



## NEWS ROUNDUP

27 October 2022 [ 08:40 am]

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- Fossil fuel dependence risks current and future health: experts
- US backs discussing payments to poor countries at climate talks
- Countries' climate promises still not enough to avoid catastrophic global warming: UN Report

### AFP (Agence France-Presse)

#### [Climate summit host Egypt renews invite to King Charles](#)

By AFP

Egypt on Tuesday renewed its invitation to King Charles III for next month's COP27 climate summit after the British monarch's plans to attend were reportedly quashed by ex-Prime Minister Liz Truss.

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## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[AIIB to dedicate 50% of loans to climate change projects](#)**

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta Jocson

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said it will reserve at least 50% of its loan portfolio to climate change mitigation projects by 2025.

### **[Emissions from China-invested coal plants equal to whole of Spain](#)**

By Reuters

SHANGHAI — Carbon dioxide emissions from China-invested power plants overseas now stand at an estimated 245 million tons per year, about the same as the annual energy-related CO2 emissions from Spain or Thailand, new research showed on Tuesday.

## **CNN NEWS**

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## **GMA NEWS ONLINE**

### **[Record rise in climate-warming methane in 2021 —UN](#)**

By Christophe Vogt

GENEVA — Methane concentrations in the atmosphere made their biggest-ever registered increase in 2021, as all three main greenhouse gases extended their record high levels, the United Nations said Wednesday.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Climate pledges still 'nowhere near' enough for 1.5°C, says UN](#)**

Agence France-Presse

PARIS, France — International climate pledges remain far off track to limit rising temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius (°C), according to a report released by the United Nations Wednesday, less than two weeks ahead of high-stakes negotiations to tackle global warming.

## [DND exec: Sea row 'does not define' PH ties with China](#)

By: Beatrice Pinlac

MANILA, Philippines — The country's territorial dispute with China over the West Philippine Sea is not definitive of its bilateral relations with the Asian giant, Department of National Defense (DND) officer-in-charge Jose Faustino said Wednesday.

## [Don't care about climate change? Wait until it hits you in the face](#)

By: Kurt Dela Peña

Manila, Philippines—People, in many cases, won't care about climate change until its impact hits them in the face, like what happened to millions of Filipinos in several Visayas provinces when Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) struck.

## [\[Opinion \] Vision for an environmentally resilient Philippines](#)

By: Federico R. Lopez

I've been asked to share my thoughts on what an environmentally resilient Philippines could look like. To understand what this involves, let me take a step back and place it in the context of what the world needs to get to and why.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### [PH hosts 27th ASEAN Labor Ministers' meet](#)

By Susan De Leon

CALOOCAN CITY, (PIA) -- The Philippines is hosting the 27th ASEAN Labor Ministers' Meeting (ALMM) and Related Meetings in Manila this week.

## **RAPPLER**

### [\[Opinion\] What the Philippine agenda must be at COP27](#)

By: John Leo C. Algo

This November marks the 27th time world leaders will convene to discuss how to address the climate crisis. For two weeks, governments, scientists, businesses, and civil society groups will debate and develop policies and solutions against this human-induced global threat.

## **RMN NEWS**

### **[Pagtugon sa climate change, tatalakayin ng European Union sa Makati City ngayong Biyernes](#)**

By RadyoMaN Manila

Muling iginiit ng European Union ang kahalagahan ng pagtugon sa kinakaharap ng buong mundo, ang mabilis na pagbabago ng klima, kaya't magsasagawa sila ng Roundtable Discussion tungkol sa Climate Action sa darating na Biyernes, October 28, 2022 sa Dusit Hotel sa Makati City.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[\[Opinion\] Destroying art for climate activism](#)**

By Daphne Oseña-Paez

THIS week saw a new pair of climate activists defacing a precious work of art. Two activists from the Letzte Generation (left generation) environmental group threw mashed potato soup at a painting by Claude Monet. The painting "Meules" (or "Haystacks," 1890) hangs, protected behind glass, in the Museum Barberini in Potsdam, Germany. It is on loan to the museum as the most valuable Impressionist work ever sold at an auction at the price of \$110.7 million at Sotheby's in 2019. This action was similar to a performative act from last week.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[EU calls for 'ambitious targets' ahead of COP27 summit](#)**

By Agence France-Presse

LUXEMBOURG — The EU set out its position for the COP27 climate summit on Monday in a text that called for "ambitious targets" but did not put a figure on financial help for developing countries.

### **[Fossil fuel dependence risks current and future health: experts](#)**

By Patrick Galey - Agence France-Presse

PARIS, France — Over-reliance on fossil fuels is worsening the health impacts of global crises such as climate change, pandemics and food security, an international team of experts said Wednesday in a dire assessment of humanity's energy strategy.

## [US backs discussing payments to poor countries at climate talks](#)

Washington, United States — The United States backs addressing the loss and damage suffered by developing countries due to global warming at upcoming international climate negotiations, US climate envoy John Kerry said Wednesday.

## **UN NEWS**

## [Countries' climate promises still not enough to avoid catastrophic global warming: UN Report](#)

Increasing instead of decreasing

In 2019, the IPCC indicated that to curb global warming, CO2 emissions needed to be cut by 43 per cent by 2030, compared to 2010 levels, but current climate plans show a 10.6 per cent increase instead.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**AFP (Agence France-Presse)**

**[Climate summit host Egypt renews invite to King Charles](#)**

By: AFP

Egypt on Tuesday renewed its invitation to King Charles III for next month's COP27 climate summit after the British monarch's plans to attend were reportedly quashed by ex-Prime Minister Liz Truss.

"From our point of view in relation to his majesty King Charles, it's an open invitation," senior diplomat Mohamed Nasr said ahead of the 12-day UN meet in Sharm El-Sheik, which starts on November 6.

"He has been a very strong advocate for climate action and a role model," Nasr told journalists in an online briefing. "We still hope that he can make it."

Nasr also said that, so far, more than 90 heads of state and government had confirmed they will attend the summit, which is tasked with accelerating cuts in carbon emissions and providing climate finance for developing countries.

In early October, Buckingham Palace confirmed that Charles III would not go to COP27 after news reports saying Truss had raised objections to his participation.

But Truss stepped down as prime minister after only 44 days in office, replaced by fellow Conservative Rishi Sunak.

Britain hosted last year's watershed COP26 UN climate conference in Glasgow, which saw initiatives to curb deforestation and methane emissions, but left poor nations seeking financial support deeply frustrated.

Nasr said he hoped Sunak and other rich nation leaders would carry through on their promises in Glasgow.

"We know there are economic challenges facing the UK and other countries, but we hope those challenges do not lead to backsliding on pledges made and not delivered," he said.

Apparently neither US President Joe Biden nor China's top leader Xi Jinping have confirmed they will come to COP27.

"We hope they will be there because the two countries are leading on climate change and their cooperation and role has always been instrumental for progress," he said.

US media have reported that Biden plans to attend.

Charles III took the throne after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, who

addressed the COP26 summit last year with the blessing of the Tory government led by Truss's predecessor Boris Johnson.

