



NEWS ROUNDUP

24 OCTOBER 2023 [07:40 am]

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ECO BUSINESS

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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By: Paula Diperna

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KHALEEJ TIMES

[Climate change may push up to 158.3m more women and girls into poverty: UN report](#)

If unchecked, climate change will significantly increase women's vulnerability to poverty and hunger, undermining hard-won development gains, according to a UN report.

[UAE unites global efforts to address climate change, says Goodland](#)

Jane Goodland, group head of sustainability at London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), stressed the UAE's commitment to addressing climate change and creating a sustainable future through its ambitious goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Time is running out: As COP28 starts in November, what's at stake?](#)

By: Mat Richter

The ambitious goal to mitigate the effects of climate change entails that the world's average temperature should not exceed that of pre-industrial times by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. This necessitates a drastic cut in emissions within a mere seven-year period. Stepping outside your home now means adapting to increasingly unpredictable weather. Sudden heavy downpours can derail your plans, while scorching afternoon heat feels like an endurance test.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Amihan, shear line to bring rains over parts of Luzon

The Northeast Monsoon (Amihan) and shear line are affecting Luzon on Tuesday and will bring rains over several areas, PAGASA said in its weather forecast.

Mainland Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora, Quezon, Camarines Norte, and Camarines Sur will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the shear line which is affecting the eastern sections of Central and Southern Luzon. Moderate to at times heavy rains may result in flash floods or landslides.

Batanes and Babuyan Islands will experience cloudy skies with rains due to the Northeast Monsoon affecting Northern Luzon. Flash floods or landslides may occur due to moderate to at times heavy rains.

The Cordillera Administrative Region and Ilocos Region meanwhile will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rains due to the monsoon.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country on the other hand may expect partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to localized thunderstorms. During severe thunderstorms, flash floods or landslides may result.

Coastal waters will be moderate to rough in Northern Luzon, and slight to moderate in the rest of the country.

Sunrise was at 5:49 a.m. while sunset will be at 5:32 p.m.

CNN

[Rapid melting in West Antarctica is ‘unavoidable,’ with potentially disastrous consequences for sea level rise, study finds](#)

By: Rachel Ramirez

Rapid melting of West Antarctica’s ice shelves may now be unavoidable as human-caused global warming accelerates, with potentially devastating implications for sea level rise around the world, new research has found.

Even if the world meets ambitious targets to limit global heating, West Antarctica will experience substantial ocean warming and ice shelf melting, according to the new study published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change.

Ice shelves are tongues of ice that jut out into the ocean at the end of glaciers. They act like buttresses, helping hold ice back on the land, slowing its flow into the sea and providing an important defense against sea level rise. As ice shelves melt, they thin and lose their buttressing ability.

While there has been growing evidence ice loss in West Antarctica may be irreversible, there has been uncertainty about how much can be prevented through climate policies.

The researchers looked at “basal melting,” when warm ocean currents melt the ice from beneath. They analyzed the rate of ocean warming and ice shelf melting under different climate change scenarios. These ranged from the ambitious, where the world manages to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, to the worst-case, where humans burn large amounts of planet-heating fossil fuels.

They found if the world limits temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, which it is not on track to do, climate change could still cause the ocean to warm at three times the historical rate.

Even significantly cutting planet-heating pollution now will have “limited power” to prevent warmer oceans from triggering the collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet, the report found.

“It appears that we may have lost control of the West Antarctic ice melting over the 21st century,” said Kaitlin Naughten, an ocean modeler with the British Antarctic Survey and lead author of the study.

West Antarctica is already the continent’s largest contributor to global sea level rise and has enough ice to raise sea levels by an average of 5.3 meters, or more than 17 feet.

It's home to the Thwaites Glacier, also known as the "Doomsday glacier," because its collapse could raise sea levels by several feet, forcing coastal communities and low-lying island nations to either build around sea level rise or abandon these places, Naughten said.

While the study focused on ice shelf melting and did not directly quantify the impacts on sea level rise, "we have every reason to expect that sea level rise would increase as a result, as West Antarctica speeds up this loss of ice into the ocean," Naughten said.

Ted Scambos, a glaciologist at the University of Colorado Boulder who was not involved with the study, said the findings are "sobering." They build on existing research that paints an alarming picture of what's happening to the planet's southernmost continent, he told CNN.

"The thing that's depressing is the committed nature of sea level rise, particularly for the next century," Scambos told CNN. "People who are alive today are going to see a significant increase in the rate of sea level rise in all the coastal cities around the world."

