce these three climate-financing instruments to the Makati Climate Change Committee so that we can study how we can use them to improve the quality of life of Makatizens and, at the same time, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change," Binay said.

"I think a lot of cities are missing out by not being able to tap these international organizations. It is essential for us to benchmark and get information on how successful climate initiatives were done, what mistakes were committed, and how these projects were sustained," she added.

Being the leader of various climate change-oriented groups and organizations, Binay said she expects to learn more about climate-financing schemes in the coming meetings with various international organizations and share new strategies with fellow local leaders to help them get access to grants, loans, and funding opportunities. During the Daring Cities 2022 global forum where she was a speaker, Binay presented the city's initiatives to address climate emergency and its investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

"We have made climate change mitigation and adaptation a priority. We have identified key action areas and are working on both short-term and long-term plans as well as an all-of-society approach that engages our citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders," Binay said.

"I am confident that by sharing best practices and working together, we can make our cities more resilient to the impacts of climate change," she added.

In a Youtube video posted on ICLEI's channel, the local chief executive underscored the importance of correct financing of local government units (LGUs) throughout the world in the creation and improvement of their climate change response initiatives, as well as the benefits of engaging in public-private partnerships in the creation of such efforts just like what is being done in Makati.

On Aug. 5, Binay sounded the alarm and declared a state of climate emergency in the city as she called for a whole-of-society approach in responding to the still growing issues of climate change in the country and in the world.

"As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides. This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities," Binay said during a webinar organized by the Makati Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO).

Based on data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), there has been a 0.75 degrees Celsius increase in the country's annual temperature over the past 70 years and by 2050, the temperature increase is expected to reach as high as 1.8 degrees Celsius.

Binay laid out her administration's programs and initiatives aiming to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in the city which includes the procurement of electric vehicles (e-vehicles) to be used by the city government, the installation of solar panels

in public schools and government offices to minimize energy consumption, and ensuring the continuity of services during calamities.

“We call upon everyone to come together and act now. We must ensure aggressive application of the whole-of-society approach in combating climate change. We heard the data. We understood the science. And we are feeling its impact. Now is a crucial time to act, and we need to act fast. We need thinkers, doers, and movers,” Binay said.

“The time for action is now. As the new breed of Makatizens and global citizens, it is our responsibility to take care of our city and ensure that it remains a livable place for future generations. We must promote sustainability and climate consciousness in all our actions. We must be the change we want to see in our city and the world,” she added.

The mayor also explained that the city strictly implements the Solid Waste Management Code, Makati Green Building Code, plastic ban among households and business establishments, ban on cigarette smoking, Anti-Smoke Belching Ordinance, and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Ordinance.

[Remulla to UNHCR: PH supports global agenda for people displaced by crises, conflicts, climate change](#)

By Jeffrey Damicog

Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Jesus Crispin C. Remulla has called for “real actions” to address displacement of people due to humanitarian crises, armed conflicts and climate change.

“The growing and continuing forced displacement of peoples from all over lead us to the conclusion that the global humanitarian agenda is, and must be, about people, their well-being, health, livelihood, and basic human dignity,” Remulla said last Monday, Oct. 10.

He spoke during the 73rd Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Program of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Remulla pointed out that the Philippines affirms and confirms “our continuing, strong and active support and cooperation to ensure the success of the global humanitarian agenda.”

“Despite our being a modest country, facing serious domestic issues like the energy crises, climate change, and disaster-induced internal displacement, we stand hand in hand with the international community in pushing the boundaries of how much we can help, to go beyond our comfort zone,” he stressed.

He said it has been the advocacy of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. to “rally for an international system that must work for the most vulnerable, especially the marginalized, migrants, refugees.”

“Our national development plan also gives a clear directive to uplevel our policies and programs,” he also said.

“We assure the High Commissioner of the Philippines’ resolve to continue to be one of this organization’s most vocal ally,” he declared.

Remulla said that the Philippines is “a nation of migrants, a land of people on the move, a safe haven for nine waves of refugees fleeing persecution” with a history “replete with images of our welcoming of refugees from all over the world under our longstanding open-door policy towards displaced people and other persons of concern.”

