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20 October 2022 [08:20 am]

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By Agence France-Presse

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By: Annabelle Liang

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Washington, DC, USA – The latest pledges by countries to tackle global warming under the Paris Agreement are “woefully inadequate” to avert a rise in global temperatures that scientists say will worsen droughts, storms, and floods, a report said on Wednesday, October 19.

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For climate and environmental action, the last few months of the year are the most critical time. This past September saw the climate crisis as a key issue tackled at the week-long events of the UN General Assembly. A global conference on biodiversity will be held in Canada in December to plan how humankind would live in harmony with nature, which has been declining due to its collective activities.

THE PHILIPPINES STAR

[German youths take climate case against government to European court](#)

BERLIN — Climate activists who won a landmark case against the German government last year are now taking their case to the European Court of Human Rights, an organisation representing them said on Tuesday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

NET 25

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By: Earlo Bringas

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS-CBN NEWS ONLINE

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By Agence France-Presse

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Some 1 billion children are at "extremely high risk" due to climate change harms, a rights group warned on Wednesday, adding that youths' living standards failed to improve in the last decade.

The KidsRights index, based on figures supplied by UN agencies, also said more than one-third of the world's children, some 820 million, were currently exposed to heatwaves.

Water scarcity affected 920 million children worldwide, while diseases such as malaria and dengue affected some 600 million children, or one in every four, Dutch NGO KidsRights said.

The KidsRights Index is the first and only ranking that measures how children's rights are respected annually, ranking Iceland, Sweden, and Finland as the best for children's rights and Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Chad as the worst, out of 185 countries.

Of the top 3 nations, only Sweden's ranking changed from the previous year, moving to second from fourth place.

Marc Dullaert, founder and chairman of KidsRights, described this year's report as "alarming for our current and future generations of children."

"A rapidly changing climate is now threatening their futures and their basic rights," he said.

"There has been no significant progress in the standards of children's lives over the past decade and on top of that their livelihoods have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," Dullaert added.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on children, who were unable to get food or medicine due to disruptions and the closure of clinics, leading to some 286,000 under the age of 5 years dying as a result, KidsRights said.

For the first time in 2 decades, the number of child laborers has risen to 160 million, representing an increase of 8.4 million over the last 4 years, said the KidsRights Index, which is compiled together with Rotterdam's Erasmus University.

KidsRights highlighted Angola and Bangladesh, saying the 2 countries significantly improved their scores in regards to children's rights.

Angola has more than halved its under-5 child mortality, while Bangladesh has reduced the number of underweight children under five years by almost half.

But the report also slapped Montenegro for low vaccination numbers, ranked 49 on the index.

The survey uses UN data to measure how countries measure up to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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By: Annabelle Liang

The UK's advertising regulator has banned two HSBC advertisements for being "misleading" about the company's work to tackle climate change. The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) said the banking giant can no longer run the ads which promoted its plans to reduce harmful emissions.

The watchdog said that the posters "omitted material information" about HSBC's activities.

It marks the ASA's first action against a bank for so-called "greenwashing".

A HSBC spokesperson told the BBC that "The financial sector has a responsibility to communicate its role in the low carbon transition to raise public awareness and engage its customers."

"We will consider how best to do this as we deliver our ambitious net zero commitments," they added.

Greenwashing - branding something as eco-friendly, green or sustainable when this is not the case - misleads consumers into thinking they are helping the planet by choosing those goods or services.

The adverts were seen at bus stops in London and Bristol last October, in the lead up to the highly-anticipated United Nations COP26 climate change summit.

The posters outlined HSBC's efforts to plant trees and help its customers achieve "net zero" emissions. Net zero means not adding to greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere by cutting and trying to balance out emissions.

One poster showed an image of waves crashing on a shore with text that said "Climate change doesn't do borders. Neither do rising sea levels. That's why HSBC is aiming to provide up to \$1 trillion in financing and investment globally to help our clients transition to net zero".