Charles and his son William also addressed the event.

Charles III is a committed environmentalist, with a long history of campaigning for better conservation, organic farming and tackling climate change.

## **BBC NEWS**

### **[Climate change threatening global health - report](#)**

Climate change is severely impacting people's health around the world, a report by a leading medical publication has found.

The Lancet Countdown report says the world's continued reliance on fossil fuels increases the risk of food insecurity, infectious disease and heat-related illness.

UN Secretary General António Guterres responded that global leaders must match action to the size of the problem.

Leaders will meet for the major climate conference COP27 in Egypt next month.

The report includes the work of 99 experts from organisations including the World Health Organization (WHO) and led by University College London.

It describes how extreme weather has increased pressure on health services globally already grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Heat-related deaths globally have increased by two thirds over the last two decades, it finds.

Temperature records have been broken around the world in 2022, including in the UK where 40C was recorded in July, as well as parts of Europe, Pakistan and China.

The health impacts of extreme heat include exacerbating conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and causing heat stroke and poor mental health.

But it said there are solutions. "Despite the challenges, there is clear evidence that immediate action could still save the lives of millions, with a rapid shift to clean energy and energy efficiency," the report concludes.

Mr Guterres said that the world is watching G20 countries, which produce 80% of global greenhouse emissions. They must step up efforts to slash emissions and lead the way by investing more in renewable energy, he added.

"Human health, livelihoods, household budgets and national economies are being pummelled, as the fossil fuel addiction spirals out of control," he said.

Today's Lancet report is a call to arms.

The authors hope the evidence it presents shows the need for urgent action at the UN conference on climate in Egypt. But the summit faces strong headwinds.



Developing countries will be demanding nations which grew rich using fossil fuels cough up more cash to meet the costs of the loss and damage our changing climate is causing.

And what about the \$100bn a year for climate action developed countries were supposed have made available from 2020, they will ask? We are still billions of dollars short of the total.

The Egyptians hosts of COP27 have warned of a "crisis of trust".

But the developed world is battling with a cost-of-living crisis as energy and food prices soar. Many of them are already spending billions on military support for Ukraine.

Get ready for some heated debates in Egypt.

A Unicef report, also published on Wednesday, warned urgent action is needed to increase funding to protect children and vulnerable communities from worsening heatwaves.

Researchers found that the change in climate has increased the spread of infectious diseases. The number of months that facilitate malaria transmission increased in the highland areas of the Americas and Africa in the past 60 years.

Fossil fuel emissions are major contributors to air pollution. Data from the Lancet Countdown estimates that exposure to air pollution contributed to 4.7 million deaths globally in 2020, of which 1.3 million (35%) directly related to fossil fuel combustion.

The impacts of climate change are also rapidly aggravating and worsening the effects of other coexisting crises such as food insecurity, energy poverty and increased air pollution, it says.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[AIIB to dedicate 50% of loans to climate change projects](#)**

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta Jocson

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said it will reserve at least 50% of its loan portfolio to climate change mitigation projects by 2025.

“We focus on 50% and upwards for financing of climate change adaptation and mitigation by 2025. This is the most important part given the urgency of climate change. Times have now changed. We need to be nimble and (anticipate) the emerging energy crisis. Many countries are vulnerable, experiencing acute macroeconomic distress,” AIIB President Jin Liqun said in a virtual briefing on Wednesday.

“We are going to help countries reduce their emissions so they can reach their net zero goal as early as possible. Our focus has very much remained on the most important challenges faced by society,” he added.

Beijing-based AIIB is building an operating hub in Abu Dhabi, its first overseas office.

“Global problems require global solutions. With a portfolio of 191 projects in over 30 countries, our rapid growth is the catalyst for opening an office that brings our bank closer to the front lines. The AIIB hub provides proximity to global financial centers,” Mr. Jin said.

“The first hub would help us gain experience and inform decision-making in the future. Future hubs would have to be decided by experience and needs of our clients. The hub can help reach out to the private sector and we are also working very hard to mobilize private sector investors by participating in capital markets in many countries,” he added.

Mr. Jin said the bank is working to accelerate the financing of infrastructure projects in the wake of the pandemic.

“The pandemic has (hindered the ability of) countries to finance infrastructure projects. Because of travel restrictions around the world, it will take longer for our people to visit the project sites,” he added.

“Our bank is working hard to accelerate the process because we understand (the need for) timely support for countries in distress... Our financing for those countries, particularly to meet urgent needs, would be fully incorporated for our support for climate financing. The projects we financed were not just to relieve the country of momentary pressure and difficulty. We aim for long term solutions,” he added.

## Emissions from China-invested coal plants equal to whole of Spain

By Reuters

SHANGHAI — Carbon dioxide emissions from China-invested power plants overseas now stand at an estimated 245 million tons per year, about the same as the annual energy-related CO2 emissions from Spain or Thailand, new research showed on Tuesday.

Chinese companies and government-run investment banks have now financed a total of 171.6 GW of overseas power generation capacity, representing a total of 648 plants in 92 countries, with 113.5 GW already operational, research from Boston University's Global Development Policy Center (GDPC) showed.

About half of that total capacity is fossil-fuel related, and the pipeline of projects could add another 100 million tons of annual CO2 emissions if they are all completed, said Cecilia Springer, a researcher at the center.

“China's overseas power portfolio is still dominated by coal and large-scale hydropower, indicating that China can do more to implement its pledge to step up support for green and low-carbon energy in developing countries — especially wind and solar power,” she said.

The majority of the China-financed generation capacity in the planning stages now will employ low-carbon energy sources, the Boston University research said, indicating that a recent pledge to end overseas coal-financing is having an effect.

President Xi Jinping told the United Nations General Assembly last year that China would stop investing in overseas coal-fired power plants as part of its commitment to combat climate change, a move estimated to involve about \$50 billion in investment.

It led to the immediate cancelation of several overseas projects, though some remained in a “grey area” and could still go ahead, experts said.

China is the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter as well as its largest coal consumer.

## CNN NEWS

### [Signal No. 1 raised over Samar areas due to 'Paeng'](#)

METRO MANILA — The state weather bureau on Thursday hoisted Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 over several areas in Samar as Tropical Depression Paeng kept its strength over the Philippine Sea.

In its 5 a.m. weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Signal No. 1 was raised over the northern portion of Eastern Samar (San Julian, Sulat, Taft, Can-Avid, Dolores, Maslog, Oras, San Policarpo, Arteche, Jipapad, and City of Borongan) and the eastern portion of Northern Samar (Lapinig, Gamay, Mapanas, Palapag, Laoang, Pambujan, Catubig, and Las Navas).

"Paeng" is likely to further intensify while moving over the Philippine Sea and may reach typhoon category by Saturday, the state weather bureau added.

PAGASA is also expecting "typhoon-force conditions" and has warned that the highest wind signal likely to be hoisted is Signal No. 4.

State meteorologists said the center of "Paeng" may hit land within any of the coastal areas along the eastern portion of mainland Cagayan Valley or the northern portion of Aurora on Sunday.