“This year, we ratified the 1961 Statelessness Convention, passed the Foundling Act, established an inter-agency body for protection services, and piloted Complimentary Pathways for Rohingyas,” he cited.

“We are also already looking ahead. Our focus is refining our small but scalable programs that suit our own national condition as a modest host country, while also remaining a donor to UNHCR and other humanitarian funds. Our vision is for my country to continue to carve its niche and become an example of how us in the ‘missing middle’ can help carry the burden as member of our community of nations,” he added.

To UNHCR, Remulla said: “It is imperative that we must take real action and solid plans, not mere token gestures, to help ensure a better future for the displaced and the most vulnerable, including women and children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and indigenous peoples.”

He said there must be “a clear direction to the UNHCR on how to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation, with defined action areas and operational guidelines, in the work of the organization.”

Thus, he said, there should be “sufficient support for developing countries to address climate change displacement, which is within the obligations under the Paris Agreement.”

“We must also ensure that the global food crisis and the rising inflation do not detract from our ability to deliver humanitarian services, nor create more vulnerabilities for displaced persons,” he also said.

“This requires political will from all parties, including ending protracted and new crises, and demanding comprehensive political solutions to end conflict and build enduring peace,” he added.

He then urged nations to “ensure that the UNHCR has the resources and political support to fulfill its mandate.”

“Our vision is also for an efficient fit-for-purpose UNHCR that can respond with agility and efficiency to any humanitarian crises, in any part of the world,” he said.

He also urged for “for equitable attention to different crises in different regions — to ensure that no refugee situation and no hosting community remain ignored or underfunded.”

There is the “need to provide sufficient support for all hosting communities, who do much of the heavy lifting and divert limited resources to help those in need” and “emphasize the generosity of donors, and urge them to explore how assistance can be scaled up,” he said.

He added that there is “an urgency to broaden the base of support beyond traditional donors and traditional hosting countries” and, because of this, expressed hope that “middle countries can also become formidable, pro-active voices and champions, who can fill in gaps where needed, and increase contributions where possible.”

MANILA STANDARD

[Climate change a global health threat](#)

World leaders are one in saying that climate change, the long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns, has become among the world's greatest health risks.

They agree that while no one is safe from these risks, the people whose health is being harmed first and worst by the climate crisis are the people who contribute least to its causes, and who are least able to protect themselves and their families against it — people in low-income and disadvantaged countries and communities.

The climate crisis threatens to undo the last 50 years of progress in development, global health, and poverty reduction, and to further widen existing health inequalities between and within populations.

We remember what President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said, in his address during the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York last month: "Climate change is the greatest threat affecting our nations and peoples. There is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the United Nations."

Mr. Marcos lamented that further inaction would result in the extreme suffering of "least responsible" smaller nations such as the Philippines.

We hold the argument that the crisis, sweeping across the inhabited continents, severely jeopardizes the realization of universal health coverage in various ways – including by compounding the existing burden of disease and by exacerbating existing barriers to accessing health services, often at the times when they are most needed.

We understand more than 930 million people — around 12 percent of the world's population — spend at least 10 percent of their household budget to pay for health care.

Experts add that climate change, sadly, is also undermining many of the social determinants for good health, like livelihoods, equality and access to health care and social support structures.

These climate-sensitive health risks are disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, including women, children, ethnic minorities, poor communities, migrants or displaced persons, older populations, and those with underlying health conditions.

Although it is unequivocal that climate change affects human health, it remains challenging to accurately estimate the scale and impact of many climate-sensitive health risks.

But – if this is any short-term consolation – scientific advances progressively allow people to attribute an increase in morbidity and mortality to human-induced warming, and more accurately determine the risks and scale of these health threats.

We agree with experts that in the short- to medium-term, the health impacts of climate change will be determined mainly by the vulnerability of populations, their resilience to the current rate of climate change and the extent and pace of adaptation.

In the longer-term, the effects will increasingly depend on the extent to which transformational action is taken now to reduce emissions and avoid the breaching of dangerous temperature thresholds and potential irreversible tipping points.

The people must not blink against the climate change challenge.

NHK WORLD

[COP27 chair urges all countries to remain focused on climate change](#)

The chair of the upcoming UN climate conference is urging nations to remain focused on climate change and not allow the war in Ukraine to distract attention away from the issue.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry made the remark during an interview with NHK in Cairo on Monday.

