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By: Rory Visco

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By: Angie Bone, Karin Leder, Tin Tin Su and Tony Capon

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KHALEEJ TIMES

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By: Kosuke Takami

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Leander C. Domingo

THE Greenpeace ship "Rainbow Warrior" will return to the Philippines after four years "to build support for the demand for reparations from the world's biggest corporations for their role in the worsening climate crisis."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Bets in Barangay polls urged to invest in disaster prevention, preparedness

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Candidates in the upcoming barangay elections should invest in disaster prevention and preparedness to build resilient and secure communities, government and disaster risk reduction officials said Thursday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

10 women leaders receive Philippine Resilience Awards

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

Ten exceptional women leaders received recognition in the Philippine Resilience Awards ceremony on Thursday, 12 October. The recognition was organized by the Climate Change Commission in collaboration with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, the Philippine Commission on Women, the Carlos P. Romulo Foundation, the National Resilience Council, ARISE Philippines, WIN DRR Philippines, and SM Prime Holdings, Incorporated.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

CCC, JICA seal partnership to bolster climate change programs of PH

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. This collaboration was formalized through the signing of a Letter of Understanding (LOU) on October 3.

Outstanding women leaders recognized at the Philippine Resilience Awards

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), in collaboration with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, Philippine Commission on Women, Carlos P. Romulo Foundation, National Resilience Council, ARISE Philippines, WIN DRR Philippines, and SM Prime Holdings, Inc., honored exceptional women leaders during the Philippine Resilience Awards for Women - Awarding Ceremony held today.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

Climate change crisis to have a great impact on people's health—expert

By: Rory Visco

Climate change, no matter how the cliché goes, affects not only the environment but the planet. It also affects the health of humans because climate change affects vital elements that humans need in order to survive in this world such as clean air, safe, potable drinking water, enough food and secure shelter.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that between the years 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to “cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress,” while direct damage costs to health “is estimated to be between US\$2 to 4 billion per year by 2030. The global health agency reported that developing countries, those with weak health infrastructures, “will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.”

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has revealed that in order to avert and prevent millions of climate change-related deaths, the global temperature should not exceed 1.5°C. Anything higher than this, even by an additional tenth of a degree of warming, would be damaging to people's lives and health, according to the group.

Case in point was the recent heavy rainfall and the ensuing floods that happened in Libya, which was hit by Storm “Daniel.” For a country where approximately 93 percent of the land surface receives less than 100 mm (around 4 inches) of rain per year, what happened in Derna should be a “wake up call for the world” on the increasing risk of catastrophic floods in a world changed by climate change, says Jagan Chapagain, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Scientists declared that even in a 1.2°C climate, which is already “warm,” the rainfall Libya experienced was termed “extreme,” an event that may occur once every 300 to 600 years.

Climate crisis is a health crisis

ACCORDING to Dr. Maria Guevara, the International Medical Secretary for Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the climate crisis is a health crisis that has disastrous health impacts, especially in Asia Pacific.

Over the past several years, Dr. Guevara noted that the country has experienced the onslaught of very strong typhoons like Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan)

which struck the country back in 2013. This super typhoon totally devastated the central part of the Philippines through extensive flooding that placed homes underwater, destroyed countless properties and killed human lives.

However, she said it's not just about cyclones and super typhoons. She revealed that July of this year was the Earth's hottest temperature in 174 years. This resulted in many conflagrations such as those in Canada, then major countries in Europe such as France, Spain, Germany, Poland, and Italy experienced major heatwaves that they've never experienced before, same as in coastlines from Florida to Australia.

Impact felt now

Being a medical humanitarian organization, Doctors Without Borders, according to Dr. Guevara, is already seeing the impact of climate change on the people they treat in over 70 countries around the world, like in Myanmar and Bangladesh, which Cyclone Mocha hit and destroyed not only communities but refugee camps as well.

Over the years, she said, these extreme weather events are happening globally, with greater frequency, and stronger impact. However, Dr. Guevara said climate change also has other impacts on health. She said high levels of vector-borne, food-borne, and water-borne diseases in areas where they operate is worrying, as this is projected to increase as the climate crisis accelerates.

Dr. Guevara pointed out that based on their estimates, there will be 15 million more cases of malaria yearly, with 30,000 deaths linked to that, aside from what is seen now. "One billion more people are expected to be exposed to dengue, not only in Asia Pacific, where it is much more prevalent, but 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," Dr. Guevara explained.

