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By: Jervis Manahan,

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PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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RAPPLER

El Niño 'wrecking ball' could cause record Pacific temperature rise, UN says

GENEVA, Switzerland – The El Niño weather pattern could cause a record rise in ocean temperatures in the Pacific as it barrels around the globe like a "wrecking ball," causing floods and droughts, UN officials said on Wednesday, October 21.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Office of Civil Defense: Preparations ongoing for super typhoon Rosal
By: Jervis Manahan,

MANILA — The Office of Civil Defense's preparations for super typhoon Rosal are in full swing, their spokesperson told "Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon" on Tuesday.

The super typhoon has entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility and wind signals have been raised in some parts of the country.

OCD spokesperson Junie Castillo said equipment, food and supplies, and personnel are already on standby in anticipation of the storm.

"In fact, naka-blue alert karamihan iyong mga operation center natin...dinagdagan na iyong mga nagdyu-duty at saka heightened monitoring tayo," he said.

(In fact, most of our operations centers are on blue alert... more people are on duty and we are on heightened monitoring.)

:ocal government units and other bodies are ready for response operations with rescue boats in case of flooding and vehicles for rescues in upland areas and for preemptive evacuation.

"Siyempre iyong mga evacuation centers at iyong mga kagamitan doon," Castillo added.

(Of course, our evacuation centers are ready.)

The OCD official highlighted the importance of positioning goods before the storm even hits families, especially in remote areas.

Super Typhoon Champi entered the Philippine area of responsibility at 10:40 a.m. Tuesday, October 20, and was named Rosal.

Wind Signal No. 1 is now up in Batanes and parts of Cagayan, Isabela, and Catanduanes.

BUSINESS MIRROR

SEA climate change 'to hit PHL hardest'

By: Justine Xyrah Garcia

THE Philippines is projected to incur the highest port damage in Southeast Asia from climate-related hazards, with losses potentially reaching $70.2 billion annually by 2100, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In a report released on Wednesday, the multilateral lender estimated that port damage in the Philippines could reach $20.6 billion annually under an intermediate-emissions scenario, in which sea levels are projected to rise by roughly 50 to 80 centimeters.

Under a high-emissions scenario, where sea levels could approach 1 meter, annual port damages could climb to $70.2 billion.

The projected damages are equivalent to 0.19 percent and 0.44 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), respectively.

In absolute terms, the Philippines's projected port damages are the highest in Southeast Asia and the third-highest across the Asia-Pacific economies covered by the report.

China leads with projected annual losses ranging from $82.2 billion to $332 billion, while India's estimates range from $70 billion to $254 billion.

The estimates cover not only the cost of repairing damaged port infrastructure but also revenue losses from operational downtime and disruptions to maritime trade. The ADB considered several climate-related hazards, including tropical cyclone winds, flooding, extreme waves, and other marine conditions.

According to the multilateral lending institution, the impact of port damage could extend beyond coastal areas. Disruptions to port operations can delay shipments, interrupt supply chains and affect businesses and communities that rely on maritime transport for goods and essential supplies.

"Because these networks link farms to markets, fishers to buyers, and households to health services and food supplies, their disruption cascades directly into livelihoods, nutrition, and well-being," the report stated. "The extent of exposed infrastructure is likely to increase as urban development increasingly puts these built assets in harm's way."

Beyond infrastructure losses, millions of Filipinos could also face exposure to coastal flooding in the coming decades.

The ADB projected that 5.437 million people in the Philippines could be exposed annually to coastal flooding by 2100 under a high-emissions scenario.

In Manila alone, about 1.305 million people could be exposed annually to coastal flooding by 2100 under the same high-emissions scenario.

The total projected Filipinos affected by coastal flooding would be the fifth-highest projected population exposure among the Asia-Pacific economies covered by the report.

China recorded the highest projected exposure at 33.015 million people, followed by India at 21.491 million, Bangladesh at 17.454 million and Vietnam at 13.306 million.