He is set to chair the COP27 climate change conference. The meeting will be held in the eastern Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. It begins on November 6.

Shoukry expressed concerns about floods and heatwaves that have dealt heavy blows to countries everywhere, especially in the developing world.

The minister said the main aim of the conference is to find ways to reduce the impact that climate change is having on ordinary people.

The chair referred to the turmoil in Ukraine. He said the worsening situation is affecting all multilateral systems. He said that is putting at risk the ability to find compromises and reach consensus on ways to deal with climate change.

He added that he does not want geopolitical tensions to spill over into the COP conference. He said all countries must remain focused on the issue of climate change.

He went on to say that the international community must remain united, as the existence of the whole world is at stake.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[World Bank to launch new trust fund for emissions reduction grants](#)

By Reuters

WASHINGTON – The World Bank said on Monday it is launching a trust fund aimed at pooling public funds to provide grants for projects to reduce carbon emissions, including decommissioning coal-fired power plants.

The Scaling Climate Action by Lowering Emissions (SCALE) fund will provide grants to developing countries as they deliver pre-agreed results in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, World Bank President David Malpass said in a LinkedIn post.

SCALE will be the new umbrella trust fund for the bank's results-based climate finance activities. Malpass said the World Bank was in the process of capitalizing the new fund, with the aim of launching it at the COP27 climate change conference in Egypt in November.

In a paper provided to the World Bank's and International Monetary Fund's joint Development Committee, the bank said it has identified three areas that are particularly well suited to such results-based financing grants: natural climate solutions based on agriculture, forestry, land-use and oceans; sustainable infrastructure such as energy and transport; and fiscal and financial solutions that directly or indirectly mobilize resources for climate actions.

The bank said the SCALE fund will bring new resources to emissions reduction projects in low- and middle-income countries, help generate larger projects, generate high-quality carbon credit assets and help countries enhance access to international carbon markets.

The World Bank did not identify a projected size for the new fund. The world's biggest multilateral development lender in fiscal 2022, ending on June 30, delivered over \$30 billion in climate-related finance.

But U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen last Thursday urged the World Bank and other multilateral development banks to shift their business models beyond country-specific project finance and to dramatically boost lending to address climate change and other pressing global needs.

THE FREEMAN

Climate change a factor in Sinulog preparations

By Caecent No-ot Magsumbol

CEBU, Philippines — As organizers gear up in their preparations for the grand Sinulog comeback in 2023, the issue on climate change plays a huge part in its planning activity.

“This is really a big challenge to be holding this in an entirely new set-up and location,” said Jojo Labella, Executive Director of the Sinulog Foundation.

Even the staging of the latest Pasigarbo at the Cebu City Sports Center a few months back saw several participants collapsing due to the extreme heat and fatigue.

With a new venue, the South Road Properties (SRP), organizers are carefully taking into consideration the matter of climate change, especially since the SRP is mostly still a barren land and near the seaside.

The organizers are looking at shortening the street dancing, the Sinulog carousel route and the presentation proper itself.

The infrastructure alone to be put up at the SRP, which include the event’s stage, bleachers plus the tent city that Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama had envisioned, is also quite a challenge, the organizers said.

“It’s a big infrastructure challenge (especially for SRP’s Bo Varquez and Engr. Ricky Dakay, a well-respected contractor and part of the Sinulog Foundation who are tasked in setting up the Sinulog infrastructure). Shades, shelter, control of the heat of the bleachers is also being considered because of climate change. Even the banderetas, it would help if if imong bagaan or depende ani),” Labella said.

The upcoming Sinulog is anticipated to be the grandest, with the involvement of the Cebu Province and the two other highly-urbanized cities, Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue, after Mayor Rama conceptualized it as a One Island Sinulog.

Although it’s a tall order for the organizers and the Cebu City government, Labella assures that they are doing their best to give the Cebuanos and all its visitors an unforgettable experience.

“It’s going to be one big fiesta at the SRP,” Labella said.

Good thing though, majority of the city councilors are also helping out Rama and Vice Mayor Raymond Garcia in ensuring that Sinulog 2023 will be successful, Labella added.