The other advert was of tree growth rings and text which read "Climate changes doesn't do borders. So in the UK, we're helping to plant 2 million trees which will lock in 1.25 million tonnes of carbon over their lifetime".

The ASA upheld complaints that the ads "omitted significant information about HSBC's contribution to carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions."

"Customers... would not expect that HSBC, in making unqualified claims about its environmentally beneficial work, would also be simultaneously involved in the financing

of businesses which made significant contributions to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions," the regulator added.

Climate change scrutiny

HSBC's efforts to address climate change have come under scrutiny in recent months.

In February, campaigners accused big banks, including HSBC, of pumping billions of dollars into new oil and gas production despite being part of a green banking group.

London-based ShareAction called on the banks to demand green plans from fossil fuel firms before funding them.

ShareAction said that 24 big banks, which joined the Net Zero Banking Alliance last year, had since provided \$33bn (£29.1bn) for new oil and gas project.

At the time, a HSBC spokesman said the bank was "committed to working with our customers to achieve a transition towards a thriving low carbon economy".

Meanwhile, a senior HSBC executive drew controversy in May when he accused central bankers and other officials of exaggerating the risks of climate change.

Stuart Kirk, who was the global head of responsible investing at the bank's asset management division, said: "There's always some nut job telling me about the end of the world."

His role, which was based in London, involved considering the impact of investments on environmental, social and governance issues.

In July, Mr Kirk resigned from the bank and said that his comments had made his position "unsustainable".

CNN BUSINESS

[Global CO2 emissions from fossil fuels to rise by less than 1% this year as renewables and EVs take off](#)

By Angela Dewan

Finally, some good news in the battle against greenhouse gasses: Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from the burning of fossil fuels are on track to rise less than 1% this year.

That's despite widespread concerns of a rush back to coal, oil and gas amid a global energy crunch and Russia's war in Ukraine. We have electric vehicles and an uptake of renewables to thank for the surprisingly small increase.

The International Energy Agency published its forecast in a report Wednesday, showing CO2 emissions are on track for an increase of 300 million metric tons in 2022, reaching 33.8 billion tons. That's a far smaller rise than the jump of nearly 2 billion tons in 2021 as the world rebounded from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The increase this year comes largely from the aviation sector, which was severely impacted by the pandemic.

"The global energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine has prompted a scramble by many countries to use other energy sources to replace the natural gas supplies that Russia has withheld from the market. The encouraging news is that solar and wind are filling much of the gap, with the uptick in coal appearing to be relatively small and temporary," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said in a statement.

"This means that CO2 emissions are growing far less quickly this year than some people feared – and that policy actions by governments are driving real structural changes in the energy economy. Those changes are set to accelerate thanks to the major clean energy policy plans that have advanced around the world in recent months."

The IEA said that without the major deployment of renewables and EVs globally, the rise in emissions would have been much larger, potentially as much as 1 billion tons.

Demand for coal has increased as Russia's war in Ukraine sends natural gas prices soaring, and CO2 emissions from coal power generation, driven largely by Asia, are forecast to grow by more than 200 million tons, or 2%, this year.

But the increase in emissions from coal has been "relatively small" and are "considerably outweighed by the expansion of renewables," according to the report.

The world has hit record growth this year in solar and wind power, generating more than 700 terawatt-hours of energy. That's enough to power around 67 million American homes for a year.

And despite significant drought impacting huge swaths of the Northern Hemisphere, the overall picture for hydropower is still positive – global hydropower generation has increased this year and is expected to contribute more than one-fifth of growth in renewables.

The global outlook comes a day after a separate report showed that the EU has generated a quarter of its power from renewable sources since Russia launched its war, which is a record for the time period.

The IEA forecasts EU emissions to decrease this year, even though the bloc's coal use is up. Several EU countries are using more coal in response to the hike in gas prices and as Russia cuts off supplies to some member states.

The report comes less than three weeks before the COP27 climate negotiations begin in Egypt, where countries are expected to ensure their emissions reduction plans are aligned with the main goals of the Paris Agreement: to contain global warming to 2 degrees Celsius, but preferably 1.5 degrees, compared to pre-industrial times.