The report defines the figure as the expected annual population exposed to coastal flood depths exceeding 15 centimeters. Flooding at this depth can disrupt livelihoods and economic activity and pose risks to vulnerable groups.

Financing coastal resilience

DESPITE the scale of the projected risks, the Philippines has developed financing mechanisms that could help support climate-related initiatives and encourage private investment, ADB Senior Climate Change Specialist Kathryn Milliken said.

“The Philippines is one of the more pioneering countries in some of the work it’s been doing on catastrophe risk insurance, contingent financing, and sustainable finance initiatives, where it’s building a platform for more private capital to emerge over time,” Milliken said during the report’s online launch.

She cautioned, however, that countries need different combinations of financing instruments to address their respective needs.

“There are some positive kind of developments that are coming out, but it’s not a one-size-fits-all, and it can’t be one specific instrument,” she said.

The ADB report particularly cited the Philippines’ efforts to integrate climate risks and resilience priorities into public financial management, including expenditure frameworks, investment appraisals, budget tagging and screening.

It also noted that the country has developed a Sustainable Finance Framework. The report said $7.48 billion had been issued through several sovereign sustainability bonds in international capital markets, with proceeds allocated in part to climate resilience and the management of coastal and marine resources.

More broadly, the ADB called on governments across the region to incorporate long-term coastal risks into development planning, strengthen institutions and governance, and mobilize predictable, sustainable financing.

It said public finance would remain central to coastal resilience, while policy and regulatory reforms, risk-sharing arrangements, and blended finance could help attract private investment where appropriate.

DAILY TRIBUNE

DepEd eyes solar power for schools as extreme heat worsens

By: Lisa Marie Apacible

The Department of Education (DepEd) is looking at solar power for public schools as part of its long-term response to rising temperatures, while directing schools to improve classroom ventilation and ensure electric fans are working as extreme heat threatens learning.

Education Secretary Sonny Angara said the department expects hotter conditions and more severe weather disturbances in the coming years, making it necessary for schools to prepare for the effects of climate change.

“Although it takes time, it's quite expensive. Ito ang direksyon natin dahil siguro hindi nagbabago ang climate change natin and we will be seeing even hotter and more extreme weather disturbances,” Angara said Thursday.

The department has previously explored installing solar panels on school rooftops, with Angara identifying 2027 as a possible target for broader implementation. In April, he said DepEd had no dedicated budget for large-scale solarization in 2026 and would need to secure funding or identify available savings to proceed.

For now, the department is focusing on measures that schools can implement immediately, including improving ventilation and ensuring electric fans function properly.

Angara also said local government units may suspend classes when heat conditions become unbearable, emphasizing that the effects of heat vary from one location to another.

“Sometimes 42 is different in a tree-filled area. Pag may hangin, pero it's really the humidity,” he said, referring to how shade, airflow and humidity can affect conditions even when temperatures are similar.

Local officials have the authority to suspend classes based on conditions in their respective areas, he added.

DepEd is also relaxing uniform requirements for both learners and teachers to help them cope with hot weather, while allowing schools to use alternative learning arrangements when in-person classes are disrupted.

These may include printed modules, videos and online group chats, depending on the level of internet connectivity in a community, Angara said.

The measures come as the Philippines prepares for a potentially strong El Niño, which could bring higher temperatures and below-normal rainfall in the coming months, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

World on track for 2.6C warming this century: UN report

By Nick Perry

Global commitments to cut planet-heating emissions are falling far short of the Paris climate goals and put the world on course for 2.6C warming this century, the UN warned Wednesday.

The report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) lays bare the chasm between rhetoric and action when it comes to tackling global warming, and the challenges faced by political leaders at November's COP31 climate summit.

Even if countries deliver their latest climate pledges in full, global temperatures could still rise 2.6C above pre-industrial levels by 2100, said the annual Emissions Gap Report.

That would blow past the historic goal agreed in 2015 in Paris: keeping warming well below 2C while striving for a safer 1.5C. Any chance of keeping to 1.5C had been "lost" due to decades of insufficient action, the report said.