THE MANILA TIMES

Understanding extreme weather events

By Arlie O. Calalo

AS the Earth gets hotter, frequent and more intense weather events have unfolded around the world.

Extreme weather events are considered by the United States' National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine as those that produce unusually high or low levels of rain or snow, temperature, wind or other effects.

The collective said that global warming had contributed to the intensity of heat waves by increasing the chances of very hot days and nights. Warming air also boosts evaporation, which can worsen droughts.

Global warming increases water vapor in the atmosphere, which can lead to more frequent heavy rain and snowstorms. It also causes sea levels to rise.

That rise, along with more rainfall, can result in destructive flooding. And while global warming is likely making hurricanes more intense, scientists don't know yet if it increases the number of hurricanes each year.

The effect of global warming on the frequency, intensity, size and speed of hurricanes remains a subject of scientific research.

The Philippines, which is lashed by at least 20 typhoons a year, has seen its share of extreme weather events.

The most recent storm to have pounded Luzon — "Karding" ("Noru") — is in this category, having gained intensity so fast that it became a super typhoon in just six hours.

Weather-related extreme events are often short-lived and include heat waves, heavy downpours, tornadoes, tropical cyclones and floods, Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said.

The former chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said that these extreme events either persist longer or emerge from an accumulation of weather or climate events.

Situated between the South China Sea and the Western Pacific Ocean, the Philippines is more prone to typhoons and storm surges than some countries.

One of the world's most disaster-prone nations, the Philippines is located along the boundary of major tectonic plates and at the center of a typhoon belt. Its islands are regularly hit by floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and droughts.

Typhoons are the most common disasters in the country, followed by earthquakes and volcanoes.

"The climate change that is happening now is attributed to the rapid increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Future climate change conditions are therefore projected based on different possible scenarios or changes in GHG concentrations that are influenced by the level of mitigation that humans could implement," Solidum said.

"Extreme heat is a definite threat to people living in warm countries, which is those along the equator and within the tropics, which includes the Philippines. Sea level rise is also a threatening issue for coastal communities and requires a lot of attention, especially for an archipelagic country such as ours," he added.

The National Capital Region is one of several areas often hit by floods. Other areas most prone to floods are the Bicol Region, particularly the province of Camarines Sur; Agusan del Sur; Surigao del Sur; and the cities of Manila, Mandaluyong, Makati, Marikina, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

The National Academies said that understanding global warming's impacts on extreme weather is important because it can help inform choices about managing risks.

For example, if a community knows that increased rainfall from global warming had turned what was previously a "500-year flood" into a "100-year flood" (more accurately, a flood with a 1-in-500 chance of happening each year now having a 1-in-100 chance), it may make different choices about how to manage land, what and where people can build, or whether to build a flood wall.

It said that extreme weather events were influenced by many factors in addition to global warming, including seasonal and natural climate patterns such as the El Niño or La Niña.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Norway to help Philippine RE development](#)

By Richmond Mercurio

MANILA, Philippines — Norway plans to introduce new renewable energy technologies to the Philippines in support of the country's push to utilize more clean energy sources.

"Norway is a long-term partner of the Philippines. We are also looking to expand these strong ties into new industries, such as renewable energy, where Norwegian companies have a lot to offer," Norwegian ambassador-designate to the Philippines Christian Halaas Lyster said.

A leading player in renewable energy globally, Norway expressed readiness to assist the Philippines in its goal of increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix to 30 percent by 2030.

Norwegian companies are looking forward in particular to explore offshore wind opportunities with local partners in the country.

A recent World Bank report has shown that the country has the potential to develop up to 178 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind.

"Norwegian companies and investors can play a very crucial role delivering renewable energy solutions to the Philippines," Lyster said.

"This for example includes developing offshore wind and floating solar, in addition to LNG as a transitional source of energy," he said.

Norway is not a newcomer to the country's energy market, with Norwegian company Scatec owning and operating four hydropower players together with Aboitiz Energy. Their joint venture, SN Aboitiz Power, also installed floating solar technology on the Magat Dam in 2019.

The technology was provided by Ocean Sun, another Norwegian firm. Other Norwegian companies are also looking into deploying innovative solutions for floating solar in the Philippines.