The IEA's forecast makes for a rosier-than-expected backdrop to the talks, but scientists warn that emissions should be rapidly decreasing to keep the 1.5-degree goal in sight.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Climate change may boost Arctic ‘virus spillover’ risk](#)

by Agence-France-Presse

TOKYO, Japan — A warming climate could bring viruses in the Arctic into contact with new environments and hosts, increasing the risk of “viral spillover”, according to research published Wednesday.

This handout picture taken on May 29, 2017 and made available by Graham Colby on October 17, 2022 shows researchers drilling holes to collect sediment at the Lake Hazen in Nunavut, to investigate how climate change might increase the risk of “viral spillover. A warming climate could bring viruses in the Arctic into contact with new environments and hosts, increasing the risk of “viral spillover”, according to research published on October 19, 2022. Graham COLBY / AF

Viruses need hosts like humans, animals, plants or fungi to replicate and spread, and occasionally they can jump to a new one that lacks immunity, as seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scientists in Canada wanted to investigate how climate change might affect spillover risk by examining samples from the Arctic landscape of Lake Hazen.

It is the largest lake in the world entirely north of the Arctic Circle, and “was truly unlike any other place I’ve been”, researcher Graham Colby, now a medical student at University of Toronto, told AFP.

The team sampled soil that becomes a riverbed for melted glacier water in the summer, as well as the lakebed itself — which required clearing snow and drilling through two metres of ice, even in May when the research was carried out.

They used ropes and a snowmobile to lift the lake sediment through almost 300 metres (980 feet) of water, and samples were then sequenced for DNA and RNA, the genetic blueprints and messengers of life.

“This enabled us to know what viruses are in a given environment, and what potential hosts are also present,” said Stephane Aris-Brosou, an associate professor in the University of Ottawa’s biology department, who led the work.

But to find out how likely they were to jump hosts, the team needed to examine the equivalent of each virus and host’s family tree.

“Basically what we tried to do is measure how similar these trees are,” said Audree Lemieux, first author of the research.

Similar genealogies suggest a virus has evolved along with its host, but differences suggest spillover.

And if a virus has jumped hosts once, it is more likely to do so again.

'Very unpredictable'

The analysis found pronounced differences between viruses and hosts in the lakebed, "which is directly correlated to the risk of spillover," said Aris-Brosou.

The difference was less stark in the riverbeds, which the researchers theorise is because water erodes the topsoil, removing organisms and limiting interactions between viruses and potential new hosts.

Those instead wash into the lake, which has seen "dramatic change" in recent years, the study says, as increased water from melting glaciers deposits more sediment.

"That's going to bring together hosts and viruses that would not normally encounter each other," Lemieux said.

The authors of the research, published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences journal, caution they are neither forecasting an actual spillover nor a pandemic.

"The likelihood of dramatic events remains very low," Lemieux said.

They also warn more work is needed to clarify how big the difference between viruses and hosts needs to be to create serious spillover risk.

But they argue that warming weather could increase risks further if new potential hosts move into previously inhospitable regions.

"It could be anything from ticks to mosquitoes to certain animals, to bacteria and viruses themselves," said Lemieux.

"It's really unpredictable... and the effect of spillover itself is very unpredictable, it can range from benign to an actual pandemic."

The team wants more research and surveillance work in the region to understand the risks.

"Obviously we've seen in the past two years what the effects of spillover can be," said Lemieux. e 1.5-degree goal in sight.

DMW, IOM commit to promote gender sensitivity, prepare for climate change effects

By: Juan Marcos Tadios

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have committed to promoting gender sensitivity among migrant workers and in preparing the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) on the global effects of climate change.

During the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Tuesday, Oct. 18, DMW Secretary Susan “Toots” Ople and IOM Deputy Director-General Amy Pope vowed to strengthen the relationship of the two agencies in advancing the welfare, rights, and betterment of Filipino migrant workers.

Ople said they discussed with the IOM three possible areas of cooperation, the first is the ongoing discussion about the impact of climate change on foreign workers and their families.