The only way to really stop the rapid ice melting, Scambos said, would be not just to cut levels of planet-heating pollution but also to "remove some that has already built up." This will be "a real challenge," he said.

Some scientists sounded a note of caution about the study. Tiago Segabinazzi Dotto, senior research scientist at the National Oceanography Centre in the UK, said it should be "treated carefully" as it is based on a single model.

However, its conclusions do agree with previous research in the region, he told the Science Media Center, giving "confidence that this study needs to be taken in consideration for policymakers."

Naughten and her colleagues acknowledged their study has limits — predicting future rates of melting in West Antarctica is very complex and it's impossible to account for every possible future outcome. But, looking at the range of scenarios, the report authors said they were confident the melting of ice shelves is now unavoidable.

"The question of doom and gloom is something I've spent a lot of time thinking about with this study, because how do you tell such a bad news story?" Naughten said.

"Conventional wisdom is supposed to give people hope, and I don't see a lot of hope in this story," she added, "but it's what the science tells me and it's what I have to communicate to the world."

West Antarctic ice shelf melting is one impact of climate change “we are probably just going to have to adapt to and that very likely means some amount of sea level rise we cannot avoid,” Naughten said.

But although the outlook is dire, humanity cannot give up on slashing fossil fuel emissions, Naughten said. Devastating impacts can still be avoided in other parts of Antarctica and the rest of the world, she noted.

ECO BUSINESS

[Oil climate coalition reports higher green spend, lower methane emissions](#)

By: Liang Lei

An alliance of oil and gas majors reported spending US\$24.3 billion on low-carbon technologies such as renewables and carbon capture in 2022 – two-thirds higher than the year before, but overall a small fraction of their earnings.

Meanwhile, their methane emissions continued falling, to 1 million tonnes last year – half of what was released five years ago.

The Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) said its latest figures, released last week, will inspire the fossil fuel industry and help build a strong foundation for a net-zero future.

The initiative, formed in 2014, counts 12 members – Aramco, bp, Chevron, China National Petroleum Corporation, Eni, Equinor, ExxonMobil, Occidental, Petrobras, Repsol, Shell and TotalEnergies – that produce over a quarter of the world's oil and natural gas.

Fossil fuel firms are under increasing scrutiny in the lead up to the global COP28 summit, where governments will negotiate on policies to fight global warming and protect people from climate risks.

“We can see that we have made some good progress, showing that working together can achieve results in decarbonising our industry. But we recognise that there's more to do,” said Bjorn Sverdrup, OGCI's executive committee chair.

The US\$24.3 billion green spend represents only about 5 per cent of the US\$476 billion net income OGCI members earned in 2022 amid high fuel prices. Renewable energy accounted for over half of the low-carbon investments made last year.

There is however an increase in funds allocated for research into low-carbon technologies such as hydrogen and biofuels: the US\$1.8 billion spent on these studies last year made up 32 per cent of the firms' total research spending, up from under 20 per cent in past years.

OGCI said funding tripled on-year for carbon capture, utilisation and storage, a cluster of technologies aimed at filtering out carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels. The 40 large-scale projects that members are involved in could remove up to 300 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year by 2030, the coalition said.

Meanwhile, OGCI members reported continued improvements in reining in methane – a powerful greenhouse gas and the primary component of natural gas – with emissions falling to 1 million tonnes in 2022, from 1.3 million tonnes in 2021, and over 2 million tonnes in 2017.

Upstream flaring of natural gas – a major source of methane emissions – dropped to under 13,000 million cubic metres, from almost 16,000 million cubic metres in 2021 and over 24,000 million cubic metres in 2017.

Stemming methane emissions is one of the few areas where the oil and gas firms have managed to strike a partnership with environmental advocates, and a key example cited by the industry in arguing they play a legitimate role in climate mitigation efforts.

The gas is over 80 times more potent at heating the earth than carbon dioxide in the first few years after it is released into the atmosphere.

OGCI said it is expanding a satellite monitoring campaign for methane emissions to more countries, after conducting scans over Iraq, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Egypt. The coalition is also aiming for near-zero methane emissions by 2030.

Overall, OGCI members slashed their own greenhouse gas emissions by 5 per cent on-year to 590 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Upstream “Scope 2” emissions from energy used also dropped 5 per cent to 36.4 million tonnes of CO₂.

OGCI did not report downstream Scope 2 emissions, such as from refineries, nor “Scope 3” emissions, from customers burning purchased fossil fuels. Scope 3 emissions can account for up to 95 per cent of oil and gas companies’ total output.

