



NEWS ROUNDUP

19 October 2022 [08:00 am]

- Greta Thunberg: I don't want to go into politics
- Bill Gates says rich countries must drive climate change innovation
- KFC Philippines to have 54 solar-powered stores by Q1 2023
- Climate-threatened nations deliver stark call for reforms
- QC promotes eco-friendly transportation
- Climate Questions: Who is most vulnerable to climate change?
- Earth's warming hole not indication of abrupt climate change event, study finds
- Australia, Singapore sign 'green economy' pact
- [Opinion] Climate action's biggest threat: Privileged white morons
- [Opinion] Greta Thunberg's own definition of climate justice
- Plastic trash from oceans upcycled into shoes

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- CCC - DW Climate Change Reporting Workshop

BBC NEWS

[Greta Thunberg: I don't want to go into politics](#)

By: Amol Rajan

Climate activist Greta Thunberg has said she will not pursue a career in politics - because it is too "toxic". The Swedish teenager became a household name in 2018, after she skipped school and inspired an international movement to fight climate change.

CNBC

[Bill Gates says rich countries must drive climate change innovation](#)

By Catherine Clifford

Rich countries are going to have to step up their spending to accelerate the innovation, development and deployment of technologies that will help the world reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to Bill Gates.

E&E NEWS

[Climate-threatened nations deliver stark call for reforms](#)

By Sara Schonhardt

Climate-threatened nations are putting forward an increasingly stark message to earn the attention of the world's major lenders.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[KFC Philippines to have 54 solar-powered stores by Q1 2023](#)

KFC Philippines continues to ramp up its pioneering efforts toward more sustainable and environment-friendly operations with the installation of solar power systems in at least nine more stores by the first quarter of 2023.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[QC promotes eco-friendly transportation](#)

By: Marita Moaje

Manila – Quezon City will continuously find ways to become bicycle-friendly and protect the environment with safe and accessible facilities both for bikers and pedestrians.

PHYS.ORG

[Climate Questions: Who is most vulnerable to climate change?](#)

by Drew Costley

Most of the world's population has been affected in some way by climate change—85% of the world, in fact. But the effects of climate change haven't been equally felt by all. Some communities have seen a slight rise in temperature here and there, but others have had their entire communities wiped out.

[Earth's warming hole not indication of abrupt climate change event, study finds](#)

By Diana Udel, University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science

A new study from scientists at the University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science suggests that the pattern of temperature change of the world's oceans may not be an indication of an impending abrupt climate change event as depicted in the movie "The Day After Tomorrow."

REUTERS

[Australia, Singapore sign 'green economy' pact](#)

By: Lewis Jackson

Sydney, Oct 18 (Reuters) - Australia and Singapore agreed on Tuesday on a "green economy" deal to boost cooperation on climate investment, financing and technology.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] Climate action's biggest threat: Privileged white morons](#)

By: Ben Kritz

On Saturday, a pair of self-styled "climate activists" created a media stir with an obnoxious stunt in London's National Gallery, dousing Vincent Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" with a can of tomato soup and then gluing themselves to the wall to "raise awareness" of the climate emergency. The sort of awareness it actually raised, however, was best expressed by tennis legend and social cause champion Martina Navratilova, who took to Twitter to express everyone's opinion of the sorry incident.

[\[Opinion\] Greta Thunberg's own definition of climate justice](#)

By: Daphne Oseña-Paez

Back in September, Swedish activist Greta Thunberg said: "There can be no climate justice under Marcos ... we stand in solidarity with the martial law victims seeking justice and the human rights defenders pursuing the democratic rights of people and climate justice." Greta referred to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr as a "fascist leader." This video message was played at the 50th anniversary of the declaration of martial law at the University of the Philippines. While this statement was on brand with climate activists' plea for protection of human rights, it dilutes the message and strategies of addressing climate change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Plastic trash from oceans upcycled into shoes](#)

By: Kristofer Purnell

Manila, Philippines — Adidas Originals recently dropped the latest version of their NMD — stylized as nmd but pronounced as "nomad" — and enlisted the help of Filipino music artists Denise Julia, Kritiko, and Moophs.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