"Paeng" was last located 660 kilometers (km) east of Borongan City, Eastern Samar, moving west northwestward at 10 kilometers per hour (kph). It maintained maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 70 kph.

In the next 24 hours, the northeast monsoon, or amihan, will bring strong to gale-force winds over Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Quezon, Bicol Region, Marinduque, Romblon, and the northern portions of mainland Cagayan, Apayao and Ilocos Norte, PAGASA said.

The state weather bureau earlier warned "Paeng" would affect parts of the country during the long Undas or Halloween weekend.

On Friday, moderate to heavy with at times intense rains are likely over Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas while light to moderate with at times heavy rains are possible over

Mimaropa, BARMM, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Caraga, Quezon, Cagayan, Isabela, Apayao, Aurora, and the rest of Visayas.

On Saturday, heavy to torrential rains are expected over Bicol Region, Northern Samar, and Quezon while moderate to heavy with at times intense rains are possible over Metro Manila, Western Visayas, Aurora, Bulacan, Mindoro Provinces, Marinduque, Romblon, the eastern portions of Cagayan and Isabela, the rest of Eastern Visayas, and Calabarzon.

Light to moderate with at times heavy rains are forecast over Cordillera Administrative Region, Zamboanga Peninsula, BARMM, and the rest of Visayas, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and Mimaropa.

PAGASA also warned of flooding and rain-induced landslides in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to hazards.

PAGASA earlier said "Paeng" is expected to exit the country's landmass by Oct. 31 or Nov. 1.

## **GMA NEWS ONLINE**

### **[Record rise in climate-warming methane in 2021 —UN](#)**

By Christophe Vogt

GENEVA — Methane concentrations in the atmosphere made their biggest-ever registered increase in 2021, as all three main greenhouse gases extended their record high levels, the United Nations said Wednesday.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said levels of climate-warming carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide all reached new records last year.

Methane—which remains in the atmosphere for only about 10 years, but has a much more powerful warming impact than CO<sub>2</sub>—had its biggest year-on-year jump in concentrations since systematic measurements began nearly 40 years ago.

The WMO said the "reason for this exceptional increase is not clear, but seems to be a result of both biological and human-induced processes."

The figures, released in the UN weather agency's Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, underlined "the enormous challenge—and the vital necessity—of urgent action to cut greenhouse gas emissions and prevent global temperatures rising even further in the future," said WMO chief Petteri Taalas.

"The continuing rise in concentrations of the main heat-trapping gases, including the record acceleration in methane levels, shows that we are heading in the wrong direction."

The bulletin comes shortly ahead of COP27, the UN climate change conference, being held in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh from November 7-18.

### **Methane strategy**

Methane has been a hot topic of late, with leaks from the Nord Stream gas pipelines thought to have released some 70,000 tonnes, and farmers protesting in New Zealand against plans to tax greenhouse emissions from farm animals.

And NASA scientists, using a tool designed to study how dust affects climate, announced Tuesday they have so far identified more than 50 spots around the world emitting major levels of methane.

Most are connected to the fossil-fuel, waste or agriculture sectors.

Atmospheric methane is the second largest contributor to climate change. Since 2007, globally-averaged atmospheric methane concentrations have been increasing at an accelerating rate, the WMO said.

The annual increases in 2020 and 2021—15 and 18 parts per billion (ppb) respectively—are the largest since systematic records began in 1983, the agency said.

"There are cost-effective strategies available to tackle methane emissions, especially from the fossil fuel sector, and we should implement these without delay," said Taalas.

The causes of last year's methane rise are still being investigated, but analysis indicates that the largest contribution to the increase since 2007 comes from sources such as wetlands or rice paddies.

The record rises in 2020 and 2021 could represent a climate feedback loop: warmer temperatures leading to organic material decomposing faster, "thus, if tropical wetlands become wetter and warmer, more emissions are possible."

The dramatic increase might also be due to natural variability: 2020 and 2021 saw La Nina weather events, which are associated with increased rainfall in tropical regions.

## **CO2 'top priority'**

Taalas nonetheless stressed that the chief enemy in the battle against greenhouse gases remained CO2.

"As the top and most urgent priority, we have to slash carbon dioxide emissions, which are the main driver of climate change and associated extreme weather, and which will affect the climate for thousands of years through polar ice loss, ocean warming and sea level rise," he said.

Carbon dioxide concentrations in 2021 were 415.7 parts per million, methane at 1,908 ppb and nitrous oxide at 334.5 ppb.

These values constitute, respectively, 149 percent, 262 percent and 124 percent of the pre-industrial levels.

Global CO2 emissions have rebounded since the Covid-19-related lockdowns in 2020, the bulletin said.

Of the total emissions from human activities during the 2011–2020 period, about 48 percent accumulated in the atmosphere, 26 percent in the ocean and 29 percent on land.

"There is concern that the ability of land ecosystems and oceans to act as 'sinks' may become less effective in the future, thus reducing their ability to absorb CO2 and act as a buffer against larger temperature increase," the WMO said.

"In some parts of the world, the transition of the land sink into CO2 source is already happening." — AFP



## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Climate pledges still 'nowhere near' enough for 1.5°C, says UN](#)

Agence France-Presse

PARIS, France — International climate pledges remain far off track to limit rising temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius (°C), according to a report released by the United Nations Wednesday, less than two weeks ahead of high-stakes negotiations to tackle global warming.

The combined climate pledges of more than 190 nations that signed up to the 2015 Paris climate deal put Earth on track to warm by around 2.5°C (36 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial levels by the century's end.

With the planet already battered by climate-enhanced heatwaves, storms, and floods after just 1.2°C of warming, experts say the world is still failing to act with sufficient urgency to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

“We are still nowhere near the scale and pace of emission reductions required to put us on track toward a 1.5 degrees Celsius world,” said Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change.

“To keep this goal alive, national governments need to strengthen their climate action plans now and implement them in the next eight years.”

The UN's climate experts have said emissions – compared to 2010 levels – need to fall 45 percent by 2030 in order to meet the Paris deal's more ambitious goal.

In its latest report, the UN said that current commitments from governments around the world will in fact increase emissions by 10.6 percent by 2030.

## Don't care about climate change? Wait until it hits you in the face

By: Kurt Dela Peña

MANILA, Philippines—People, in many cases, won't care about climate change until its impact hits them in the face, like what happened to millions of Filipinos in several Visayas provinces when Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) struck.

Back in 2013, Yolanda, which was then the strongest typhoon to ever make landfall, carried more than 300 kph winds, killed 6,340, left 1,800 missing, and displaced 14 million people in 44 provinces.

As stated by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the typhoon left P95.4 billion in damage as it wrecked 1.1 million houses and 33 million coconut palms, which were considered as the main livelihood in the provinces it hit.

Because of its strength that inflicted "lingering effects" on the economy, poverty incidence spiked to 25.8 percent in the first six months of 2014, the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) had said.