According to Dr. Guevara, climate change is also linked to food insecurity and malnutrition. "With extreme weather events such as heat waves and increased rainfall come droughts and floods that impact farming and fishing communities, affecting everything from the yield of crops grown, to the animals that till the soil, to the number of fish caught in nets," she said.

Spread of diseases

It does not end there, according to her, as other impacts of climate change include the spread of non-communicable diseases, forced displacement and migration, and the emergence of conflicts, among others. “And all of these are expected to intensify over time—unless we take urgent action,” she added.

She said Doctors Without Borders can only do so much but much more is needed, especially in Asia Pacific to the Middle East, and the African nations. Countries with limited resources, Dr. Guevara averred, are enduring the worst of the devastation brought by the climate crisis, like Rohingya patients in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, who are already burdened and threatened by floodings and cyclones, while their patients in the island nation of Kiribati face climate and environmental changes that threaten their livelihoods and exacerbate their risks in contracting diseases.

“We have been sounding the alarm. We see these huge needs brought about by the climate crisis, and we fear that these needs are outstripping our capacity to respond. We need the countries most responsible for this global warming of 1.2°C 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 also put in place policies and affirmative climate actions in addressing and reversing the impact of these issues,” Dr. Guevara declared.

She noted, though, that they are already seeing commitments from world leaders, like the G20 nations who have committed to a greener and more climate-resilient health system. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has five of the world’s 20 most at-risk countries located in the region, has announced an ambitious strategy to work towards carbon neutrality. The COP28 agenda in November has an increased focus on health, relief and disaster response, Dr. Guevara declared.

“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 urgent action needs to be taken now. The climate crisis requires a whole-of-society approach. People and organizations must also understand that our own behaviors are a part of the problem. We need to respond together, in solidarity with all, for the health of all.”

ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] COP28: Say climate crisis, think health crisis](#)

By: Angie Bone, Karin Leder, Tin Tin Su and Tony Capon

In 2023, Canada endured its “worst wildfire season in recorded history”, flooding in Derna, Libya caused an “unprecedented humanitarian crisis” and extreme weather events continue to rage around the world.

The climate crisis is already affecting millions: bringing death, injuries and mental health consequences, as well as the loss of homes, livelihoods, health services and critical infrastructure like power, transport and communications.

By now, there should be no doubt: the climate crisis is also a health crisis. And, as COP28 brings together world leaders to address climate change, they will also consider how to deal with the health-related ramifications that come with an ailing environment.

Wealthy countries, most responsible for global heating, often don't acknowledge the health impacts on their citizens, let alone effects on health elsewhere.

The countries most engaged with the health effects of climate change are low and middle income countries.

COP28 is the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate change.

It is the first that will have a dedicated 'Health Day' and will include a climate and health ministerial meeting, co-hosted by the COP28 presidency, World Health Organization and the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention.

It is also supported by governments including Brazil, Egypt, the Netherlands, Sierra Leone, India, Fiji, Germany, Kenya, the United States and the United Kingdom.

More than 50 health ministers are expected to attend, alongside their finance and climate counterparts. The aim is to build consensus on priority policy and investment in health systems and to get commitments from health and climate funders for a first tranche of money for implementation.

These health-specific initiatives are to be encouraged, but should not relieve pressure on all sectors to protect and improve health and wellbeing.

While momentum for action on climate change and health is growing, there are big challenges, particularly for countries with limited resources and civil unrest.

Even if nationally determined contributions — the actions each country intends to take to adapt to climate change and limit global average temperature increases to as close as 1.5 degrees Celsius as possible — and long-term net-zero targets are achieved, the world would still be on track for a global mean temperature increase of 1.7-2.1 degrees Celsius this century.

This would cause widespread health harm. To avoid this, countries must urgently strengthen and deliver on all their climate commitments.

The first Global Stocktake of the world's progress on the Paris Agreement will take place at COP28. This will assess emissions reduction, climate adaptation, financing, the socio-economic impact of intervention and efforts to reduce and respond to loss and damage.

All of these are relevant for human health.

Incorporating impacts on health in this stocktake will help make the human impacts of our collective inaction visible. It would also show that the health benefits of greener economies outweigh the cost of acting at the scale and pace necessary to avert disaster.

The ways climate change threatens people's health can be broadly categorised as direct (the immediate impacts of a hazard) or indirect (mediated through a hazard's impacts on the natural and human systems, on which our health depends).