NET 25

[CCC - DW Climate Change Reporting Workshop](#)

NET25 Reporter Earlo Bringas, at iba pang mga journalist mula sa iba't ibang news organization sa bansa, ay lumahok sa 5-day DW Akademie Climate Change Reporting seminar na inorganisa ng German Embassy Manila at Climate Change Commission of the Philippines. Si German Ambassador to the Philippines Anke Reiffenstuel ay nagpasalamat sa mga lumahok na Pinoy journalists.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BBC NEWS

[Greta Thunberg: I don't want to go into politics](#)

By: Amol Rajan

Climate activist Greta Thunberg has said she will not pursue a career in politics - because it is too "toxic". The Swedish teenager became a household name in 2018, after she skipped school and inspired an international movement to fight climate change.

Now 19, she says the necessary changes "will only come if there's enough public pressure from the outside - and that is something that we create".

And she never intended to become the face of a global movement.

"It's too much responsibility," Ms Thunberg said. "Sometimes I can snap. I say, 'If you think that all the hope in the world rests on burned-out teenagers' shoulders, I mean, that's not very good.'"

The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), is in Egypt, on 6-18 November - but Ms Thunberg will be absent.

"I'm not needed there," she said. "There will be other people who will attend, from the most affected areas. And I think that their voice there is more important."

Ms Thunberg told me she remained unaffected by abuse on social media but said: "What I am most bothered about is when people lie about me and spread, like, conspiracy theories - because I can't lie, so when other people lie about me, it's like, 'No - don't.'"

Targeted on Twitter by several world leaders, including Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump, she has responded usually by changing her Twitter profile.

"I just think it's genuinely funny," she said. "I mean, the most powerful people in the world feel intimidated by teenagers. That is funny. It says more about them than it does about me."

Ms Thunberg's most recent project has been creating and curating a book of essays by dozens of experts, to provide a toolkit for those concerned about climate change.

CNBC

[Bill Gates says rich countries must drive climate change innovation](#)

By Catherine Clifford

Rich countries are going to have to step up their spending to accelerate the innovation, development and deployment of technologies that will help the world reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to Bill Gates.

KEY POINTS

- Low- and middle-income countries should not be expected to slow the development of their economies for the sake of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, Bill Gates said.
- It is the responsibility of the richest countries, like the United States, to fund the innovation process of technologies to decarbonize all sectors of the economy, Gates said.
- The only solution, according to Gates, is to make better and cheaper alternatives that do not emit greenhouse gases.

Rich countries are going to have to step up their spending to accelerate the innovation, development and deployment of technologies that will help the world reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to Bill Gates.

Developing economies are responsible for the majority of these emissions that cause global warming, but low- and middle-income countries should not be expected to slow the development of their economies for the sake of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, according to Gates, the billionaire co-founder of Microsoft and founder of Breakthrough Energy Ventures, a leading climate-technology investment company.

It is the responsibility of the richest countries, like the United States, which owe much of their own current wealth to the burning of fossil fuels, to fund the innovation process of technologies to decarbonize all sectors of the economy, Gates said.

Gates lays out this assessment in an essay titled, "State of the Energy Transition," which was published on his personal blog on Tuesday. In the essay, the Microsoft co-founder gives a brief retrospective of how he views the world's response to global warming in the 15 years since he started learning about climate change.

His assessment is encouraging in some respects and bleak in others. He's generally encouraged by how some governments and private companies have realized the urgency of climate change and have begun investing accordingly. But he's also honest about how the world is not moving fast enough or being unified enough to meet the challenge, which he sees as the hardest and most existential humanity has ever faced.

"The world still needs to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions from 51 billion tons to zero, but global emissions continue to increase every year," Gates wrote in his essay, which published as the Breakthrough Energy Summit kicks off in Seattle.

“If you follow the annual IPCC reports, you’ve watched as the scenarios for limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 or even 2 degrees Celsius become increasingly remote,” Gates said, referencing the seminal Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports published by the United Nations which serve as a benchmark for global progress.