Take the case of Eastern Visayas, which was the worst hit by Yolanda. Back in 2012, its poverty incidence rate was 45.2 percent, but in 2014, months after the destruction of the typhoon, poverty grew to 54.9 percent.

Neda had said the poverty incidence rate in the region indicated that out of the 4.1 million people living in the provinces of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Samar, Easter Samar, Northern Samar and Biliran then, over 2 million were already poor.

Nine years since Yolanda, the World Bank stressed that climate change, which was blamed for the typhoon's overkill, could once again inflict a heavy toll on the poorest Filipinos.

This is why climate change has to be addressed now, it said.

Economic consequences People, in many cases, won't care about climate change until its impact hits them in the face, like what happened to millions of Filipinos in several Visayas provinces when Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) struck.

This week, World Bank's lead economist Souleymane Coulibaly said climate change, which manifests itself through rising temperatures, increasing sea levels, more intense droughts and stronger typhoons, will significantly threaten the economy.

As the Philippines Country Climate Development Report was launched, Coulibaly said without intervention from the government and private sector, climate change will likely slash gross domestic product (GDP) by 13.6 percent by 2040.

"We have estimated that the average loss of GDP by 2030 is at least 3.2 percent rising to at least 5.7 percent by 2040. However, the impact could be much worse reaching 7.6

percent of GDP by 2030 and 13.6 percent by 2040.”

“Damages from climate change are a threat to the Philippine economy. It is likely to reduce GDP substantially, but the range of possible outcomes is wide,” said Coulibaly, who is the program leader of World Bank’s Equitable Growth and Finance Institution.

He said the consequences of climate change are expected to negatively impact economic growth as it is seen to erode natural and physical capital, lessen work productivity, weaken financial stability, and alter domestic and external competitiveness.

As stressed by Coulibaly, “modeling shows that if no measure is taken to address climate change by 2040, the poverty rate will increase by nearly a percentage point, economic insecurity by frequent 3 points and inequality by 0.3 points.”

“Without action, climate change will impose substantial economic and human costs, affecting the poorest households the most,” said Ndiame Diop, World Bank country director for the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei.

This, as “temperatures in the Philippines will continue to rise by the end of the 21st century,” while “rainfall patterns will change and intensify, and extreme weather will become more frequent.”

### **Climate change risks**

Based on the World Risk Report 2022 by Germany-based Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict at Ruhr University Bochum, the Philippines is the world’s most disaster-prone country.

With an index score of 46.82, it was stressed that the Philippines’ high risk, exposure, and vulnerability to disasters were the reasons it is now considered as the country most susceptible to disasters.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said while typhoons hitting the country are becoming fewer, those that do make landfall are becoming stronger.

Every year, an average of 20 typhoons enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility, with about eight or nine making landfall.

“Based on our data, we have seen that the frequency of typhoons is decreasing a bit and we have seen that for those greater than 170 kilometers per hour, there is a slight change, there is a slight increase,” it said.

Likewise, Pagasa said it was expecting the country’s temperature to rise by four degrees by the end of the 21st century, while the intensity of typhoons that make landfall will continue to increase.

As scientists had stressed, warmer temperatures, which melt ice caps and cause oceans to expand, was the reason that sea levels are rising.

Here in the Philippines, Pagasa climate scientist Dr. Marcelino Villafuerte said the sea level in the Philippine Sea had risen by about 12 centimeters, or about 5 inches, over the past two decades.

Pagasa said the sea level in the Philippines is rising three times faster than the world average. With 70 percent of its municipalities facing large bodies of water, including the Pacific Ocean, the rise could spell a “big impact” on millions.

### **Millions more will starve**

Climate change is complex, but if people will look at how it impacts their lives, it becomes easy to understand.

Pagasa said “climate change is one of the most fundamental challenges ever to confront humanity. Its adverse impacts are already being seen and may intensify exponentially over time if nothing is done to reduce further emissions of greenhouse gases.”

Take the case of rising temperatures. It said a warmer world will certainly impact systems and sectors although, magnitude of impacts will depend on considerations such as sensitivity, exposure and adaptive capacity to climate risks.

However, in most cases, “likely impacts will be adverse.”

“Agriculture could be severely affected by temperature changes coupled with changes in rain regimes and patterns,” it said.

Pagasa stressed that “in areas/regions where rainfall is projected to decrease, there will be water stress, which in turn, will most likely cascade into more adverse impacts, particularly on forestry, agriculture and livelihood, health, and human settlement.”

Based on a study by the International Food Policy Research Institute, climate change is expected to put 2 million more people at risk of hunger by 2050 and cost about P145 billion yearly.

This, as total crop production is estimated to be 1.7 percent lower than it would without climate change, which is particularly troublesome in light of the Philippines’ growing population.

Corn production, meanwhile, is projected to be 13 percent lower in 2050 than it would be without climate change and rice 3.2 percent lower.

As climate change affects production, it also affects prices. Substantial increases are projected by 2050 for cereals (24 percent), fruits and vegetables (13 percent), and meat (4 percent) compared with their projected prices without climate change.

### **Take action now**

Stefano Pagiolo, senior environment economist of the World Bank, said climate change poses risks for development in the Philippines: “Therefore, policy and action would impose substantial economic and human costs, especially for the poor.”

“The Philippines has many options to address climate change, which could significantly reduce its impact. These options are feasible, and that cost is modest. The private sector must play a leading role in the climate action, so it’s important that the right incentives are in place,” he explained.

Last month, addressing the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called on all nations to take their share of responsibility in fighting the effects of climate change.

He said in his statement at the UN high-level debate that the effects of climate change, which he described as the “greatest threat” affecting all countries and people, were “uneven and reflect a historical injustice.”

“Those who are least responsible suffer the most. This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now,” he said. “We accept our share of responsibility and will continue to do our part to avert this collective disaster.”

However, the group Greenpeace Philippines stressed that Marcos’ words should be reflected in actual policies.

“At present, we hear all this talk about climate justice, climate action, protecting biodiversity, ensuring food security, and upholding justice and human rights, but, in reality, most developments on the ground and the administration’s policy direction are leading us away from these purported aspirations.”

“We are calling on Mr. Marcos Jr. to actualize the claims in his speech, and heed the calls of Filipino communities for concrete action on climate and rights,” it said.

## **DND exec: Sea row 'does not define' PH ties with China**

By: Beatrice Pinlac

MANILA, Philippines — The country's territorial dispute with China over the West Philippine Sea is not definitive of its bilateral relations with the Asian giant, Department of National Defense (DND) officer-in-charge Jose Faustino said Wednesday.

In a forum at the US Embassy in Manila, Faustino echoed the call earlier made by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for the Philippines to become "a friend to all and an enemy to no one."

According to Faustino, the country will persist to strengthen relations with other nations and also "take a stance on various issues such as, but not limited to, asserting the independence of domestic policies from the interference of big countries, and asserting our sovereignty and claims in the West Philippine Sea."

But he later pointed out that the DND believes Manila and Beijing's maritime issues "does not define the entirety of our bilateral relations with China."

Faustino then said that the Philippines hopes to have a united front with China on the mitigation of climate change.