Wildfires are a case in point. They directly affect the health of those in close proximity, through burns, smoke inhalation and heat stress, which can cause death and injury.

But the bigger health impacts of wildfires occur indirectly: either locally or at a distance. These include smoke-related air pollution that causes lung and heart disease, damage to the water catchments and agricultural land we rely on for safe drinking water and food, and disruptions to power, communications, health and other services.

There are significant mental health impacts from loss: friends and family, community, property, livelihoods, and expectations for the future. This can extend beyond the directly affected community and trigger eco-anxiety in the general population.

The increasing recognition that people's health is inextricably linked to the planet's health is reflected in initiatives like the World Health Organization's Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health.

This aims to support countries to build health systems able to cope with the health impacts of climate change, including maintaining their essential functions during and after extreme weather events. More than 70 countries have already signed up.

Countries are recognising the link between climate action and human health: 91 per cent of countries in their nationally determined contribution reports have at least some reference to health.

Those references relate to building resilience for the health impacts of climate change, the health benefits of low-carbon living, or climate and health financing.

However, only 29 per cent of countries have allocated climate finance to these health actions in their contribution reports. There is a large finance gap for international development work at the climate and health interface.

Urgent, effective and equitable climate action is needed to protect the health and wellbeing of current and future generations. Swiftly decarbonising economies by transitioning away from fossil fuels is key to avoiding the worst health impacts of climate change.

Industrialised countries, whose current and legacy emissions have contributed most to climate change, must take greatest responsibility for reducing their own emissions and supporting lower-income countries to develop sustainable and resilient economies.

Safeguarding people's physical and mental health should be front and centre of national responses to climate change.

This includes preparing communities and health systems to cope with the impacts, as well as ensuring that the potential health benefits of a green transition are accessible to all.

Making this happen requires finance to make buildings, services and supply chains more resilient and to increase and upskill the health workforce. COP28's focus on health could be a welcome stimulus for increased investment.

Angie Bone is a public physician and an Associate Professor of Practice in Planetary Health at Monash Sustainable Development Institute. She is the former Deputy Chief Health Officer for environment in Victoria, Australia.

Karin Leder is an infectious diseases physician and a Professor in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, where she co-leads the Planetary Health Division. Her research is supported by a National Health and Medical Research Council Research Fellowship (APP1155005).

Tin Tin Su is a professor of public health at Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Science and director of the South East Asia Community Observatory (SEACO), Monash University Malaysia.

Tony Capon is a professor of planetary health in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, and director of the Sustainable Development Institute at Monash University.

KHALEEJ TIMES

[UAE, Unicef partner to educate youth on climate change ahead of COP28](#)

By: Angel Tesorero

Aimed at advancing climate education and action among youth and children, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) to launch 'Greening Capacities Initiative' on Thursday.

The partnership is also in line with the preparation for the upcoming COP28 (climate change conference) hosted by the UAE from November 30 to December 12 at Expo City Dubai.

MoE and Unicef will execute three joint programmes, Educators Training – Climate Education Pioneers, Net Zero Heroes, and Children's Art Competition, to "empower students and educators to navigate climate changes and work towards a better environmental future." Details of these initiatives will be announced ahead of COP28.

Pivotal role

Dr. Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi, MoE assistant undersecretary of care and capacity building, emphasised the pivotal role of education in leading a positive change and addressing the repercussions of climate change. She said, "(We have to) provide children and youth with climate education and nurture their skills to promote sustainability."

"MoE will continue to form local and international strategic partnerships to organise programmes fostering climate awareness among youth, adolescents and children before, during and after COP28," she added.

Al Tayyeb Adam, Unicef representative also highlighted the "vital role of education". He noted, "Combatting the repercussions of climate change is imperative for safeguarding children globally. It is our responsibility to ensure that all children and youth receive climate education and actively participate in climate change discussions and decisions at local, national, regional and global levels."

Milestone moment

COP28 UAE is hailed as a milestone moment, when the world will take stock of its progress on the Paris Agreement. The goal set at that time was to keep the rise in mean global temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and preferably limit the increase to 1.5°C to substantially reduce the effects of climate change.

NIKKEI ASIA

[Sustainable climate policies must go beyond spending: IMF official](#)

By: Kosuke Takami

Fighting climate change with ever-larger amounts of government spending could risk pushing public debt to unsustainable levels in large economies, said Vitor Gaspar of the International Monetary Fund

Gaspar, the director of the IMF's fiscal affairs department, advocates a focus on carbon pricing alongside a mix of other policies, such as "well-designed" subsidies that respect World Trade Organization rules.