To slow global warming and the extreme weather events that come with a hotter planet, all countries need to stop releasing greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide and methane gas, that trap heat in the earth’s atmosphere, he said.

“The ultimate measure of success is global greenhouse gas emissions: We need to go from 51 billion tons a year to zero in the next three decades,” Gates wrote.

To do that, the world must create and deploy technology that enables the same economic activity as burning fossil fuels but without releasing greenhouse gases.

Manufacturing (of everything from steel, cement and plastic) bears the largest responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 30 percent of total emissions. Producing electricity accounts for 26 percent of global emissions, agriculture is responsible for 21 percent, transportation for 16 percent, and buildings for 7 percent, according to Rhodium Group data from 2019.

The only solution, according to Gates, is to make better and cheaper alternatives that do not emit greenhouse gases.

That process will have to be driven by richer countries, even though developing economies are responsible for most emissions.

“Low- and middle-income countries are building aggressively to achieve the standard of living their people aspire to — and they should be. Many countries in Europe and North America filled the atmosphere with carbon to achieve prosperity, and it is both unrealistic and unfair to expect everyone else to forgo a more comfortable life because that carbon turned out to change the climate,” Gates wrote.

The difference in the cost between cleaner alternatives costs and conventional, legacy sources is what Gates calls the “green premium.” To bring down global emissions across the globe will require bringing the green premium to zero — that is, making clean alternatives available at cost parity to the fossil-fuel-burning alternative.

Government intervention may be required to speed this process along.

“I have more confidence in markets than many other people, but even I don’t think the market by itself can press reset on an entire economy in just a few decades,” said Gates. “We need a plan to speed the process up.”

E&E NEWS

[Climate-threatened nations deliver stark call for reforms](#)

By Sara Schonhardt

Climate-threatened nations are putting forward an increasingly stark message to earn the attention of the world's major lenders.

Their latest push came amid annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, when Mohamed Nasheed, former president of the Maldives and an ambassador for the Vulnerable 20 Group, or V20, warned that those countries could stop payments on half a trillion dollars in debt if lenders don't embark on reforms to the global financial architecture.

"We are living not just on borrowed money but on borrowed time, and that time is running out," Nasheed said in a speech Sunday at the start of a meeting of V20 finance ministers.

At the end of that meeting, officials issued a statement calling for sweeping reforms to lending, climate finance and insurance facilities, as well as support of green growth plans they're developing.

Those calls are part of a growing push for reforms that highlight heightened frustrations among countries crushed by the weight of unsustainable debt, weakening currencies and increasingly devastating climate-fueled disasters.

They come just weeks before annual climate negotiations, where the need for finance and unmet pledges to provide it will be on the table. Multilateral development banks are also facing wider pressure, including from major shareholders, to overhaul their lending practices to get more money flowing to countries on the front lines of the climate crisis (Climatewire, Oct. 7).

Nasheed's warning was a way of impressing on the IMF and several of the wealthy nations in the room just how dire the situation is, said Joe Thwaites, a climate finance advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council who attended Sunday's ministerial.

"They've tried lots of other approaches. But it is three years into the pandemic and decades into the climate crisis," he said. "I think a lot of countries are reaching a point where they're extremely frustrated at literally decades of broken promises."

There are signs that message is gaining traction.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva thanked Nasheed "for his call for us to wake up and face reality." And she outlined ways the IMF is bringing climate change into its operations, including through a new trust that aims to provide low-interest, long-term financing to developing countries.

She was also receptive to the idea of swapping country debt for investments in climate resilience.

“We have to find a way to link two problems with one solution, and the problems are climate and debt,” she said. “The solution: debt for climate swaps.”

But Georgieva cautioned against rushing into anything too quickly.

“Let’s not, in the desire to show we’re making progress, make progress in too small steps to be meaningful,” she said.

The debt crisis = the climate crisis

The Group of Seven and other rich nations have also gotten more involved in conversations about how to increase climate finance and pay countries for climate damages for which they bear little responsibility.

Last week, the V20 and G7 came to an agreement on a facility for climate risk that they’ve dubbed the Global Shield, which would improve insurance and social protection schemes to better respond to disasters.