"Climate change is one of the biggest threats to the Philippines right now. It's part of our 10-point defense agenda and also the priority of President Marcos – the threat of climate change which exacerbates natural disasters in the Philippines, especially since we are in a location where we are susceptible to disasters," he explained.

Faustino assured the public that basic needs affected by climate change such as food, water, energy, and security are "safeguarded."

"This is being addressed every time we have a Cabinet meeting. We discuss the effects of climate change in our economy, defense establishments, and in all ways of life of the Filipinos," he added.

### **US-PH ties 'stand on its own'**

Meanwhile, the United States' relationship with the Philippines is independent from other bilateral ties, according to US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson.

"The US-Philippine relations stand on its own. It's not a counterbalance to or response to. It is inherently valuable. It is a long-existing relationship," she said.

"We are looking for like-minded partners who share the same values. And that inherently includes the Philippines as a key partner, traditionally and historically," she also said.

Further touching upon the issue of climate change, a concern widely spoken about during the forum, Carlson pointed out that this crisis is tied with other emerging issues in the geopolitical environment such as cyber security.

With these mounting problems, she stressed that the future generation “needs strong leadership.”

“They want transparent rules of the game and predictability so that everything provides a prosperous future for our people. This is what the US and Philippines does all the time. This kind of leadership on a global level,” she added.

## [Opinion] Vision for an environmentally resilient Philippines

By: Federico R. Lopez

I've been asked to share my thoughts on what an environmentally resilient Philippines could look like. To understand what this involves, let me take a step back and place it in the context of what the world needs to get to and why.

It's often said that the COVID-19 pandemic was just a dress rehearsal for how we will face an even more perilous world from the impacts of climate change. The overriding goal is to "solve climate change"— which means mitigating it as well as adapting to its impacts that are already here, with more yet to come. Because if we don't get it right, the exponential deterioration of global climate systems and the environment will make it impossible to solve other problems like poverty, inequality, disease, food production, freshwater scarcity, mass migration, social displacement, mass extinction of species and biodiversity loss, among others. All of these we will feel during our lifetimes.

Paris Conference of Parties (COP) 21 applauded the agreements that signaled we could limit global warming to 2.0 degrees Celsius if all commitments were met. Since then, the IPCC issued in October 2018 a special report on the impacts of Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, followed last year and this year by its Sixth Assessment Reports from working Groups I, II and III, all with dire warnings and consequences for a 2-degrees Celsius warmer world.

Taken together, they underscored the scientific consensus that our targets must not exceed 1.5 degrees by the end of the century. Consequently, "Solving Climate Change" means:

Phase 1) We reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides and fluorinated gases) from the current 50 gigatons (Gt) of GHG's per year. (Emissions peak by 2025).

Phase 2) Eliminate all emissions of GHG's (Get to Net Zero emissions by 2050.)

Phase 3) By 2050, begin the arduous task of reducing the concentration of GHG in the atmosphere (net negative emissions). This is best described in the words of NASA climate scientist James Hansen: "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted...CO2 will need to be reduced...to at most 350ppm."

For reference, pre-industrialization levels were at 280 parts per million (ppm) and we sailed past 350ppm in 1986. We continued to blow through 400ppm in 2013, the same year Super Typhoon Yolanda, the most powerful typhoon on earth to ever make landfall, announced to the world through the suffering of millions of Filipinos that climate change is here and that we better get our acts together now.



We now need to realize phases 1, 2 and 3 within the rapidly diminishing timeframe of the next 28 years. Failing to do this over the timeframe will trigger irreversible tipping points, the effects of which we are already seeing in news reports from all over the world every day. Progress through Phases 1 to 3 in the battle to “solve climate change” has many facets beyond just energy (it spans agricultural practices, food production, waste management practices, industrial processes, deforestation, f-gases used in refrigeration and many others).

For now, let me just focus on what the foundations to the global energy transition will look like as it's important that we appreciate what the transition to net zero demands:

Cornerstone 1 : Reduce carbon intensity of electricity. Clean-up the electricity grid's generation sources with the intent of progressively lowering carbon intensity per kwh. We must keep in mind that as we do this, we need to keep the lights on and keep power prices affordable.

Cornerstone 2 : Scale up energy efficiency efforts. Scale up energy efficiency as the “first fuel” and encourage and incentivize its use everywhere.

Cornerstone 3 : “Electrifying everything.” With a greener grid you should now seek to “electrify everything” from transport to various industrial processes where possible. Innovation in the transport and industrial sectors that accomplishes this is crucial for this cornerstone too.

Cornerstone 4 : Use carbon-neutral fuels for hard-to-reach sectors. With a green grid there will now be the possibility of producing carbon-neutral fuels like green hydrogen and green ammonia for industrial processes and transport sectors (such as long distance trucking, shipping and aviation) that cannot be electrified by 2050. This as the technology matures and gets cheaper during this period.

Cornerstone 5 : Deploy carbon capture use and storage (CCUS). A zero-emissions grid will be a critical component for deeper deployment of electricity-run Carbon Capture and Sequestration technology to arrest more emissions from other hard-to-reach sectors. Innovation in CCUS technology is also expected to accelerate in the coming decades. Eventually post 2050, these are envisioned to be deployed at scale in Phase 3 to get the world to net negative emissions and atmospheric carbon concentrations back to the deemed safe levels of 350ppm.

The global energy transition appears straightforward when viewed from its five cornerstones. However, they have immense implications for the central role of the electricity grid. The most important point is that by 2050 we will need five times the electricity we use today; and we will need 10 to 12 times the clean energy in use today. Even as we do this, we must continue to improve access to 24/7 electricity for billions of people (in the case of the Philippines, millions of households) who currently do not have it reliably in their lives if we are to even begin uplifting them from poverty.

Decarbonizing and scaling up a green electricity grid over the next three decades is probably the greatest energy transition in the history of mankind. It's not just changing the electricity system but building a new global energy system with components we have never built before and at a massive scale. This will need nothing short of collaborative action among various players that today often consider themselves competitors. And this also needs well-coordinated and timely action on the part of leaders, policymakers and regulators who must be decisive and well-versed on the elements that make for a successful and just energy transition.

You may ask why the Philippines should undertake this energy transition given our limited resources and the fact that we account for only 0.4 percent of global emissions. I would answer that in this way: it's apparent that the world is changing, not as fast as it needs to yet, but eventually it will, and it must.

The impacts of the climate crisis as well as climate action that will be demanded of everyone are among the forces in history which will transpire "gradually and then suddenly". Global finance, supply chains, service providers, employees and consumers will reflect this. If we're not prepared and conveniently kick the can down the road, we'll be overwhelmed and not recognize the world around us in the coming thirty years.

The science tells us we no longer have a choice. Unless we have more of these pandemics that choke growth, there will no longer be any time extensions. Since we have limited resources, we must choose to spend it judiciously and in a future-proof manner. The earlier we build on these five cornerstones of the energy transition, the better positioned our country will be for the massive change that's coming.