Oil and gas production in 2022 remained stable at 43.9 million barrels of oil-equivalent a day, up from 43.5 million barrels in 2021 but lower than the 45.8 million barrels in 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scientists have called for a rapid scaling down of fossil fuels as global warming creeps towards 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, beyond which climate risks such as droughts and floods are expected to become unbearable.

Lea Guerrero, Philippines country director at Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said OGCI’s figures reflect “business as usual”.

“There is nothing significant about it except to prove the fossil fuel industry’s immoral behavior of profiting from destruction while communities around the world suffer from the climate crisis,” Guerrero said, noting the firms’ high earnings and the small 5 per cent cut in operational emissions.

Carbon capture is unproven and costly, and would deflect attention from the need for a fast and just transition, she added.

Several members of OGCI also have plans to open more oil and gas production sites. TotalEnergies could spend nearly US\$32 billion on new developments by 2030, analysis by non-profit Global Witness found last year. Shell would expend over US\$28 billion, PetroChina over US\$26 billion, and ExxonMobil nearly US\$24 billion.

“These carbon majors keep the public hooked to ever-increasing consumption while at the same time spending millions of dollars in greenwashing to portray themselves as sustainable,” Guerrero said, noting that global damage attributable to climate change last year reached US\$360 billion.

“These polluters must be made to pay for economic and non-economic losses and damages brought on by climate impacts,” Guerrero added.

Oil and gas firms are expected to join COP28 next month, after hosts United Arab Emirates said all stakeholders must be involved. The firms were also present at last year’s COP27 in Egypt, though largely absent from Scotland’s COP26 in 2021.

World governments pledged in 2021 to phase down the use of coal, the most pollutive fossil fuel. But there has been firm resistance to changing the wording to a more ambitious “phase out”, or for more types of fossil fuels to be covered under such terms.

Earlier this year, COP28’s president-designate Dr Sultan Al Jaber, who is also chief of the United Arab Emirates’ national oil firm, said he envisions a phase-out of oil and gas emissions – suggesting that fossil fuel use can be decoupled from its greenhouse gas output.

[The Philippines excludes fossil fuels, mining but not waste-to-energy in draft green taxonomy](#)

By: Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez

The Philippine central bank will not consider fossil fuels in its proposed definitions of green finance but will not label waste-to-energy (WTE) as a high-risk activity.

The regulator, known locally as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), stated that any expenditure related to the “exploration, production or transportation of fossil fuel and fossil-fuel power-generation related projects” as well as extractive mining will not be counted as “social and green”, in its draft sustainable finance framework released last month.

However, the draft does not include a managed coal phase out like Singapore and Indonesia, although the latter has backslided by announcing last month that it is considering a place for new coal-fired power plants in its green taxonomy.

Anti-mining non-profit Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) commended the BSP for putting extractives under the red label of activities considered harmful to the environment, stating that the sector will “impact the country’s goals and capacity to respond to climate change.”

The Philippine taxonomy will use the traffic light system to define types of activities viewed through a sustainability lens: green for activities that are “aligned with climate change mitigation and adaptation or undertaking a transition consistent with emissions-reduction”; amber for activities that “cause no harm, or if still causing some harm, the activity does not involve further carbon lock-in and has a time-horizon for reducing harm”; and red for activities that are excluded or “causing significant harm” to the environment.

A similar colour-coded classification system is used in the sustainable finance taxonomies of Singapore, Indonesia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The BSP sent the draft for public consultation to stakeholders, including anti-waste burning advocacy group Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), with a 6 October deadline for feedback before the policy is set to be officially launched by the first quarter of next year.

“WTE is not included as high risk despite scientific evidence and legislation ... It is converting fossil fuel-based plastic waste which generates fossil-fuel-sourced electricity.

A major infrastructure project of this kind should be considered part of the exclusion list,” Brex Arevalo, GAIA’s climate and anti-incineration campaigner, told Eco-Business.

The draft also allows for the entry of activities that cause significant harm as long as remedial climate mitigation and adaptation measures are made over a span of five years. Such activities are tagged as “amber” if attempts are made to mitigate that activity’s environmental impact within the transition period.

However, five years is “too long” because it opens a window even for industries known to have adverse environmental impacts to commit harm in the first place, like WTE, argued Arevalo.

“WTE projects will always have the potential to cause significant harm to climate mitigation and adaptation as they will always emit toxic and hazardous by-products like dioxins with half-lives of up to eleven years in the human body, regardless of technology or infrastructure used,” he said.