He recommends reducing explicit fuel subsidies like those Japan is using to counteract higher gasoline prices.

Excerpts Gaspar's recent interview with Nikkei follow.

Q: The IMF's World Economic Outlook forecasts the global ratio of public debt to gross domestic product growing 5 percentage points in the five years to 2028. Is this sustainable?

A: It is true that global public debt is higher now than what was projected pre-pandemic, and it's also estimated to grow faster than pre-pandemic. At this pace, global public debt will be approaching 100% of GDP by the end of this decade. That is just the prolongation of the trend that you've quoted yourself.

But there are very sharp differences across countries. As a matter of fact, this trend in global public debt is very much marked by trends in large economies like the United States and China. If one would take out the U.S. and China from global public debt, instead of the rising by about one percentage point per year, as you indicated, debt would be declining by about one-half of one percentage point per year.

For those countries where debt-to-GDP ratios are projected to increase, it is important to engage in fiscal consolidation and reforms, to stabilize debt ratios over the medium term. And fiscal frameworks can help to do that.

We in the Fiscal Monitor emphasize very much the challenge of climate change, and we, there, talk about a policy "trilemma" that comes from the policy priority associated with tackling climate change, delivering on the Paris agreements. That puts pressure on the spending side of the budget.

The Fiscal Monitor also emphasizes the importance of political feasibility and in particular the possibility of the existence of political red lines on taxation. And so, given the pressure of spending and given constraints on taxation, there is a pressure on deficits and debt, with dangers for debt sustainability and financial stability.

What the Fiscal Monitor shows is that if one would simply scale up the current policies that fight climate change, with a heavy emphasis on spending instruments like subsidies or public investment, by 2050 the additional increase in the debt-to-GDP ratio would be 40 to 50 percentage points higher than under the baseline.

In order to tackle that, the Fiscal Monitor advocates a smart policy mix that would have carbon pricing at its center as a necessary element but not sufficient, and it would have to be used in combination with other instruments, to foster innovation and green technologies, and to facilitate adjustment of households and corporations.

Q: Some economists have said "Bidenomics" policies like electric-vehicle subsidies are protectionist and ultimately harmful to innovation. Do you agree?

A: So let me start with our main message. We say that carbon pricing is central, but not sufficient. And one of the things which is necessary is policies that complement carbon pricing, to tackle "some" important market failures.

And one such an instrument is subsidies to innovation, because well-designed subsidies help internalize externalities associated with the production, diffusion and adoption of green technologies. You cannot do that through carbon pricing alone.

That doesn't mean that all is perfect. One does need to design these subsidies carefully.

And one of the principles that must be respected is conformity with free trade rules under the aegis of the World Trade Organization.

Moreover, while diversifying the location of production is important for resilience, it is essential to respect a level playing field so that production takes place where costs are most favorable.

Q: The IMF has criticized fossil fuel subsidies, but in Japan, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has announced that the government will spend more money to control gasoline prices.

A: Targeted transfers to vulnerable households can support spending more than energy subsidies at the same fiscal cost. Suppressing price signals through energy subsidies can hamper global energy security by continuing to encourage higher energy demand, pushing up energy prices for other countries.

Explicit fossil fuel subsidies are estimated by us at \$1.28 trillion. That's 1.3% of global GDP.

Fiscal savings associated with the unwinding of the fossil fuel subsidies could help finance important public spending priorities like supporting vulnerable households or increased public investment, or support the adjustment of households and firms to green technologies, or reduce taxes on labor or subsidize innovation.

So we believe that making progress in reducing explicit fuel subsidies would be most helpful.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Global hydrological cycle out of balance, says UN weather agency](#)

The global hydrological cycle is spinning out of balance due to human activities, with droughts and extreme rainfall spurring climate change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Thursday.

"Glaciers and ice cover are retreating before our eyes. Rising temperatures have accelerated – and also disrupted – the water cycle," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said at a UN press conference.

"A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture. We are seeing much heavier precipitation episodes and flooding. And at the opposite extreme, more evaporation, dry soils, and more intense droughts."

Currently, 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water at least a month per year, which is expected to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050, according to the UN weather agency.

"Globally, we know already now that about half of the world has experienced an increase of flooding events and about one-third of the planet has been facing an increase of drought events," said Taalas, noting the WMO is the UN's only agency specializing in water, weather, and climate.