The IOM and DMW have formulated some plans for intersections between climate change and migration that would need extensive discussion.

Ople said they will tackle with IOM executives the intensive impact of climate change on global migration in November.

The second issue area of cooperation discussed was on the issue of aging population and the eluding impact of labor shortage in the world that have resulted in huge demand for job orders for OFWs.

Ople said they also sought the help of IOM in formulating and developing gender-responsive policies.

“Gender sensitivity training of overseas personnel is a top priority of DMW,” Ople said.

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Mayor Abby highlighted Makati's renewed efforts to become a more sustainable city. By implementing innovative financing strategies, the city has reduced its carbon footprint while also increasing its resilience to the effects of climate change.

"I learned three financing instruments in my recent trip to Germany: the city gap fund, the green cities program, and the local climate adaptive living facility. Applying these would boost Makati City's access to grants, loans, and funding opportunities. This will take Makati's climate action plan further and make it more resilient," the mayor said.

According to Mayor Abby, the city gap fund provides technical assistance and capacity building to support climate-smart planning. The other is the green cities program which aims to build a better and more sustainable future for cities and residents. This program has three central components: a green city action plan, sustainable infrastructure investment, and capacity building.

The local climate adaptive living facility, hosted by the UN Capital Development Fund, serves as a mechanism to integrate climate change adaptation into local government's planning and budgeting systems.

Mayor Abby quickly added: "We are doing this in Makati. Every time we budget, we incorporate climate change actions, even in the most basic budgeting programs. We make sure that all our investments are climate smart."

Without financial support, the city's climate action efforts will have no leg to stand on.

"We have a lot of public-private partnerships (PPP) in the city. I think it's like honey. When you attract one bee, several bees start coming. PPPs or whatever grants, as long as they know it is sustainable, will make little money, whether breakeven or profit. Transparency and good governance are essential. They know that the city has a long-term vision and a long-term plan, and there will be continuity. I'm not going to invest or finance your project if I feel you're a bit shady or you're just going to run off with my money. If there's corruption in your city, they will not invest in your city. So good governance and transparency are part of the environment necessary to get good financing," the mayor explained.

With her steadfast commitment to tackling climate change, it's no surprise that Mayor Abby is one of the leading voices in promoting sustainable urban development globally.

Her participation in Daring Cities 2022 proves that she's more than ready to take on the challenge of urgently implementing Makati's climate action plans.

Mayor Abby is ICLEI Southeast Asia's Representative to the ICLEI Global Executive Committee. She also chairs the ICLEI Innovative Financing portfolio and serves as a Regional Executive Committee Member.

In August this year, Makati City officially declared a climate emergency and acknowledged the need for concerted, multi-level, and multi-stakeholder climate action to address global warming.

To address the impact of climate change, the city came up with long-term goals that require the collaboration and cooperation of both the public and private sectors.

Makati recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to develop an electric bus-based smart public transportation system in the metropolis. The Makati subway system will help reduce traffic and improve air quality by reducing carbon emissions. The government also plans to buy electric vehicles for its various departments and operations.

Mayor Abby is also pushing forward with plans to put solar panels in public schools and government buildings to save money on energy and ensure that there is enough power during emergencies.

Makati is the first local government in the world to join the Cities Race to Resilience. Since 2017, it has continually invested in disaster preparedness by providing disaster gear and emergency bags and hard helmets to its citizens.

Various regulations, such as those regulating waste management and construction, are in place to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions. The city also implements bans on plastic waste and smoking, as well as an anti-smoke belching policy.

"I am proud of what Makati has achieved regarding sustainability and climate action. We have demonstrated that even small cities can make a big difference, and I am committed to continuing this work in the future. The lessons learned at Daring Cities 2022 and the relationships I have built with other global leaders in climate action will be invaluable as we work towards becoming a carbon-neutral city," Mayor Abby concluded.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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Ankara – The media has to be "more confident and ambitious" in covering the entire picture on climate change, a former Portuguese official said on Tuesday. "The media has to give us the input from normal people and how they are suffering from climate change," Bruno Macaes, a former secretary of state for European affairs, told Anadolu Agency.