Waste burning in the Philippines is prohibited under the country’s Clean Air Act, but this has not stopped private companies from trying to construct waste incinerators that produce electricity.

Proponents of WTE have argued that there is no total ban on incineration according to local laws, contrary to what environmental groups claim. The only incineration that is illegal is that which produces “poisonous and toxic fumes”, which will not be emitted if the right pollution control technology is used, local government officials have pointed out.

Widely in use in countries including Japan, South Korea and northern Europe, WTE technology is making inroads in Southeast Asia, where it is promoted as a reliable green energy solution.

Southeast Asia is home to some of the world’s biggest sources of ocean pollution, which has helped WTE gain credibility as a solution to plastic pollution in countries with weak waste management infrastructure, such as Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

FINANCIAL TIMES

[\[Opinion\] It is time we paid nature back](#)

By: Paula Diperna

Nature is history's most exploited underpaid labourer, so has the time come to make good? It would seem so.

"Nature needs money," said the president of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, at the Amazon summit in early August. It's time, he declared, for the world to "create a mechanism to fairly remunerate the environmental services that our forests provide to the world".

There's nothing new in that assertion. I heard a similar challenge at the landmark Earth Summit in 1992, when a Brazilian woman asked: "If the north cares so much about the rainforest, why don't they rent it from us?"

Nature does need money and more protection, but we've never met the need commensurate with the value of the constant labour that it performs — such as water retention and filtration, soil retention by trees and plants, pollination, irrigation, aesthetic and spiritual enhancement, pollination and, of course, carbon sequestration.

We must now abandon the conventional approach to value and set up systems that account for nature as economically indispensable.

The economist Partha Dasgupta has written: "The view that the biosphere is a mosaic of self-regenerative assets also covers its role as a sink for pollution . . . The damage inflicted . . . should be interpreted as depreciation." It follows that this depreciation must be halted. This was the essence of the call made at the Amazon summit to avoid "a point of no return" for the rainforest.

But how? Fortunately new financial tools have emerged to help us invest in the value of the economically measurable benefits nature provides. A fascinating potential mechanism is the "forest resilience bond", piloted in Lake Tahoe, California, issued with capital from public and private investors.

The upfront cash generated is deployed to beef-up forest protection services that improve forest wildfire resistance. The bond is repaid by disparate beneficiaries of resilient forests who reap the quantifiable advantages over time. The first FRB was capitalised in 2018 by foundations and private investors with a face value of \$4mn. Today, there is a second bond for \$25mn, plus an innovation fund of an additional \$25mn, and an emerging portfolio of smaller forest projects.

Another approach is direct remuneration, where nations rich in biodiversity or carbon sink potential would be paid to forgo certain forms of exploitation, including fossil fuels, based perhaps on an annual average carbon price per tonne in mandatory carbon markets.

Such direct payment to nations would compensate them for their contributions to future global climate stability, rebalancing lender-borrower dynamics. After all, if the world cannot address climate change without the ecosystem services provided by certain countries, which nation is the debtor and which the creditor?

Why not, for example, set up a special purpose consortium of big private banks and multilateral financial institutions to monitor and transfer “service payments” funds to the central banks and sovereign indigenous tribal institutions of the nations concerned? Nations could then earmark those debt-free payments not only to improved environmental protection but also expanded social safety nets and support for people who may lose livelihoods. Compared to the runaway socio-economic costs of meeting climate change and other environmental deterioration, such a payment system would be a bargain.

Mia Mottley, prime minister of Barbados and architect of the Bridgetown Initiative calling for a revamp of international financing, invoked the “pay for nature” concept when explaining why her nation remains involved in exploitation of natural gas. At September’s Climate Week in New York, she said: “I would love somebody to pay me to keep our natural gas in the ground and our oceans, but if they don’t, how can I finance my way to net zero and ensure my country has access to a credible supply of energy?”

Daily events warn us that our “line of credit” with nature is running out — suffocating heat, choking droughts and rampant floods and wildfires across the world. Are we destined only to catalogue these phenomena when the money is there to keep them in check?

As Lula said: “Mother Nature needs money because industrial development has destroyed it over the past 200 years.” Trillions of dollars roam the world looking for applications and purpose. Where that tide flows will largely determine our planetary health. The world’s economy is already being directly subsidised by nature, so why not subsidise nature back?

[Climate change may push up to 158.3m more women and girls into poverty: UN report](#)

If unchecked, climate change will significantly increase women's vulnerability to poverty and hunger, undermining hard-won development gains, according to a UN report.