For Sara Jane Ahmed, a finance adviser to the V20, having a platform to speak to major economies and financial institutions at once was important.

“I think the message was clear: The debt crisis is the climate crisis. And we need the financial architecture to deliver better for vulnerable countries,” she said.

What that amounts to remains an open question. Ronan Palmer, who runs the clean economy program at climate think tank E3G and attended the annual meetings, said he heard a lot of warm words but saw little action.

There is a lot of frustration about debt relief programs, he said. Within the V20 that frustration may be compounded by the fact that many of its members have an offer to make in the form of climate prosperity plans, effectively procurement plans for a cleaner economy, said Ahmed.

There also remains a lot of finger-pointing when it comes to dealing with the debt burden, Thwaites said.

“We’ve certainly got acknowledgment that this is a serious problem,” he said. “We’re not at the stage where there are actually solutions on the sort of coordinated scale necessary.”

‘Dominos of default’

The V20 is working to address a crisis that individual finance ministers may be reluctant to take on out of fear it would further harm their ability to draw in much-needed financing, Nasheed said.

But it does need to be addressed — and urgently.

In his speech, he painted a picture of a country where entire islands are consumed by waves, destroying roads, bridges and other vital infrastructure and strangling economic development.

Collectively, the nearly 60 countries that comprise the V20 have lost a fifth of their wealth over the past 20 years due to climate-fueled shocks and disasters, according to research the group commissioned.

It's not just small island nations that are vulnerable to a warming planet. The V20 represents 1.5 billion people, including the Maldives and Vanuatu, but also much larger economies such as Bangladesh, Kenya, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Nasheed's address turned attention to a system that has worked against climate vulnerable nations, many of which are ineligible for low-cost loans because they're considered high risk or middle income. Failing to ease that debt burden could lead to "dominoes of default," creating a bigger problem for creditors than debtors, he said.

Unlike IMF head Georgieva, World Bank President David Malpass did not attend the V20 meeting, an absence that some observers said was notable.

The bank's climate lending has come under scrutiny following comments by Malpass last month that cast doubt on the role fossil fuels play in causing climate change. But the bank and Malpass do seem to have gotten the message.

In various speeches during last week's annual meetings Malpass pointed to the need for more grants and low-interest loans for the poorest countries and solutions for unsustainable debt.

"Looking ahead, the Bretton Woods institutions will need to consider their roles, governance and capital structure and evolve to address climate change and global public goods," Malpass said in a speech.

Having the V20 as an official group among the IMF and World Bank would be one step in that direction, said Ahmed, since it would allow them to provide perspective from the climate front lines to help guide future policy.

For the Maldives and other vulnerable countries, the climate crisis is already on their doorsteps, she added. "It's time that there's actually a way forward."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[KFC Philippines to have 54 solar-powered stores by Q1 2023](#)

KFC Philippines continues to ramp up its pioneering efforts toward more sustainable and environment-friendly operations with the installation of solar power systems in at least nine more stores by the first quarter of 2023.

KFC is the first quick-service restaurant (QSR) in the country to launch an initiative to significantly lower its carbon footprint by mounting solar panels on the rooftop of the KFC branch in San Fernando, Pampanga in April 2019.

Since then, KFC – known globally as a trailblazer in food innovation, especially the well-loved Original Recipe and Hot and Crispy chicken – has already installed solar panels on 45 free-standing drive-thru branches from Bataan in the North to Mandaue, Cebu in the South. These stores are equipped with an on-grid solar panel system, a cost-effective option to supplement energy requirements.

It is targeting to add two more this year and another seven branches in the first three months of 2023. “Our target is to have 54 solar-powered stores by the end of Q1 2023, and this is just one of the many steps being taken by KFC Philippines to be Earth-friendly. Other ongoing programs aside from solar expansion are the use of e-bikes for delivery that was launched in 2020, and sustainable packaging,” KFC Philippines General Manager Maria Judith Marcelo said.

KFC currently has an estimated annual solar power generation of more than 3 million KWH from the 45 KFC restaurants and commissaries. This translates to a reduction of 699,000 kgs of CO2 emissions.