Enhancing flood potential

"We know that a one-degree warming of the climate means that we have 7 percent more humidity in the atmosphere, which means that it's enhancing the flooding potential."

Droughts and extreme rainfall events are wreaking a heavy toll on lives and economies, says the UN weather agency report that provides an extensive assessment of global water resources.

Melting snow, ice, and glaciers have increased hazards like floods and threatened long-term water security for millions of people.

Nonetheless, WMO said far too little is known about the actual state of the world's freshwater resources in the report, which is described as a comprehensive and consistent overview of water resources worldwide.

It highlights the impact of climate, environmental, and societal changes, according to Taalas.

The world is unable to manage what it does not measure, says the WMO State of Global Water Resources 2022 report, which calls for a fundamental policy shift.

"There must be improved monitoring, data-sharing, cross-border collaboration and assessments of water resources – and an accompanying increase in investments to facilitate this," the WMO report said.

"This is vital to help society cope with increasing water extremes of too much or too little," it added.

The WMO State of Global Water Resources Report was first launched in 2022.

The new report added information on important hydrological variables like groundwater, evaporation, stream flow, terrestrial water storage, soil moisture, cryosphere (frozen water), reservoir inflows, and hydrological disasters.

It integrates field observations, satellite-based remote sensing data, and numerical modeling simulations to assess water resources at the global scale.

POLITIKO

No To Forest Destruction: CBCP Backs Alternative Mineral Management Bill

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has urged the government to pass the Alternative Mineral Management Bill (AMMB).

“Given the worsening global climate change situation, it is imperative that we no longer permit the destruction of our forests and mountains,” said CBCP Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples (CBCP-ECIP) chairperson Bishop Valentin Dimoc.

“It is time to enact the Alternative Mineral Management Bill (AMMB),” he pointed out.

The prelate lamented that in various parts of the country, particularly in Palawan and Mindanao, “extensive and destructive mining operations continue to ravage not only the environment but also the community relations inside and outside these areas.”

Because of this, the bishop appealed to the government “to heed the pleas of our indigenous brothers and sisters.”

“We call on government agencies to fulfill their sworn duties and respond to the cries of the people, especially the marginalized,” he stated.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] The climate crisis is not gender-neutral](#)

IN a recent report, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that while women and girls are among the most vulnerable to climate change, few governments have incorporated in their climate adaptation agenda the upholding of their rights and well-being.

The UN sexual and reproductive health agency reviewed the climate plans of 119 countries and found that only 38 have gender-sensitive components.

This is a glaring disconnect. In countries most at risk to climate change, "women and girls are disproportionately affected even though they have contributed the least to the global climate emergency," said UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem.

Even before the UNFPA released its report, the figures have already been skewed against women. In the 2004 Asian tsunami, over 70 percent of the dead in Indonesia and India were women. And more women than men died during the 2003 heat wave in France.

In many regions, women bear the burden of securing food, water and fuel for their families. This burden gets heavier when natural calamities like droughts, floods and wildfires ravage the land.

Girls suffer, too, often missing school because they are tied to grueling household chores.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also linked climate-related hazards to pregnancy problems such as anemia, low birth weight and even miscarriage.

Extreme weather events can make pregnant women vulnerable to a host of other illnesses, the EPA said.

Climate change leads to conflict settings that leave women and girls exposed to gender-based and sexual violence.

It took a while before a correlation between gender equity and climate change could be established. Scientific research has since provided irrefutable proof that such a link

exists, and the next step is to combine women's empowerment and global climate action into one effective program, the UNFPA said.

The Philippines was among the first nations to take that step. Long identified as a "climatic hazard hotspot," it was among the 10 countries most at risk from extreme weather events in the 2020 Global Risk Index.

In 2009, the country passed Republic Act (RA) 9729, or the "Climate Change Act," which created a commission to draw up a sustainable climate adaptation and resilience plan. RA 9729 also mandated that the strategy must be inclusive and gender-responsive.

Aligning its goals with the 2015 Paris Agreement for Climate Change, the Philippines came up with a climate plan that expands the definition of gender from just women to include persons of diverse sexual orientations.

The Climate Change Commission reached out to different national government agencies in developing a gender-sensitive action strategy.

The initiative has offered surprising insights. The Department of Agriculture, for example, found that more female farmers and fishermen are becoming more vulnerable to climate change impacts.

The commission has also partnered with the Philippine Commission on Women in building up the government's gender-responsive capacity.