The last point I'd like to leave you with is something I remember Al Gore saying in 2016 at the Climate Reality Project leadership training at Sofitel Manila. He said: "All our infrastructure was built for a world that's now changed".

At 1.2 degrees Celsius of warming, where we are today, the world has already changed, but it will be more so even as we successfully navigate the journey to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Warmer global temperatures have multiple knock-on effects on the global climate system that were stable as we know it for thousands of years. That's all changing now. We should begin by understanding what the science is telling us to prepare for and how it will affect each of us locally — stronger typhoons, higher rainfall, flooding, longer drier summers, freshwater shortages, wildfires, more mosquito-borne diseases, sea-level rise and more violent storm surges, etc.

With 60 percent of Filipinos living in coastal areas, sea-level rise is a major threat. This is compounded by the fact that land subsidence is widespread given the overextraction of our freshwater aquifers. Sea level rise will be uneven throughout the world and even locally. Not only will this threaten coastal infrastructure, cities and communities with storm surges but will also affect freshwater aquifers even more with seawater intrusion.

Temperatures on the planet are rising fastest at the poles. This will have grave consequences for sea-level rise here as tipping points are triggered in the world's

cryosphere. A chart from the book *Vanishing Ice* by Vivien Gornitz gives you a sense of the kind of fire we're playing with. (The last time carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere were at 417 ppm was in the Pliocene epoch 3-5 million years ago, average temperatures were 3-4 degrees warmer than today and 10 degrees warmer at the poles. Consequently, sea levels were 5-40 meters higher than they are today.)

Almost every major developed city has climate change action plans. Tokyo has its network of underground tunnels and cathedral-sized cisterns that can divert flooding with high-speed pumps that can empty a 50-meter Olympic-sized pool in 6 seconds flat. They originally built for rains of 55 millimeters (mm) per hour but are now upping this standard for new flood control projects to 65-75mm per hour. Malaysia has its famous 9.7-kilometer SMART Tunnel that converts an underground roadway into a flood diversion tunnel when needed. London has its famous Thames barrier that protects London from similar flooding events. I've heard of similar projects being planned for Singapore, New York, Boston, and other major cities around the world.

We need a comprehensive, coherent, and well-studied national decarbonization and adaptation plan, backed by continuous feedback that engages with what the science is telling us we should prepare for. This in turn, should be mirrored in all succeeding Philippine Development Plans and budget appropriations and relentlessly executed. We have very little time.

Try as we might to solve many of our sustainable development goals, it will be futile if we don't build for the resilience we need, and if we don't collaborate locally and as a global community to decisively "solve climate change". Having a credible vision and a dynamically executed plan is the most effective way to attract the scale of investment and funding we need to build a resilient Philippines in "a world that's now changed".

(The author is First Philippine Holdings chairman and CEO. He is also the chairman of the Oscar M Lopez Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, and Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation.)

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[PH hosts 27th ASEAN Labor Ministers' meet](#)**

By Susan De Leon

CALOOCAN CITY, (PIA) -- The Philippines is hosting the 27th ASEAN Labor Ministers' Meeting (ALMM) and Related Meetings in Manila this week.

Attending the meetings from October 25 to 29 are labor ministers and senior labor officials from the 10-member states of ASEAN: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

The labor officials will also hold meetings with ASEAN Plus Three dialogue partners China, Japan and South Korea.

Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma who will chair the ALMM, said that the biennial meetings serve as a major venue to identify and advance areas of regional cooperation on matters affecting labor and employment.

This year's meetings mark a return to the face-to-face format, and will focus on the theme of moving beyond the pandemic and further promoting digitalized, inclusive and sustainable recovery and growth for workers.

Included in the agenda of the meetings is the review of the progress of various regional programs on skills development, digitalization, climate change and green jobs, industrial relations and the changing world of work, migration and social protection.

Laguesma said the meetings will also highlight the need for more effective regional responses to unemployment especially in rural communities, rising food prices, and inflation, which are now among the biggest threats to workers' welfare and well-being in the region.

The labor ministers are expected to come up with priorities for regional actions on improving skills for employment, upgrading competency and professional qualifications standards and the delivery of technical and vocational education and training (TVET); making ICT and digitalization accessible to all, and modernizing agriculture to improve agricultural productivity, enhance food security and create new jobs.

Laguesma noted that this is the first time that agricultural modernization and food security will be among the top priorities in the ALMM agenda.

"This is a good development for the Philippines as it is fully aligned with the strategic priorities of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s socio-economic agenda," Laguesma said. (DOLE/PIA-NCR)

## **RAPPLER**

### **[Opinion] What the Philippine agenda must be at COP27**

By: John Leo C. Algo

This November marks the 27th time world leaders will convene to discuss how to address the climate crisis. For two weeks, governments, scientists, businesses, and civil society groups will debate and develop policies and solutions against this human-induced global threat.

All signs clearly show that not enough is being done. If the current plans of all governments were successfully implemented, global warming would still far exceed 1.5°C, which many experts consider as a point when climate change impacts could start becoming irreversible.

The global negotiations in Egypt (COP27) is of tremendous significance for the Philippines, one of the most vulnerable to the climate crisis. Many areas are still recovering from the wrath of Super Typhoon Karding, which occurred in a world warmer by nearly 1.1°C. The following explains the most critical issues to be tackled at COP27 and their relevance to the Philippine context.

#### **Loss and damage (L&D)**

Arguably the most contentious issue heading into this year's negotiations involve the establishment of the L&D finance facility. It was proposed by vulnerable nations last year to directly support victims of climate-related disasters, but developed countries blocked the proposal and instead delayed it to dialogues heading into COP27.

However, there is momentum even within developed countries in support of this proposal. The governments of Denmark, Scotland, and Wallonia in Belgium have all committed around \$15 million for loss and damage finance which, while a small amount, provides hope for developing nations.

For the Philippines, which incurred P506.1 billion in climate-related L&D in the past decade, lobbying for the creation of such a financing facility must be prioritized in its agenda. It is also consistent with the nation's call for climate justice at the global level, which further adds to the importance of this issue.

#### **Adaptation**

At last year's talks, developed countries pledged to double the financing to support adaptation projects. Negotiators must now figure out in Egypt not only how to mobilize the necessary funding, but also how to ensure that the most vulnerable communities would be prioritized in accessing such support for their projects.

Adaptation is currently the Philippines's anchor strategy for climate action and integral to our pursuit of sustainable development. The ability of our representatives to secure funding, technologies, and capacity-building mechanisms will determine how successful the transformation of our economy and society will be to withstand different kinds of impacts.

Among sectors that are critical for such transformation involve agriculture, transport, and energy. Filipinos are currently experiencing issues related to food and water security, affordability of electricity and oil products, and lack of efficient public transport infrastructures, which can be addressed in the long-term through this agenda.

### **Climate finance**

Developed nations, whose pollution caused the climate crisis, promised to raise \$100 billion by 2020 to support vulnerable nations. However, they only mobilized \$83.3 billion by the deadline, a troubling sign considering that the burden on vulnerable countries are increasing with higher global warming.