“This is aligned with KFC’s global commitment to growing sustainably and being good stewards of the environment. KFC is using its scale to minimize environmental impact with a focus on our restaurants and supply chains,” Marcelo added.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[QC promotes eco-friendly transportation](#)

By: Marita Moaje

Manila – Quezon City will continuously find ways to become bicycle-friendly and protect the environment with safe and accessible facilities both for bikers and pedestrians.

To achieve the vision, the city government has improved its bike lane network to encourage residents to shift to the cheaper mode of transportation, reduce dependence on fuel-powered vehicles, and help achieve a healthier lifestyle.

The Department of Public Order and Safety - Green Transport Office has so far installed bike ramps on four footbridges and in one underpass along the city's 93-kilometer bike lane network.

In the works are improvement of grade-separated crossings and bike ramps in all 40 footbridges along the network.

Five crossings are already installed in the Quezon Memorial Circle underpass and footbridges along Commonwealth Avenue (Philippine Coconut Authority and University of the Philippines – Asian Institute of Tourism), Quezon Avenue (Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center), and Katipunan Avenue (UP Town Center).

“The local government will also install more concrete plant box barriers designed to make the bike lanes more attractive, safer, and to serve as an alternative and green upgrade to plastic barriers used as bike lane physical separators,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said in a statement on Monday.

The Quezon City Parks Development and Administration Department plans to place an additional 210 plant box barriers along Commonwealth Avenue.

The second phase of the QC bike lane network will interconnect the bike lane network to the first phase to reach more residential and commercial areas.

[Climate Questions: Who is most vulnerable to climate change?](#)

by Drew Costley

Most of the world's population has been affected in some way by climate change—85% of the world, in fact. But the effects of climate change haven't been equally felt by all. Some communities have seen a slight rise in temperature here and there, but others have had their entire communities wiped out.

As the rise of global temperatures and sea-level continues to affect the world with increasingly frequency and intensity, who are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change?

The answer is clear, according to climate scientists, climate and environmental justice experts and international research efforts on the question. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found in a 2022 report that vulnerability to climate change is "exacerbated by inequity and marginalization linked to gender, ethnicity, low income or combinations thereof."

"(The) poor, ethnic minorities, and women are very clearly the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change that we are already seeing today: heat waves; displacement and smoke due to fires; and price shocks due to supply chain interruptions, higher energy prices," Daniel Kammen, a professor of energy at the University of California, Berkeley and a coordinating lead author on IPCC reports, told The Associated Press.

These populations are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of racism, sexism and pursuit of profits over protection of people, according to Bineshi Albert, co-executive director of the Climate Justice Alliance.

"Due to the continued search for profits by our current economic system and (by) the fossil fuel industry in particular, there are entire neighborhoods that are deemed worthy of becoming sacrifice zones, and this breaks down every time around race, class, and national lines," she said.

Research also shows that disabled people are more vulnerable to effects of climate change than abled bodied people.

The increased vulnerability to climate change experienced by these populations and who is to blame for causing these inequities have become increasing topics of conversation at the international level. Debate about loss and damage—the climate harm caused by some nations to others, how much and what should be done about it—has waged on since at least COP23.

A study published in July 2022 found that richer nations like the U.S. caused climate harm to poorer countries.

In terms of repairing damage already caused to vulnerable populations and countries and helping them become less vulnerable, experts told the AP that it starts with including them in developing policies.

"A natural start is to develop policies to target these underserved communities with enhanced attention and support," Kammen said.

Albert said it should go a step further with direct economic investments in communities most vulnerable to climate change.

"Economic resources should go directly to those on the frontlines of the climate crisis to develop and implement their own community-led solutions," she said. "Communities rather than profits must be the motive if we are truly going to solve the climate crisis."

[Earth's warming hole not indication of abrupt climate change event, study finds](#)

By Diana Udel, University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science

A new study from scientists at the University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science suggests that the pattern of temperature change of the world's oceans may not be an indication of an impending abrupt climate change event as depicted in the movie "The Day After Tomorrow."