International and nongovernmental organizations can help break the cycle of conflict, climate and gender inequality. The Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub believes that micro credit "can play an important role in refinancing rural farming activities after disasters, and there's some evidence that such programs work particularly well to build community resilience when they're aimed at women."

Angela Baschieri, one of the UNFPA report's authors, acknowledges national plans for a gender-sensitive climate action are a work in progress, and there is "a need to address those gaps and impacts."

"Climate is setting us back on the fight to gender equality. Our point would be to make sure that climate policy recognizes the differential impact on women and takes it into account in the design of policy," said Baschieri.

The UNDP has proposed increasing women's participation and representation in all levels of the climate decision-making processes, and harnessing women's traditional knowledge and perceptions to add a gender-sensitive perspective in analyzing adaptation and disaster risks.

Above all, the world must never lose sight of the fact that the climate crisis is not "gender-neutral." It is biased against women and threatens their way of life, health and safety.

'Rainbow Warrior' returns to PH

By: Leander C. Domingo

THE Greenpeace ship "Rainbow Warrior" will return to the Philippines after four years "to build support for the demand for reparations from the world's biggest corporations for their role in the worsening climate crisis."

Karl Orit, Greenpeace communications campaigner, said the ship returns as the Philippines commemorates the 10th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan), the worst typhoon to hit the country.

Orit noted that the 2023 Greenpeace Philippines Ship Tour will stop in Tacloban City, Bohol province and Manila "to highlight the stories and demands of communities affected by extreme weather events and compounding climate impacts."

In 2013, Greenpeace campaigner Jefferson Chua said Super Typhoon Haiyan left behind a path of destruction, death and trauma for many Filipinos.

"But that cycle hasn't ended — since then, Filipinos have seen more frequent extreme weather. Scientists are also telling us that the worst is yet to come," Chua added.

He said experts have confirmed that fossil fuel companies are historically responsible for the climate crisis "raking in billions in profit while local municipalities and communities lose lives, homes and livelihoods. Unfortunately, governments are not holding these big polluters to account."

Chua also pointed out that while justice remains elusive for Filipino communities, these same communities are standing up to demand accountability and payment for losses and damages from climate impacts.

He said the Rainbow Warrior returns to honor these communities and will support their demand for climate justice.

Greenpeace said these calls are anchored on the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines' Climate Change and Human Rights report, which found a factual basis that fossil fuel companies are morally responsible for human rights harms to Filipinos brought on by climate impacts.

Earlier this week, a Pulse Asia survey showed 65 percent of respondents felt a big change in the climate in their respective areas in the last three years, while 71 percent said climate change posed a threat to themselves and their families.

Greenpeace also cited that the biggest investor-owned fossil fuel companies, including Shell, Exxon Mobil, British Petroleum and Chevron, continue to rake in record profits, with the fossil industry as a whole earning \$4 trillion for 2022.

It added that this comes at a time when world temperatures have reached record highs, and global climate damage costs soared to \$360 billion stating that "scientists are also calling for the immediate phaseout of fossil fuels to prevent runaway climate change."

Greenpeace also cited a recent OneEarth report showing that the world's top fossil fuel companies owe \$99 trillion (P70 billion) in climate loss and damage to compensate communities most affected by the crisis.

Chua said it is outrageous that fossil fuel companies continue raking in profits while countries like the Philippines incurred billions worth of climate damage in the last decade.

"These companies owe communities reparations for climate impacts. They must be made to pay and fossil fuel expansion must be stopped. These are concrete and necessary steps to achieve climate justice, something that we hope to champion together with Filipino communities during this ship tour," he added.

During the ship's journey, Orit said Greenpeace will hold adjacent events focusing on the call for climate justice and reparations and will call for action from the Philippine government and policymakers on these urgent issues.

"While in the country, the boat will also be open to the public for educational tours, exhibits and other activities where guests can learn about why countries like the Philippines need to demand climate justice," Orit said.

Greenpeace has had multiple ship tours in the Philippines over the years, the most recent being consecutive tours in 2018 and 2019 promoting climate justice and the struggle against plastic pollution, respectively.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Bets in Barangay polls urged to invest in disaster prevention, preparedness](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Candidates in the upcoming barangay elections should invest in disaster prevention and preparedness to build resilient and secure communities, government and disaster risk reduction officials said Thursday.

Barangays, the most basic units of government, play a vital role in disaster preparedness and prevention due to their local knowledge, quick response capabilities and engagement with communities.