"The world can no longer avoid overshooting the 1.5 degree limit, and the consequences are already devastating," said UN chief Antonio Guterres in a statement to launch the closely watched report.

"Deadly floods, brutal heatwaves, raging wildfires, lost lives, crippled economies, deepening inequalities, and those least responsible are suffering first and worst."

Overall, global greenhouse gas emissions in 2025 were broadly on a par with record levels in 2024, with the difference between the two years too small to call, the report said.

Carbon emissions just from burning coal, oil and gas -- the main driver of climate change -- rose slightly in 2025 compared to the previous year.

Guterres said deep and immediate cuts were needed to protect humanity from worsening impacts, but instead "emissions remain at record levels. And national climate plans and current policies fall dangerously short."

Sticking just with current policies would see warming hit 2.8C by the end of the century, the report said.

No country immune

Scientists warn that every additional fraction of a degree above 1.5C increases extreme weather events and the likelihood of irreversible changes to the planet, from dying coral reefs to melting permafrost.

The world has already warmed roughly 1.4C relative to pre-industrial times, and crossing 1.5C is expected in a matter of years.

This latest UNEP warming outlook is worse than last year's because of the formal withdrawal of the United States from the Paris accord and upward revisions of historical emissions, said report co-author Anne Olhoff.

Emissions growth slowed among the G20, but the United States was a "major exception," it added.

The Group of 20 major economies accounts for three-quarters of global emissions.

Among the world's top six emitters, preliminary data for 2025 showed emissions increases in the United States, Indonesia and China, and decreases in India, Russia and the European Union.

But the US increase of 133 megatons of CO2 equivalent "far exceeded" that of any other country, driven by higher electricity demand and a rebound of coal power generation.

The next-largest increase was recorded in Turkey, which is hosting the UN climate summit in Antalya from November 9 to 20.

The US is the world's second-largest polluter, behind China. US President Donald Trump has called climate change a hoax and rolled back clean energy policies while boosting fossil fuel production.

UNEP executive secretary Inger Andersen told AFP she would not put the blame "squarely on one nation," saying every country, especially the G20, has "a specific duty to find a way to phase down their carbon emissions".

To limit the overshoot beyond 1.5C, Andersen said the world has an "urgent to-do item": adding another 5,000 gigawatts of renewable energy over the next five years.

But on the same day the report came out, Britain's Labour government approved drilling in a new North Sea gas field to boost energy security amid the Iran war, angering environmentalists.

Andersen said such projects are "not in accord" with the 1.5C goal.

'Historic failure'

The report details a scenario with a 50% chance of bringing global warming back down to 1.5C by 2100.

To get there, warming must peak around 1.8C by 2050, and vast amounts of carbon dioxide would have to be removed from the atmosphere to bring temperatures down further.

But this scenario assumes immediate emissions cuts of 6% per year, every year, until 2035 -- nowhere near current projections.

Some climate-vulnerable developing nations have accused bigger emitters of abandoning the Paris goals, and a showdown over the 1.5C target is expected at COP31.

"This is a historic failure of political leadership," said Mohamed Adow, director of Kenya-based think tank Power Shift Africa.

"The science has been clear for decades, but governments have chosen delay over action. The consequences will be measured in lives lost, not just degrees of warming." — AFP

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

Albay town reactivates task force on El Niño

By: Sally Altea

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay (PIA) — The municipal government of Camalig has reactivated its El Niño task force to enhance preparedness measures against potential drought and water shortages.

The climate phenomenon is expected to intensify in February and March 2027.

Rommel Negrete Jr., chief of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, reported that Albay is experiencing below-normal rainfall, which raises concerns about water availability, agricultural production, and public health.

This situation was discussed during a meeting of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management–Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Council, where local officials and partner agencies evaluated the need for timely interventions to minimize the potential impacts of El Niño.

In response, Mayor Carlos Irwin Baldo Jr. ordered the reactivation of the Camalig El Niño Task Force to improve coordination, monitoring, and the implementation of preparedness and mitigation strategies.