Macaes argued that the media should not only be covering scientists' views -- "they have to do their own work because the problem with scientists is that they are extremely specialized."

"Scientists will tell us how the planet is changing but it has to be the media to tell us how everyday life is changing," he underlined. "It's not going to be scientists to tell us how a farmer in Ethiopia is suffering from climate change already, or how older people in some Italian city now have to deal with much higher temperatures and how that affects their lives and their health."

Macaes was speaking ahead of Anadolu Agency's Environment Forum, set to start on Thursday in Istanbul and expected to bring together local and foreign non-governmental organizations, as well as representatives of media and international groups, politicians, and academics.

Responsibility sharing will be a major theme at the event, with an agenda including issues from the media's responsibility on climate change and its approach to natural disasters and the climate crisis to clean energy use for sustainable development.

Macaes said climate change coverage should not be a scientific task, but rather one for reporters to go out and find regular people and to tell the story of their impressions of how the world is changing.

"I don't see enough of this. There's a bit of it and more each year. But, that's an important role," he added.

Macaes said many of the effects of the coronavirus outbreak would re-emerge as the climate crisis unfolds, from lockdowns to breakdowns in supply chains to health crises and new pandemics, which he said would also result from varying temperatures as a result of changes in climate.

"The pandemic lasted two years, and the climate crisis may well be the rest of the century," he underlined, adding that despite the magnitude of the issue, only small parts of it has so far been filtered to public debate.

"My hope here is that more and more dimensions of the problem start to appear in the public debate. So far, it's been very limited and the media is critical," he added.

Expectations from COP27

On this year's upcoming COP27 climate summit in Egypt, Macaes said there was much less public attention than there was the COP26 conference last year in Glasgow, Scotland.

"I think most people are not even aware it's happening, which is not a good sign. It seems to me that the cause is that people are so focused on the geopolitical crisis and the energy crisis, and they don't have the bandwidth to deal with this," he said.

But that's a real big problem, he warned, adding that it would be even more difficult to address the climate crisis in the next decade, during which many other immediate problems are likely to emerge.

"I suspect, and I'm afraid, very concerned, that when we have an energy crisis, the public will be more concerned with the immediate emergency of solving the energy crisis and less receptive to discussions about climate," he said.

Underlining the importance of events like Anadolu Agency's Environment Forum in getting different actors and perspectives to communicate, he said:

"I was glad that there's a forum in Istanbul to try to fight this tendency to forget about the climate crisis, and as part of the effort to bring it back to the top of our discussions and again to realize that everything is connected and that the energy crisis can actually only be solved together with the climate transition."

RAPPLER

['Massive gaps' seen in countries' plans to tackle climate change – study](#)

By: Reuters

Washington, DC, USA – The latest pledges by countries to tackle global warming under the Paris Agreement are “woefully inadequate” to avert a rise in global temperatures that scientists say will worsen droughts, storms, and floods, a report said on Wednesday, October 19.

The 2015 pact launched at a UN global climate summit requires 194 countries to detail their plans to fight climate change in what are known as nationally determined contributions, or NDCs.

In pledges made through September, the NDCs would reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases only 7% from 2019 levels by 2030, said the report titled “The State of NDCs: 2022.” It was written by the World Resources Institute (WRI) global nonprofit research group.

Countries must strengthen their targets by about six times that, or at least 43%, to align with what the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says is enough to reach the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting the global temperature rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees F), it said.

“It really looks like we’re hitting a bit of a plateau,” Taryn Fransen, a senior fellow at WRI and author of the report said in an interview. She added that the COVID-19 pandemic and economic woes may have mostly capped countries’ ambitions to boost their NDCs since 2021.

Current NDCs propose to reduce emissions by 5.5 gigatons compared with the initial NDCs from 2015, nearly equal to eliminating the annual emissions of the United States. But only 10% of that planned reduction has been pledged since 2021.