The Philippines is set to hold the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on October 30, marking the first village elections since 2018.

“Those running for office or wish to be re-elected, this is a good opportunity to strengthen the institutionalization of our prevention and mitigation efforts,” National Resilience Council executive director Silvestre Barrameda Jr. told reporters in Filipino on the sidelines of “Barangayan Para sa Kalikasan at Batang Matatag” forum.

“Whether they win or lose in the elections, what is invested today will undoubtedly benefit our fellow citizens and communities,” he added.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Carlos Primo David also stressed that disaster preparedness, early warning systems and suitable technology for flood mitigation should be the top priority for barangays.

Mami Mizutori, the head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, emphasized the need to “put money in reducing risks of disasters before they become devastating disasters.”

“Of course, we need to respond, we need to prepare better... We need to prevent better,” she said.

Barangays at risk

The Philippines has over 42,000 barangays, spread across 145 cities and 1,489 municipalities.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga pointed out that barangays are “most vulnerable” to extreme events and that multiple hazards are also “most likely to be underinvested in.”

“This puts them more at risk,” Yulo-Loyzaga said.

“Local governments need to be engaged in the crafting of context-specific and responsive policies, programs and actions that put people and the environment that sustains them, first,” she said.

The environment chief added that the government should adopt a comprehensive risk management strategy that is centered on prevention, rather than on relief and response.

“We are dealing with the lives and properties of both our rural and urban communities,” he said.

Under the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, barangays are responsible for setting the direction, development, implementation and coordination of disaster risk management programs within respective territorial jurisdiction.

Barangays also serve as the primary platform for outcomes in the vision of securing community resilience as outlined in the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan and the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change.

The resilience targets of the Strategy Framework of the Philippine Development Plan also depend on barangays and other local government officials.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[10 women leaders receive Philippine Resilience Awards](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

Ten exceptional women leaders received recognition in the Philippine Resilience Awards ceremony on Thursday, 12 October. The recognition was organized by the Climate Change Commission in collaboration with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, the Philippine Commission on Women, the Carlos P. Romulo Foundation, the National Resilience Council, ARISE Philippines, WIN DRR Philippines, and SM Prime Holdings, Incorporated.

The women, hailing from diverse backgrounds, have demonstrated their commitment to building climate and disaster-resilient communities.

Among the awardees are Quezon City Maria Josefina Belmonte for championing resilient food systems and sustainable livelihood through the City's Community-based Urban Farming Program; Climate Resilient Agriculture- Office of the Department of Agriculture Alicia Ilaga for her commitment to community-based resilience in vulnerable farming communities through the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture Program; Department of Public Works and Highways Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral for championing critical infrastructure resilience in the implementation of DPWH infrastructure projects; Mariano Marcos State University President, Dr. Shirley Agrupis for her dedication to green technological innovations, including enhancing sustainable local bioethanol production using nipa sap; Base Bahay Foundation, Inc. President Maria Vicente Jalandoni for her efforts in promoting sustainable, resilient, and ecological housing through Cement-Bamboo Frame Technology.

Other awardees are Cagayan State University President Dr. Urduja Alvarado for her community-based resilience initiatives, focusing on ecological development and empowerment of mangrove communities in Gonzaga, Cagayan; Bukidnon State University President, Dr. Joy Mirasol, for championing bio-cultural diversity conservation and resilience through the strengthened and empowered management of Mindanao Protected Areas; Nida Collado, a farmer and President of the Macatumbalen Community Based Forest and Coastal Management Association, was also recognized for her leadership in community-based sustainable forest management and environmental conservation in San Vicente, Palawan.

Also awarded are St. Paul's Hospital of Iloilo, Inc. administrator Sr. Arcelita Sarnillo, for realizing the link between human health and environmental conditions, championing

green, sustainable, and climate-resilient healthcare through the Green and Healthy Hospital Program; and Joroan Farmers and Fisherfolks Association President, Mila Bogñabal, for her efforts in promoting resilient food systems and sustainable livelihood in Joroan Tiwi, Albay, through the implementation of climate-resilient agricultural practices.

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda urged the awardees to remain exceptional as environmental warriors.

She said their influence and dedication to their environmental advocacies would “drive positive change, foster collaboration, and build a resilient world for future generations.”

“It is your role to give Filipinos hope that together, we can work toward a safer planet, free from the devastating impacts of natural disasters and climate change,” Legarda told the women awardees.