“There is a need for the municipality to take timely and appropriate measures to minimize the possible adverse effects of El Niño and to ensure that essential services and assistance are made available to affected individuals, families, farmers and other sectors of the community,” Baldo said.

The task force will serve as the municipality’s coordinating body in identifying vulnerable areas and sectors and recommending appropriate interventions to reduce the impact of prolonged dry conditions.

It will also disseminate timely and relevant information to residents and monitor the implementation of programs designed to help communities prepare for and cope with El Niño.

Baldo said the task force would review and update the municipality’s preparedness and mitigation plan, with particular attention to short- and long-term measures addressing food security, water supply, energy, health and public safety. (PIA Bicol/Albay)

Lapu-Lapu students learn disaster readiness through play

By: By Myrtle Pasigan

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu (PIA) — Grade 9 learners at Lo-ok National High School learned what goes into an emergency go bag through a web-based game instead of a lecture.

The activity was part of the Panatag Pilipinas 3.0 Campaign of the Office of Civil Defense Region 7 (OCD-7), which makes schools the starting point for teaching disaster preparedness to families and communities.

OCD-7 launched the campaign at the school on Oct. 13 with the Lapu-Lapu City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) in observance of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Thirty-nine students played Emergency Go Bag Rush, a game developed by the University of the Philippines Cebu Center for Environmental Informatics (UP CENVI).

Players learn which supplies to prepare for earthquakes, storm surges, flash floods, and typhoons.

James Carlo Garcia, a UP CENVI science research specialist, said the game aims to teach families how to prepare at home. He said it is still in pilot testing, and his team is gathering user feedback before its official release.

For Erris, one of the students, the game showed what to do before disaster strikes, since there is no time left to prepare once it hits.

“Kung moabot ang oras sa kalamidad makahibaw ka kung unsa ang dapat buhaton, kung asa ka padung, unsa imung angay dalhon, kung unsa imung angay iprepare (When disaster comes, you will know what to do, where to go, what to bring and what to prepare),” he said.

Stephen, another student, said the game taught him how to pack a go bag and what to do in an emergency.

He said the lesson is “very useful not just in our country but everywhere.”

Principal Maria Fe Decatoria said the activity helps learners put preparedness into practice.

“This launching of the IDDRR is important to our learners here, to really learn this kind of information nga dili lang nga mahibaw-an nila kundili sa aksyon gayud and hopefully, we are all ready when an emergency comes,” she said.

(This launching of the IDDRR is important to our learners here, to really learn this kind of information that is not only to be known but put into action, and hopefully, we are all ready when an emergency comes.)

Lapu-Lapu City DRRMO Officer-in-Charge Nagiel Bañacia said the city uses tools like the game to make preparedness easier for the public to understand and apply in daily life.

He said climate change, a growing population, and dwindling resources will make the future harder for today's youth.

"It is our wish nga dili mo maka-experience sa na-experience nato karon," he said. (It is our wish that you will not experience what we are experiencing now.)

OCD-7 Regional Director Joel Q. Mamon turned over the campaign materials, including 28 preparedness videos on hazards and the measures to take, to Decatoria.

"Schools were chosen as the main focus of the campaign because they play an important role in teaching knowledge and skills on disaster preparedness," Mamon said.

He said students and teachers can share what they learn with their families, and lessons learned at home can be brought back to school.

"Prepared homes and prepared schools serve as a strong foundation for a prepared, safe, and resilient nation," he said.

The campaign follows the international theme "Resilience Starts at Home" and the local theme "Panatag na Tahanan at Paaralan," which highlight the role of households and schools in building safer communities.

Mamon urged the public to "work together and take part in our own simple ways in making our communities safer, adaptive, and disaster resilient." (MYP/PIA7 Cebu)

RAPPLER

El Niño ‘wrecking ball’ could cause record Pacific temperature rise, UN says

GENEVA, Switzerland – The El Niño weather pattern could cause a record rise in ocean temperatures in the Pacific as it barrels around the globe like a “wrecking ball,” causing floods and droughts, UN officials said on Wednesday, October 21.