On liquefied natural gas (LNG), Oslo-based BW is a partner of First Gen Corp. in developing LNG capabilities for the country.

Alternergy Holdings Corp., meanwhile, said in a statement that it looks forward to being the preferred local partner to foreign players as they expand into the country's renewable energy space.

"We have received inquiries from companies abroad. Alternergy, as a local renewable energy pioneer with projects that are already operational, under construction and in the pipeline, fully understands the permitting, political, local and environmental landscape as well as community engagements," Alternergy chairman and former energy secretary Vince Perez said.

Alternergy has also lauded the move by the Department of Energy and the Department of Justice to relax the restriction for foreign ownership in the exploration, development and utilization of renewable energy resources.

"We welcome this first step of regulatory liberalization, and while there will be more regulatory and legislative measures needed to implement this, however, this early, it has triggered interest from worldwide renewable players," Perez said.

"We expect that this will bring in increased capitalization to further accelerate the development of renewable resources in the country," he said.

[Binay backs climate financing](#)

By Emmanuel Tupas

MANILA, Philippines — Makati Mayor Abigail Binay is pushing for the use of three climate-financing instruments that would give the city access to grants, loans and funding opportunities to boost climate action.

Binay made the statement after attending Daring Cities 2022, an event organized by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in Bonn, Germany.

She is a member of ICLEI global executive committee and heads its innovative financing portfolio.

Binay said the three instruments – the city climate gap fund, green cities program and the local climate adaptive living facility – would make Makati and other cities more resilient.

“I will introduce these three climate-financing instruments to the Makati climate change committee so that we can study how we can use them to improve the quality of life of Makatizens and, at the same time, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change,” she said.

Binay will attend the 27th UN Climate Change conference to be held in Egypt from Nov. 6 to 18.

YAHOO NEWS

[Could climate change cause civilisation collapse?](#)

By Rob Waugh

It sounds like the plot of some far-fetched eco-thriller, but could climate change lead to civilisation collapse?

A new opinion piece published in respected scientific journal, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, has called for more research into how climate change might – just possibly – precipitate a civilisation collapse.

The researchers say that the idea needs to be taken seriously, so that it's not just film-makers dealing with the idea of eco-apocalypse but scientists too.

The researchers point towards several scenarios, such as climate change causing collapse of some urban areas, while others suffer food and water scarcity – or global collapse where urban areas around the world are abandoned, nations are no more, and global population falls.

The researchers say that the direct effects of climate change – such as drought, flooding, and extreme heat – are only one risk.

The researchers write that climate change may also have indirect effects on systems like trade and international cooperation, which might in turn lead to political conflict, dysfunction, and war.

These shocks could lead to reduced adaptability which would leave nations vulnerable to other shocks, like pandemics.

Daniel Steel, of the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia, said, "Scientists have warned that climate change threatens the habitability of large regions of the Earth and even civilization itself, but surprisingly little research exists about how collapse could happen and what can be done to prevent it.

"A better understanding of the risks of collapse is essential for climate ethics and policy."

"The danger climate change poses to civilization shouldn't just be left for journalists, philosophers, and filmmakers to ponder. Scientists have a responsibility to investigate this, too."

Last year, a UN report warned that extreme weather events like heatwaves and droughts which previously would have happened every 50 years could soon happen every four.

The report, by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), was the first to quantify the likelihood of extreme events across a wide variety of scenarios. Dr. Robert Rohde, lead scientist of Berkeley Earth, said, "What were once-in-50-year heat extremes are now occurring every 10 years.

"By a rise of two degrees celsius, those same extremes will occur every 3.5 years." The report found that (for example) once-in-a-decade heavy rain events are already 1.3 times more likely and 6.7% wetter, compared with the 50 years leading up to 1900 when human-driven warming began to occur.

Droughts that previously happened once a decade now happen every five or six years. Xuebin Zhang, a climatologist with Environment Canada in Toronto warned that as the world warms, such extreme weather events will not just become more frequent, they will become more severe.

Zhang said that the world should also expect more compound events, such as heat waves and long-term droughts occurring simultaneously.

"We are not going to be hit just by one thing, we are going to be hit by multiple things at the same time," Zhang added.

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