At COP27, leaders must come together to start determining a new collective financial goal by 2025 that truly responds to the needs of communities at highest climate risk.

This aspect of the negotiations is especially key for the Philippines in terms of mitigation, or reducing its emissions of pollutants like carbon dioxide. It pledged to reduce its emissions by 75% within the current decade (2020-2030), which can only be done with financial and technological support from developed countries.

To transform its energy sector from pollutive fossil fuels (including gas) towards renewable energy, our government delegates need to pressure developed countries for an ambitious finance target. They must also strive to create ways to access this means of implementation through grants, not loans that only put more unjust burden on Filipinos and hinder sustainable development.

### **Enhanced, implemented pledges**

It is clear that current commitments of developed countries under their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) will not be enough to limit global warming to 1.5°C, a key goal under the Paris Agreement.

At last year's negotiations, countries were asked to update their NDCs, including stronger emissions reductions targets. Yet two months before COP27, only 15 nations have submitted enhanced pledges.

The Philippines needs to resume a leading role among vulnerable countries in influencing high-emissions nations for more stringent mitigation pledges under their NDCs.

Furthermore, our negotiators also need to be among those to monitor the many implementation plans created from last year's summit. These include the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use that aims to reverse deforestation, and the Global Methane Pledge, which targets reducing emissions of methane, a pollutant more potent than carbon dioxide. As it stands, the Philippines is a signatory for both of these plans.

COP27 is known as the "implementation COP," an indicator that the time for action is now. Everyone has a role to play in addressing the climate crisis, yet governments (not individuals, as many Filipinos believe) have perhaps the biggest responsibility for implementing solutions.

It is not just the governments of developed countries that need to scale up their promises and actions; those of vulnerable nations have to step up as well through coherent policies and urgent solutions, and the Philippines is no exception.

We know what needs to happen for our collective well-being. Yet so far, governments and businesses have fallen way short. For the 27th time, we must ask: will they finally do what must be done?

## **RMN NEWS**

### **[Pagtugon sa climate change, tatalakayin ng European Union sa Makati City ngayong Biyernes](#)**

By RadyoMaN Manila

Muling iginiit ng European Union ang kahalagahan ng pagtugon sa kinakaharap ng buong mundo, ang mabilis na pagbabago ng klima, kaya't magsasagawa sila ng Roundtable Discussion tungkol sa Climate Action sa darating na Biyernes, October 28, 2022 sa Dusit Hotel sa Makati City.

Ang naturang okasyon ay kapwa ipatutupad sa online at face-to-face, kung saan magtitipon-tipon ang mga environment officer and sustainability practitioners mula sa Non-Government Organizations, local governments, at business sector sa bawat bansa.

Layon ng hybrid event ay para talakayin ang estado ng papel na ginagampanan ng mga mananaliksik sa Pilipinas sa pagtugon sa problema na kinakaharap ng mundo, ang climate change.

Aalamin din kung papaano makikipag-ugnayan ang Pilipinas sa mga European researcher sa pagtugon ng malaking hamon sa climate change

Inaasahan na dadalo at magbibigay ng talumpati sina Ms. Ana Isabel Sánchez Ruiz, ang EU Delegation's to the Philippines Chargé d'affaires; Mr. Anastasios Kentarchos, Adviser, Climate Science and Innovation for the European Commission; Mr. Giovanni Serritella, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to the Philippines ; Engineer Nathaniel Lubrica, Team Leader, Geomatics for Disaster Reduction of the University of the Cordilleras; at Dr. Gay Jane Perez, Deputy Director General, Philippine Space Agency.

Ang naturang forum ay dadaluhan ng iba't ibang stakeholders to the EU Delegation to the Philippines gaya ng European External Action Service, European Commission, Euro Access to Sustainable Energy Programme-Clean Energy Living Laboratories, EURAXESS, Philippines, Department of Science and Technology, Climate Change Commission Philippines, Philippine Space Agency, University of the Cordilleras, at University of San Carlos.

Ang naturang okasyon ay may kaugnayan sa EU's Climate Diplomacy Week at post-activity para sa selebrasyon ng World Space Week.



## THE MANILA TIMES

### [PH HEI delegates triumph in Indonesia](#)

By Leander C. Domingo

Delegates from higher educational institutions in the Philippines won multiple awards in the International Summer Course Program (ISCP) held recently in Indonesia.

They were faculty members from the Central Luzon State University (CLSU), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and Marinduque State College (MSC) who participated in the ISCP for Agriculture and Ecosystem Resilience to Environmental Disaster toward Regional Sustainability.

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) said the event was jointly organized by Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) University and Ibaraki University from Sept. 11 to 20, 2022 in Bogor, Indonesia.

The International Continuing Professional Education Grants of the Commission on Higher Education supported the faculty members as they presented their research studies to the international participants through Searca's Leveling-Up Philippine Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources (LevelUPHEI AFAR) project.

Searca Director Glenn Gregorio said the grant enables members of the State Universities and Colleges-Association of Colleges of Agriculture in the Philippines (SUC-ACAP) to participate in activities organized by members of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC), where IPB University is a founding member.

CLSU was represented by Jairus Jesse Tubal from the College of Agriculture who shared his study on "Impacts of Climate Change on the Tilapia Value Chain from Cage Culture in Luzon, Philippines." Eliza Camaso from the College of Engineering presented her work on "Vulnerability Assessment of Agricultural Resources in Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija, Philippines."

Daryl Juganas and Lea Caguiat, both from the Institute for Climate Change and Environmental Management, presented "Adaptation Strategies for Resiliency and Disaster Risk Management in Selected Coastal Municipalities of Zambales, Philippines" and "Spatial and temporal trend analysis of reference evapotranspiration in Central Luzon, Philippines," respectively.

Caguiat was recognized with the Best Poster Award, and Tubal won second place for the Best Oral Presentations.

The UPLB delegates were Liezl Grefalda, who presented "Building Institutional Resilience in the context of Climate Change in Aurora, Philippines," and Rhiz

Manarpaac, who presented the "International Risk Governance Council Framework: Climate Risk Governance in the Municipality of Baler, Aurora, Philippines."

Both from the Department of Social Forestry and Forest Governance, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Grefalda won third place for Best Presenter while Manarpaac won third place for the Best Student Poster.

Clarissa Lontoc, from the School of Environmental Science and Management, also shared her study on "Estimation of The Recreational Value of Rehabilitated Coral Reef Sites in Boracay, Philippines Using Travel Cost Method."

MSC was represented by Harvey Dulay, director for Research, who shared about the "Production of tomato, eggplant and long pepper using coco fiber-based planter box under deficit irrigation."

Before this summer program, Dulay attended a three-week Training Program on Applications of Plant Biotechnology for Crop Improvement at Kasetsart University's Kamphaeng Saen Campus in Thailand through the LevelUPHEI AFAR project. KU is another founding member university of UC.

Gregorio said the ISCP aims to provide an understanding of regional sustainability through multifaceted research on disaster prevention and agricultural and ecosystem resilience from disaster and social-technology disruption.