The new World Meteorological Organization (WMO) seasonal outlook predicted the El Niño event would become extremely strong, with temperatures in the central Pacific rising about 3.8 degrees Celsius above normal between November and January, peaking around December.

“We have not seen in our records 3.8. We have seen around 3 in some record El Niños before, with very substantive impacts across the world. So we are beyond that limit,” WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said.

El Niño is the warm phase of the naturally occurring El Niño-Southern Oscillation cycle — a climate pattern that influences weather around the world.

It tends to cause higher global temperatures and disrupt rainfall patterns across large regions, meaning drought in some areas and heavy rains in others.

It is a natural climate pattern and is not caused by climate change. However, global warming can make El Niños more intense.

El Niño-linked weather extremes could worsen pressure on housing, water, sanitation and health services, with flooding risks rising in southern Africa from November, the WMO said.

In Southeast Asia, warmer conditions and a lack of rainfall could impact agriculture and water supplies, while Latin America could see increased rainfall, according to the WMO.

The WMO and the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, called for urgent action to get ready.

“This El Niño is the behemoth; it is a wrecking ball. It will tear through Latin America, Eastern and Southern Africa, Asia and the Pacific with extreme heat, droughts, and floods,” Fletcher said, warning of massive humanitarian consequences.

Some 50 million people could face increased hunger, he said. – Rappler.com

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

Recto: New EO on carbon market policy framework dangles incentives to those who help reduce pollution
By: Betheena Unite

Protecting forests, planting trees, and reducing pollution could also generate additional income for Filipinos under the new carbon market policy, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said.

According to Recto, Executive Order No. 127, which establishes a national carbon market policy framework, allows qualified environmental projects to earn and trade carbon credits.

Under the proposed system, communities, farmers, businesses, and other groups that help reduce pollution or absorb harmful greenhouse gases could potentially earn additional income from their environmental efforts, Recto said.

In a statement on Sunday, Oct. 19, Recto explained that a community that plants and protects trees may qualify to earn carbon credits because trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

These credits, he said, could then be sold to companies or other buyers seeking to meet their climate commitments, providing an additional source of income for participating communities.

“Sa madaling salita, puwedeng kumita mula sa pagtatanim at pag-aalaga ng mga puno, paggamit ng malinis na enerhiya, at iba pang gawaing nakatutulong sa kalikasan (In simple terms, people can earn money by planting and caring for trees, using clean energy, and engaging in other activities that help protect the environment)," Recto said.

"Bibigyan ka ng carbon credits sa bawat aktibidad na napatunayang nakabawas sa greenhouse gases, na puwedeng ibenta (Carbon credits will be awarded for each activity proven to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and these credits can then be sold)," he explained.

The Executive Secretary, however, stressed that projects must meet government standards and undergo proper verification before they can qualify for carbon credits.

Recto also said the initiative could encourage more investments in reforestation, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and waste management while opening up livelihood opportunities, particularly in rural communities.

“Ang gusto ng Pangulo, habang inaalagaan natin ang kalikasan, may dagdag na kita rin ang ating mga kababayan. Hindi lang malinis na hangin at mas luntiang kapaligiran ang pakinabang. Maaari rin itong magdala ng trabaho, negosyo, at bagong oportunidad sa mga komunidad

(What the President wants is for our fellow Filipinos to earn additional income while protecting the environment. The benefits go beyond cleaner air and a greener environment. These efforts can also create jobs, businesses, and new opportunities for communities)," Recto said.

"We're hitting two birds with one stone. The President wants to protect the environment while helping people earn more," Recto added.

He further said that carbon-credit revenues could also help finance projects that protect communities from the effects of climate change, including climate-resilient infrastructure, water facilities, and other essential services.

Under the EO, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will develop the rules governing which projects qualify, how carbon credits are measured and verified, and how revenues and other benefits are shared.

The DENR will also establish a Philippine National Carbon Registry to monitor carbon credits and prevent double counting or other irregularities.

An inter-agency committee, chaired by the Climate Change Commission and co-chaired by the Department of Finance (DOF), will oversee the development and implementation of the policy.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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