On the bright side, Australia and Indonesia did boost their NDCs this year. “That got us some progress,” Fransen said, “but there hasn’t been a lot beyond that.” Countries in the Paris Agreement are required to update their NDCs by 2025.

“If the pace of improvement from 2016 to today continues, the world will not only miss the Paris Agreement goals, but it will miss them by a long shot,” the report said.

Much of the focus of this year’s global climate talks, to be held next month in Egypt, will center on reducing emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide during its first 20 years in the atmosphere. In an example of the work yet to be done, WRI found that only 15 of the 119 countries that signed a Global Methane Pledge launched last year included a specific, quantified methane reduction target in their NDCs.

Fransen said economic and health benefits of reducing emissions, such as the build-out of the energy transition and reduced air pollution, can help build momentum to deeper cuts. “Seeing those benefits can only help drive more ambitions, but it is a bit of a chicken-and-egg problem,” she said.

[Opinion] 'Greenwashing' it down with drinks and denial

By: John Leo Algo

For climate and environmental action, the last few months of the year are the most critical time. This past September saw the climate crisis as a key issue tackled at the week-long events of the UN General Assembly. A global conference on biodiversity will be held in Canada in December to plan how humankind would live in harmony with nature, which has been declining due to its collective activities.

With all the buzz and hype for meaningful change also come opportunities for businesses to capitalize. For years, we have seen companies portray themselves to be on the side of green action, only to block the implementation of policies and solutions that would benefit billions of people for the sake of filling their already-loaded pockets with money.

We should be aware of these attempts at “greenwashing,” including the recent announcement by a famous corporation.

‘Real magic’

The news of Coca-Cola being announced as a major sponsor for the upcoming global climate negotiations in Egypt (COP27) has not been well-received by environmental groups. The company is the world’s largest producer of plastics, which are made from the same fossil fuels such as coal and gas that intensifies global warming. This not only makes it partially responsible for the global plastic pollution, but also for the climate crisis to which the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable.

While the company does have some environmental initiatives, the fact remains that at the very core of its business model is plastics, to which it has shown no signs of breaking away from. It is unethical to have such company, arguably the worst plastic polluter, sponsor an event whose purpose directly contradicts its ways of maximizing profits.

How can we expect the climate negotiations, which would help decide our collective future, to deliver the actions we need when it is likely to be undermined by fossil fuel-dependent corporations from the PR stage to the negotiating table?

It becomes an even bigger slap to the face that companies like Coca Cola are allowed to have a seat in the negotiations when representatives of the most vulnerable peoples like the youth and indigenous peoples have to jump through hoops just to be able to attend in-person.

There are many reasons why there have been 27 rounds of global talks about the climate crisis, yet not enough progress has been made and we are all paying the price for it. One of those reasons, without question, is this kind of greenwashing.

'Hypothetical'

Here is another example of greenwashing that may apply to many businesses and nations worldwide.

Imagine being in a corporation that puts itself in a position to invest a big part of its future in dirty energy like coal and gas, even though said fuels are causing the climate crisis and would become economically unviable in the near-future.

Years later, the investment does not pay off as many expected. Your corporation loses billions largely due to those decisions made back then, knowing the risks involved. And then you try to make a case that the lost billions should be passed on to electricity consumers, with the threat of canceling contracts that could lead to energy insecurity in many communities.

You try to justify this move as protecting the interest of electricity consumers, saying that it is only a temporary price hike and that it would be more costly for everyone if your case to charge the consumers for the losses for which you are responsible is not granted.

Can you imagine a corporation that wants to charge consumers for its mistakes and still publicly claim it is protecting the interest of consumers?

When these people, who are already burdened by not just expensive electricity bills but also rising food prices and transport expenses, are asked to sacrifice even more just so a corporation that makes tens of billions every year anyway can recover their losses, that is obviously not protecting the interest of consumers. Or does "consumers" and "shareholders" mean the same in their dictionary?