The UM Rosenstiel School researchers used a state-of-the-art climate model to investigate a pattern of temperature change in a swath of water in the subpolar North Atlantic region, called a warming hole, that has been cooling over the past century. Scientists have considered this cooling a result of a slowdown of a planetary-scale ocean circulation, called the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC), that transports energy to the North Atlantic.

"However, our study shows the warming hole during the past century is unlikely due to a slowdown of the AMOC. Instead, the warming hole is actually a consequence of human driven changes in the atmosphere," said Chengfei He, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the Rosenstiel School. "Our finding suggest that this warming hole will not result in an abrupt climate change event lethal to humans as depicted in Hollywood movies."

Geological records, such as the ice core in Greenland, have revealed that most abrupt climate changes in Earth's past were the result of a slowdown in the AMOC. "The warming hole is believed as a fingerprint of the AMOC in present day. Its appearance suggests the AMOC may not be stable. Our results do not support this idea," said Amy Clement, a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the Rosenstiel School, and a co-author of the study.

The climate model used by the researchers was a digital Earth that can reproduce past climate changes and predict future climate change. To conduct this study, He and his coauthors configured the model with a motionless ocean to examine how the North Atlantic temperature responds to the atmosphere change due to the greenhouse gas and aerosol emissions. Since the ocean has no circulation, any change in the ocean surface temperature relies on the atmospheric condition overhead.

Under global warming, the atmospheric westerlies shift northward and enhance the local wind over subpolar North Atlantic and result in the warming hole.

"This cooling trend is partially compensated by the warming due to the rise of greenhouse gases and the damping effect in sea surface temperatures," according to the authors. This study advances our ability to attribute patterns of change in the ocean to different factors, and hence improves our ability to anticipate how the ocean will change in the future.

The study was published in Geophysical Research Letters.

REUTERS

[Australia, Singapore sign 'green economy' pact](#)

By: Lewis Jackson

Sydney, Oct 18 (Reuters) - Australia and Singapore agreed on Tuesday on a "green economy" deal to boost cooperation on climate investment, financing and technology.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told a news conference in Canberra that the agreement would start with initiatives such as developing a list of environmental goods and services that could be given preferential trade treatment.

"It will support the transition of our countries to net zero emissions as well as create jobs and growth opportunities in green sectors promote the development and commercialisation of green technologies," Lee said.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese cited the A\$30 billion (\$18.8 billion) Sun Cable project, which aims to export solar power from Northern Australia to Singapore via Indonesia, as an example of what the agreement aims to achieve.

"A project like Sun Cable which has the potential to export clean energy to Singapore is the ultimate win-win," Albanese said.

Lee, asked about U.S. export controls targeting the Chinese semiconductor industry, told the news conference the issue was "very serious" and raised concerns about economic decoupling.

"We do worry that valid national security considerations may trigger off further consequences and may result in less economic cooperation, less interdependency, less trust and possibly ultimately a less stable world," he said.

The leaders also discussed a major cybersecurity breach at Optus, an Australian telecom owned by Singapore-listed Singtel (STEL.SI). Lee said Singaporean cybersecurity agencies had contacted their Australian counterparts and offered assistance.

Lee also said the Singaporean military was ready to help with disaster relief in flood-stricken southeast Australia.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] Climate action's biggest threat: Privileged white morons](#)

By: Ben Kritz

On Saturday, a pair of self-styled "climate activists" created a media stir with an obnoxious stunt in London's National Gallery, dousing Vincent Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" with a can of tomato soup and then gluing themselves to the wall to "raise awareness" of the climate emergency. The sort of awareness it actually raised, however, was best expressed by tennis legend and social cause champion Martina Navratilova, who took to Twitter to express everyone's opinion of the sorry incident.

"Effing morons — this is not the way to protest!" Navratilova wrote.

The protest was just one in a string of disruptive actions that have been carried out in and around London in the past couple of months by several groups expressing displeasure with the government's announced plan to issue new oil and gas licenses to head off the UK's growing energy crunch. Some have involved petty vandalism such as the art museum incident, and others have involved blocking traffic on busy streets and bridges.