"Globally, by mid-century, under a worst-case climate scenario, climate change may push up to 158.3 million more women and girls into poverty (16 million more than the total number of men and boys). Food insecurity is projected to increase by as much as 236 million more among women and girls, compared to 131 million more among men and boys," said the 'Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023'.

"Investments in a comprehensive SDG stimulus package would help to mitigate this effect, reducing the number of women falling into extreme poverty from 158.3 million to 43.3 million. But the impact will still be less than what could be achieved if the world abates climate change now, before it gets exponentially worse. A recent review of national climate action plans, known as nationally determined contributions, found that only 55 have specific climate adaptation measures referring to gender equality and only 23 recognise women as agents of change in accelerating progress on climate commitments. Multi-sectoral plans and efforts to respond to climate change must prioritise women and girls most at risk. A lot more is also needed in the areas of conservation, disaster preparedness, adaptation and resilience, including expanding women's access to quality health, education, economic opportunities and information," the report noted.

'Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023' presents the latest evidence on gender equality across all 17 goals, including prevailing trends and gaps on the road to 2030. The report calls for an integrated and holistic approach to advancing gender equality, including via greater multi-stakeholder collaboration and targeted and sustained funding in support of the gender equality agenda. Failure to scale up and invest in gender equality now will place the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in peril.

[UAE unites global efforts to address climate change, says Goodland](#)

Jane Goodland, group head of sustainability at London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), stressed the UAE's commitment to addressing climate change and creating a sustainable future through its ambitious goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

In a statement to the Emirates News Agency (Wam), Goodland added that COP28 represents a turning point to assess progress in implementing the Paris Agreement, noting that COP28 is of great importance in unifying collective efforts to reduce global carbon emissions.

Goodland commended the UAE government's long-term commitment to sustainability, adding that the UAE's stature as a leading hub reinforces its position to stimulate innovation and encourage the adoption of modern technologies that can contribute to a sustainable future.

She praised the holistic approach that the COP28 Presidency is following by engaging all stakeholders in the discussions, pointing out that this approach enhances the exchange of ideas and diverse perspectives, which is essential to accelerate progress towards sustainability goals.

Goodland mentioned that the UAE's focus on the regulatory framework as a key element in addressing climate change is a significant step forward, commending the UAE Sustainable Finance Framework 2021-2031, which aims at enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors and creating an environment conducive to the generalisation of sustainable finance practices.

She explained that the framework focuses on three interlinked topics: strengthening sustainability disclosure; fostering sustainability-focused corporate governance; and designing the UAE's Sustainable Finance Taxonomy. She pointed out that this framework lays a strong foundation for integrating sustainability into the financial sector, promoting responsible investment, and accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy.

LSEG official confirmed that the UAE's Green Agenda 2030 - to increase the country's GDP by 4 to 5 per cent through sustainable economic growth - reiterates the UAE's contribution to sustainability and promoting innovation and leveraging technology to achieve its environmental goals.

On the role of the UAE's financial markets in contributing to the transition to a sustainable economy, Goodland said that financial markets play a critical role in this

regard, pointing out that the commitments to channel trillions of dollars towards the transition to zero carbon are vitally important for achieving climate goals.

She explained that the UAE's financial markets are actively participating in expanding sustainable finance offerings, with the Dubai Financial Market issuing regulatory frameworks for reporting on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) to encourage listed companies to increase disclosure of ESG information and adopt ESG reporting practices, which reinforces their ability to attract investments, access finance and enter new markets through good governance practices.

She added, "The local market has also seen the issuance of green bonds, which is boosting sustainable finance in the region and reflects the UAE's commitment to developing new asset classes and the commitment of financial markets to playing a critical role in financing the transition to a sustainable economy."

Goodland highlighted that the London Stock Exchange Group has participated in previous rounds of COP conferences and has an active programme during its participation in COP28 this year. "We are committed to continuing our participation in this important event. Our presence at COP28 reflects our long-term commitment to the region," she added.

She explained that COP28 represents a great opportunity to communicate, exchange knowledge, and work effectively towards combating climate change. She said that the participation of the London Stock Exchange Group in the event aligns with the group's regulatory mission, which revolves around achieving financial stability and enabling economies to achieve sustainable growth.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Time is running out: As COP28 starts in November, what's at stake?](#)

By: Mat Richter

The ambitious goal to mitigate the effects of climate change entails that the world's average temperature should not exceed that of pre-industrial times by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. This necessitates a drastic cut in emissions within a mere seven-year period. Stepping outside your home now means adapting to increasingly unpredictable weather. Sudden heavy downpours can derail your plans, while scorching afternoon heat feels like an endurance test.