Meanwhile, CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera stressed the need to continue recognizing women with outstanding impacts on the country’s resilient innovations. “We celebrate their achievements and are inspired by their commitment,” she added.

The Philippine Resilience Awards was established by Legarda in 2013, and have been an inspiration for local leaders striving to build climate and disaster-resilient communities.

The CCC said today’s ceremony “highlighted the remarkable initiatives and projects undertaken by outstanding women leaders in the field of resilience.”

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC, JICA seal partnership to bolster climate change programs of PH](#)

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. This collaboration was formalized through the signing of a Letter of Understanding (LOU) on October 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.

The Philippine NDC underscores the country's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75%, 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," said Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative of JICA Philippines.

"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.

For more information on the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit <https://climate.gov.ph> and <https://facebook.com/cccpnl>. (CCC)

Outstanding women leaders recognized at the Philippine Resilience Awards

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), in collaboration with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, Philippine Commission on Women, Carlos P. Romulo Foundation, National Resilience Council, ARISE Philippines, WIN DRR Philippines, and SM Prime Holdings, Inc., honored exceptional women leaders during the Philippine Resilience Awards for Women - Awarding Ceremony held today.

The event recognized the following awardees, each hailing from diverse backgrounds and demonstrating commitment to building climate and disaster-resilient communities:

1. Hon. Maria Josefina Belmonte - Mayor of Quezon City, for championing resilient food systems and sustainable livelihood through the City's Community-based Urban Farming Program.
2. Ms. Alicia Ilaga - Director of the Climate Resilient Agriculture Office of the Department of Agriculture, for her commitment to community-based resilience in vulnerable farming communities through the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program.
3. Hon. Maria Catalina Cabral - Undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), for championing critical infrastructure resilience in the implementation of DPWH infrastructure projects.
4. Dr. Shirley Agrupis - University President of Mariano Marcos State University, for her dedication to green technological innovations, including enhancing sustainable local bioethanol production using nipa sap.
5. Ms. Maria Vicente Jalandoni - President of the Base Bahay Foundation, Inc., for her efforts in promoting sustainable, resilient, and ecological housing through Cement-Bamboo Frame Technology (CBFT).
6. Dr. Urduja Alvarado - University President of Cagayan State University, for her community-based resilience initiatives, focusing on ecological development and empowerment of mangrove communities in Gonzaga, Cagayan.
7. Dr. Joy Mirasol - University President of Bukidnon State University, for championing bio-cultural diversity conservation and resilience through the strengthened and empowered management of Mindanao Protected Areas.
8. Ms. Nida Collado - Farmer and President of the Macatumbalen Community Based Forest and Coastal Management Association, for her leadership in community-based

sustainable forest management and environmental conservation in San Vicente, Palawan.

9. Sr. Arcelita Sarnillo - Hospital Administrator of St. Paul's Hospital of Iloilo, Inc., for recognizing the link between human health and environmental conditions, championing green, sustainable, and climate-resilient healthcare through the Green and Healthy Hospital Program.

10. Ms. Mila Bogñabal - President of Joroan Farmers and Fisherfolks Association, for her efforts in promoting resilient food systems and sustainable livelihood in Joroan Tiwi, Albay, through the implementation of climate-resilient agricultural practices.

Additionally, the CCC provided the Accelerator Fund for Grassroots Organizations to Ms. Collado and Ms. Bogñabal, supporting their projects focused on teaching sustainable practices, enhancing disaster preparedness, and promoting eco-friendly technologies at the community level.

These exceptional women leaders are a testament to the power of resilience, dedication, and innovation in addressing the challenges posed by climate change and disasters.

"As environmental warriors, your influence and dedication will drive positive change, foster collaboration, and build a resilient world for future generations," said Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda.

"It is your role to give Filipinos hope that together, we can work toward a safer planet, free from the devastating impacts of natural disasters and climate change," she added.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized, "These women exemplify the spirit of resilience that our nation needs. Their actions echo a powerful message – that the collective efforts of individuals can indeed transform communities and safeguard our environment."

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera added, "Today's awardees showcase the impactful intersection of dedication and innovation. We celebrate their achievements and are inspired by their commitment."

Established in 2013 by Senator Loren Legarda, the Philippine Resilience Awards have been an inspiration for local leaders striving to build climate and disaster-resilient communities. Today's ceremony highlighted the remarkable initiatives and projects undertaken by outstanding women leaders in the field of resilience.

For more information on the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit <https://climate.gov.ph> and <https://facebook.com/cccpnl>. (CCC)

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