The London police and the UK government, for their part, are fed up with it. Over the weekend, Home Secretary Suella Braverman announced plans to give the police stronger powers to take a more "proactive" approach when dealing with protests that threaten or cause "serious disruption or a serious adverse impact on public safety."

"I will not bend to protestors attempting to hold the British public to ransom," Braverman said in a statement. "Preventing our emergency services from reaching those who desperately need them is indefensible, hideously selfish, and in no way in the public interest. This serious and dangerous disruption, let alone the vandalism, is not a freedom of expression, nor a human right. It must stop."

Braverman's action is precisely why everyone who is committed to climate action should utterly repudiate "activism" of this sort, and the broad organization that is carrying it out. It reduces climate concern to something perceived as a mere point of view expressed by privileged brats throwing tantrums, a pretension that is at best annoying and at worst dangerous, and in any event not to be taken seriously.

The two groups in the UK that have caused most of the trouble — Just Stop Oil, which was responsible for the museum stunt, and another called Extinction Rebellion — are part of a network funded by a Los Angeles-based umbrella organization called the Climate Emergency Fund (CEF). CEF was founded in 2019 by oil heiress Aileen Getty, and so far in 2022 has spent \$4 million in grants to 39 "brave, ultra-ambitious groups," all of whom are located in the US, Canada and Western Europe.

Some conspiracy theorist types have suggested that CEF is a broad "false flag" operation being run by the petroleum industry due to Getty's involvement, but that is

probably not the case. Aileen Getty is her family's Gina Lopez, and among the board members of CEF — all of whom are wealthy, white Californians, which is an entirely different problem — is Adam McKay, who is best known for directing last year's allegorical "Don't Look Up."

Rather than ulterior motives, the group simply seems to be sincerely committed to naïve idiocy, which they pretentiously call their "Theory of Change." The group's website does not actually explain what this theory is despite having a page dedicated to it, but says, "Movements wake up the public and force policy change. We are sleepwalking off a cliff. Throughout history, it has been organized, passionate, dedicated people who have awakened the conscience of the public and achieved 'the impossible.'"

The group also cites the somewhat dubious claim that, "Data analysts at Giving Green calculate that in the United States every 'dollar spent on activism could remove more than 6 metric tons of CO₂e (CO₂-equivalent)'. By comparison, Giving Green reports that a dollar spent on 'top-performing insider policy advocacy organizations' removes somewhat less than 2 metric tons of CO₂e."

In practice, just as the UK experience has illustrated, "waking up the public" is achieved, but only to the extent that awareness is raised about the methods of the activists and not the supposed underlying cause. The only thing CEF is accomplishing is painting all climate advocacy with the broad brush of irresponsible antagonism, as people who seek to draw attention to themselves so they have something to post to their Instagram or TikTok (the CEF website proudly notes that it has generated "over 5,000 press hits" this year), rather than get their hands dirty with the less publicly visible real work of climate adaptation and mitigation.

And while defenders of the group or "climate activism" in general would vehemently disagree with that characterization, what they cannot deny is that the self-absorbed focus of CEF is clear from what it does not do, and from the very makeup of the organization itself. None of its funding grants, at least from what can be deduced from its own financial reporting, are spent for direct climate adaptation or mitigation efforts, or social support for vulnerable communities. Likewise, there is no representation in either CEF's board or management of any at-risk group — urban poor, ethnic minorities, rural communities, Indigenous peoples, or anyone from Asia, Africa or South America.

The world is indeed experiencing a climate emergency. What it is not experiencing, however, is a shortage of lazy, privileged brats raised on social media who believe that calling attention to their feelings is pursuing a cause. Those who are working diligently to reduce the impact of climate change and help people and communities adapt to those that have already become inevitable are seeing their efforts sabotaged by the diversion of resources and public bandwidth to people who are behaving like, well, effing morons, and it needs to stop.