The urgency of tackling climate change cannot be overstated, especially at COP28 – the 28th Conference of the Parties. This gathering sees United Nations member states come together to review progress and strategize climate action following UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) guidelines.

A future characterized by intolerable weather and an uninhabitable Earth is a grim prospect. Therefore, as COP28 approaches next month, let's approach discussions about climate change with a heightened sense of urgency.

Think of COP as a large assembly where global leaders converge to devise strategies to prevent the Earth from overheating and experiencing abnormal weather patterns.

Scheduled for Nov. 30 to Dec. 12, 2023, at Expo City, Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), COP28's primary focus is addressing climate change. The climate crisis spawns environmental crises, including coastal flooding due to rising sea levels, melting glaciers threatening animal habitats, and crop vulnerability.

COP decisions possess global authority, granting equal voting rights to countries of all sizes. Consensus rules dictate that decisions are only made when everyone concurs.

As stated on the official COP28 website, "as the world's highest decision-making process on climate issues, it is expected to host over 70,000 delegates, including heads of state and world leaders, to build consensus and facilitate progress on climate action."

At its core, COP28 aims to "keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach" in order to meet the Paris Agreement's objectives. Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is crucial for averting severe climate consequences such as coral reef destruction, disease outbreaks, and, most critically, ensuring a habitable planet.

Why does COP28 matter to Filipinos?

From rising temperatures and sea-level elevations to the loss of livelihoods, the Philippines is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In the latest Social Weather Stations survey, 93 percent of Filipinos reported experiencing climate change effects in the past three years.

Despite this, 88 percent of Filipinos expressed their belief that they can contribute to mitigating climate risks, as revealed by the survey. Whether or not you fall within that 88 percent, the call for climate risk mitigation is louder now than ever.

Moreover, the Philippines produced approximately 146.5 million tons of carbon dioxide from energy consumption in 2022, according to Statista. Notably, this figure was 83.2 million tons in 2012 – nearly a twofold increase within a decade.

If we continue to disregard climate change despite its glaring impacts, when will we address it? COP28 offers an opportunity to "rethink, reboot, and refocus the climate agenda," and it's an opportunity to be part of the solution.

What can I, an average citizen, do to help?

Aside from adopting eco-friendly practices such as waste reduction and transitioning to a sustainable lifestyle, start by staying informed about the climate crisis. Go beyond the headlines in climate change news and understand its multifaceted impact on our lives. Even a casual conversation with your peers can contribute to raising awareness about the climate crisis.

If you don't like talking, then use online platforms to spread the message of sustainability, circular economy, and green living. Just make sure to spread messages that are accurate and vetted by climate experts.

Emulate COP28's "leave no one behind" approach to climate action, which emphasizes the need for collective efforts. Engaging in meaningful discussions about the climate crisis may not be as immediately gratifying as playing video games or surfing YouTube, but it is a vital step in assisting our planet in its quest to reclaim its natural balance.

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So, what is COP28?

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Despite this, 88 percent of Filipinos expressed their belief that they can contribute to mitigating climate risks, as revealed by the survey. Whether or not you fall within that 88 percent, the call for climate risk mitigation is louder now than ever.

Moreover, the Philippines produced approximately 146.5 million tons of carbon dioxide from energy consumption in 2022, according to Statista. Notably, this figure was 83.2 million tons in 2012 – nearly a twofold increase within a decade.

If we continue to disregard climate change despite its glaring impacts, when will we address it? COP28 offers an opportunity to "rethink, reboot, and refocus the climate agenda," and it's an opportunity to be part of the solution.

What can I, an average citizen, do to help?

Aside from adopting eco-friendly practices such as waste reduction and transitioning to a sustainable lifestyle, start by staying informed about the climate crisis. Go beyond the headlines in climate change news and understand its multifaceted impact on our lives. Even a casual conversation with your peers can contribute to raising awareness about the climate crisis.

If you don't like talking, then use online platforms to spread the message of sustainability, circular economy, and green living. Just make sure to spread messages that are accurate and vetted by climate experts.

Emulate COP28's "leave no one behind" approach to climate action, which emphasizes the need for collective efforts. Engaging in meaningful discussions about the climate crisis may not be as immediately gratifying as playing video games or surfing YouTube, but it is a vital step in assisting our planet in its quest to reclaim its natural balance.

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