This is also not aligned with its claim of support for sustainability, especially if it keeps funding coal and gas projects and building environmentally destructive infrastructures. When you depend too much on carbon, money talks so loudly every other noise is drowned out.

Can you imagine if a corporation actually does all of these?

Who knows if such an entity exists, but one thing is undisputable: elements of this case certainly apply to many cases around the world. The example shown above, in a nutshell, is also greenwashing.

The same side?

This is not to say that businesses are incapable of being a genuine part of climate and environmental action. It would take years to implement a full transition of their business models and practices towards greener ones.

What is unacceptable is when corporations publicly commit to reducing pollution and pursuing sustainable practices, and then let their actions speak the exact opposite. By doing so, they are disregarding the well-being of the general public, making fools out of us, and knowingly causing harm to the most vulnerable communities to which they must be held accountable.

Let us not get lost amid the colorful commercials and marketing hype, and recognize that no amount of money can withstand the wrath of nature scorned. Always remember that humankind does not own nature; we are a part of it. And every time we think otherwise, we will always be reminded that we are the ones who adapt to our environment.

Money is not the kind of “green” that matters the most. We all must learn this lesson.

THE PHILIPPINES STAR

[German youths take climate case against government to European court](#)

BERLIN — Climate activists who won a landmark case against the German government last year are now taking their case to the European Court of Human Rights, an organisation representing them said on Tuesday.

The group of nine young environmentalists are unhappy with the government's climate plan in response to their legal victory, according to campaign group Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH).

"The government is not fulfilling its obligations. The climate crisis continues to threaten to destroy our livelihoods and freedom," one of the complainants said.

Germany's constitutional court last year ruled that the government's climate plans were insufficient and placed an unfair burden on future generations.

In response, the government led by then-chancellor Angela Merkel tightened the timeline of plans to slash emissions and brought forward its goal of becoming carbon neutral by five years to 2045.

But DUH said the plans were "insufficient" to meet the targets of the Paris climate agreement.

The constitutional court would not accept another complaint on the same case, DUH said, leaving the activists with no choice but to appeal to the ECHR.

"Even since our first victory against the government, we have been feeling the climate crisis more and more acutely with hot summers and floods," said one complainant named as Marlene, 14.

"If we don't act now, the situation will get worse," she said.

In late 2021, a new coalition government was elected in Germany on a promise to make environmental concerns one of its top priorities.

But since then, climate issues have been overshadowed by the war in Ukraine, an acute energy crisis and record inflation.

[Greenpeace set sights on 'polluting' jetsetters](#)

By: Agence France-Presse

The Hague, Netherlands — Environmental group Greenpeace said Thursday that polluting flights by luxury jets from Dutch airports were skyrocketing, with a recent study showing emissions equivalent to almost 40,000 cars per year.

The study conducted by Dutch environmental thinktank CE Delft also showed that one out of every three private flights from Schiphol or Rotterdam The Hague Airport were used for trips shorter than 500 kilometres (311 miles).

"We are shocked that in times of a climate crisis a certain group has started flying not less but more in private jets that are the most polluting," said Dewi Zloch, a climate and energy expert at Greenpeace Netherlands.

"Popular destinations include Paris and even Antwerp, cities easily reached by train," Greenpeace added in a statement.

"The most popular flights are to destinations like Mallorca, Ibiza and Cannes," it added, saying some 16,147 private flights were made to and from Schiphol and Rotterdam.

Greenpeace pointed out that private flights did not fall under climate targets set out by the Dutch government and did not fall under a maximum of 440,000 flights a year set for 2023.

"This exception for private jets shows exactly what is wrong with the aviation industry," added Zloch, calling for it to "stop polluting and finally have climate targets."

"The first step is to scrap short flights and luxury private jets for the wealthy", Zloch said.

CCC IN THE NEWS

NET 25

[NET25 at iba pang news firms lumahok sa climate change reporting seminar](#)

By: Earlo Bringas

Bansang Germany nagsagawa ng climate change reporting seminar para ho yan sa mga Filipino journalist at ang inyong NET25 kabilang ho sa dumalo.

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