[Opinion] Greta Thunberg's own definition of climate justice

By: Daphne Oseña-Paez

Back in September, Swedish activist Greta Thunberg said: "There can be no climate justice under Marcos ... we stand in solidarity with the martial law victims seeking justice and the human rights defenders pursuing the democratic rights of people and climate justice." Greta referred to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr as a "fascist leader." This video message was played at the 50th anniversary of the declaration of martial law at the University of the Philippines. While this statement was on brand with climate activists' plea for protection of human rights, it dilutes the message and strategies of addressing climate change.

Greta appeared on video with another European climate activist named Alde Nilsson and a Filipino, Mitzi Tan. Together they said things like, "the fight for climate justice is a fight for democracy." While I don't disagree with that, I find it convoluted. First, in any environmental management matrix, the fight for climate justice begins with the recognition that groups are affected by climate change differently regardless of the form of government. Second, the Philippines is a democracy, recognized as a sovereign nation by the UN and all other countries, and praised for having a peaceful and legitimate elections by no less than the EU last May. Third, fascism is a harsh allegation which these young activists are throwing at Marcos with no proof or reference. He has only been president for a little over 100 days.

Even the UN is of the position that there is a great inequality in how the impacts of climate change are felt in different parts of the world — between rich and poor, men and women, older and younger generations. The poor are always the first to suffer. In the case of the Philippines, we, collectively, are among the most adversely affected by climate change regardless of age, gender, or socioeconomic status.

President Marcos, at a recent United Nations General Assembly speech, highlighted climate change as the first of four global challenges threatening humanity calling the effects uneven, reflecting an historical injustice. "Those who are least responsible suffer the most. The Philippines, for example, is a net carbon sink, we absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the fourth most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change. This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now."

In general, the victims of climate change also have very little responsibility for causing the emissions responsible for climate change in the first place. Wealthy, industrialized nations have been producing high emissions per capita since the mid-1800s. The pollution caused by greenhouse gas emissions is a global concern that brought countries together for a common cause, hence the Paris Climate Agreement, of which the Philippines is a signatory.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Plastic trash from oceans upcycled into shoes

By: Kristofer Purnell

Manila, Philippines — Adidas Originals recently dropped the latest version of their NMD — stylized as nmd but pronounced as "nomad" — and enlisted the help of Filipino music artists Denise Julia, Kritiko, and Moophs.

MANILA, Philippines — Adidas Originals recently dropped the latest version of their NMD — stylized as nmd but pronounced as "nomad" — and enlisted the help of Filipino music artists Denise Julia, Kritiko, and Moophs.

In a media event last September 30 in Kondwi in Poblacion, Makati, Adidas Philippines unveiled the music video for the song "Create New Paths" to accompany the launch of the NMD_V3.

The three artists, Denise and Kritiko on the vocals with Moophs producing, performed the song at the event but it was the first time any of them had seen the completed music video.

"Ginalingan ni Denise and Moophs, so ginalingan ko rin," reflected Kritiko, whose real name is Michael Edixon, on working with his fellow artists.

"We're movin', we're movin' like animals, nothin' to prove in here we play like radicals," goes one of Denise's lines, while Kritiko raps, "Respetado na 'to sa laro, kahit kailan di mapapahinto."

The new shoe itself, a continuation of the NMD series first launched in 2015, is an updated take that not only aspires to be go-to casual footwear in the city but one made out of recycled materials.

The NMD_V3 comprises of portions made of high-performance yarn containing 50% recycled polyester and 50% Parley Ocean Plastic, or plastic waste taken from beaches, coastal communities, and shorelines.

The shoe also features a re-engineered mesh that wraps around one's foot, a transparent heel clip on the exterior, and cushioning partially encapsulated in a thermoplastic olyurethane shell.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

NET 25

[Climate Change Reporting Workshop](#)

By: Earlo Bringas

NET25 Reporter Earlo Bringas, at iba pang mga journalist mula sa iba't ibang news organization sa bansa, ay lumahok sa 5-day DW Akademie Climate Change Reporting seminar na inorganisa ng German Embassy Manila at Climate Change Commission of the Philippines.

Si German Ambassador to the Philippines Anke Reiffenstuel ay nagpasalamat sa mga lumahok na Pinoy journalists.



- END -