He said it was designed to promote talents that could identify problems and develop solutions independently and it combined lectures and discussions on environmental conservation and management, GIS and remote sensing, and biophysical and socio-cultural dimensions of climate change adaptation.

The delegates also conducted on-site observation and evaluation of different types of agroecosystems and visited Seribu Island, Desa Wisata Malasari/Gunung Halimun Salak National Park, Pulo Geulis, and Bogor Botanical Garden. This is part of the active learning component of ISCP.

Searca said it continues to facilitate funding support for faculty and staff members from SUC-ACAP universities for various activities by the UC such as one-month to one-semester mobilities, attendance at conferences and training programs.

## [Opinion] Destroying art for climate activism

By Daphne Oseña-Paez

THIS week saw a new pair of climate activists defacing a precious work of art. Two activists from the Letzte Generation (left generation) environmental group threw mashed potato soup at a painting by Claude Monet. The painting "Meules" (or "Haystacks," 1890) hangs, protected behind glass, in the Museum Barberini in Potsdam, Germany. It is on loan to the museum as the most valuable Impressionist work ever sold at an auction at the price of \$110.7 million at Sotheby's in 2019. This action was similar to a performative act from last week.

Two young climate activists from the group Just Stop Oil threw tomato soup on Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" in London's National Gallery last week. It was a choreographed movement, from opening the can of soup, throwing it on the glass-covered painting, then applying glue on the palm of their hand, going down on their knees and grasping the wall with their glue-encrusted hands. They have done this with other artworks in the past, calling it a nonviolent form of protest.

I get the idea of disruption and the need to get attention in a world facing so many pressing issues. But there is a fine line between the need for attention, vandalism and extremism. A lot of horrible acts of extremism and terrorism have roots from ideas that are believed to be justified or benign because of a higher or moral goal. I won't go there. The defacing of art in the name of eradicating fossil fuels is a double "no" for me as a student of art history and of urban and environmental management. There are better ways to get a point across.

Climate anxiety is affecting so many people, especially our youth who are aware of environmental destruction caused by anthropomorphic activities. They learn that we need to limit average temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, with ambitious international targets of 1.5 C. They say we need to cut gas, oil and coal and blame the previous generations for fossil fuels. They are told the Earth cannot handle any more humans. Prince Harry says that he can only have a maximum of two children because he is concerned with the carrying capacity of the Earth. Our choice of food, meat namely, is cause for cancellation by many who find it unethical. These are daunting figures.

There are many ways young people can express their activism and concern for the environment without resorting to vandalism and harm. We must spread awareness and facts, not fear. There is a need to incorporate environmental management in the Philippine school curriculum at all levels. This includes the science, sociology and politics behind policy making. Our children should know the impacts of fossil fuels and the need for our government to seek renewable sources of energy. Promoting eco bags and recycling are not enough. We need a citizen-led urban greening program. Imagine schoolchildren planting trees in their gardens. Older students can do reforestation projects. We cannot leave our youth hopeless and left to seek attention by bratting or being destructive. It does not lead to healthy transformative change.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [EU calls for 'ambitious targets' ahead of COP27 summit](#)

By Agence France-Presse

LUXEMBOURG — The EU set out its position for the COP27 climate summit on Monday in a text that called for "ambitious targets" but did not put a figure on financial help for developing countries.

The 27 member states acknowledged that "global ambition must increase substantially" to keep Paris Agreement temperature goals within reach.

The text urges countries to "come forward with ambitious targets" ahead of the UN conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt next month.

The EU is ready to update national contributions "as soon as possible" after discussions between the 27 member states to finalise their climate plan, it said.

The plan aims to reduce the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent, compared to 1990 levels, by 2030.

The text, adopted by EU environment ministers meeting in Luxembourg, also "calls on all parties to close the book on unabated coal through a phasedown".

But the declaration is cautious on the thorny matter of financial help for developing countries.

Financing "loss and damage" caused by the impacts of global warming is set to be a burning issue at COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Rich countries have still not kept their commitment to provide at least \$100 billion a year in climate aid -- a target initially set for 2020 -- to help poor countries reduce their emissions and adapt.

The EU member states expect "the goal will be met in 2023" the text says, without providing any new target figures.

Compensation for loss and damage is "a tricky question", said Czech Environment Minister Anna Hubackova, adding: "We are ready to discuss" possible terms.

"Today at the Council, we've agreed to have an open mind in the loss and damage negotiations", said Dutch Energy Minister Rob Jetten.

"We have to recognise the impact on a lot of developing countries", he added.

"Let's see in Sharm el-Sheikh where this ends", he said.

## Fossil fuel dependence risks current and future health: experts

By Patrick Galey - Agence France-Presse

PARIS, France — Over-reliance on fossil fuels is worsening the health impacts of global crises such as climate change, pandemics and food security, an international team of experts said Wednesday in a dire assessment of humanity's energy strategy.

As health systems deal with the fallout of Covid-19, the analysis found that the vast majority of countries still allocate hundreds of billions of dollars to fossil fuel subsidies, often amounting to sums comparable to or greater than their health budgets.

The annual Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change found that extreme heat -- made likelier by the global warming caused by fossil fuel emissions -- was now leaving nearly 100 million additional people facing severe food insecurity, compared with the period of 2010-1981.

It said that the global land area affected by extreme drought had increased by nearly a third in the last 50 years, putting hundreds of millions of people at risk of water insecurity.

"Climate change is already having a negative impact on food security, with worrying implications for malnutrition and under-nourishment," said Elizabeth Robinson, director of the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics and a lead contributor to the Countdown.

"Further increases in temperature, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and carbon dioxide concentrations, will put yet more pressure on availability of and access to nutritious food, especially for the most vulnerable."

Robinson said supply shocks triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February highlighted the world's susceptibility to food chain disruptions.

### **'Deep failure'**

The assessment showed that heat-related deaths increased by 68 percent between 2017-2021 compared to 2000-2004, and human exposure to days of high fire risk rose 61 percent over similar time periods.

Climate change is also affecting the spread of infectious diseases, the report showed.

For example, the length of time suitable for malaria transmission rose by almost a third (32.1 percent) in some parts of the Americas, and 14.0 percent in Africa over the past decade, compared to 1951-1960.

Furthermore, the Countdown showed how governments are themselves contributing to health crises in the form of fossil fuel subsidies.

Sixty-nine of the 86 governments analysed were found to be subsidising fossil fuel production and consumption, for a net total of \$400 billion in 2019.

At a time when fossil fuel companies are posting record profits and consumers are struggling with soaring energy bills, the Lancet report said that the plans of the 15 largest oil and gas companies were incompatible with safe levels of global warming.

It found that the firms were set to produce more than double their share of greenhouse gas emissions compatible with 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming by 2040. Capping warming at 1.5C is the more ambitious target of the Paris climate deal.

At the current rate it would take 150 years to fully decarbonise the energy system, a far cry from international 2050 net-zero target.

"Current strategies from many governments and companies will lock the world into a fatally warmer future, tying us to the use of fossil fuels that are rapidly closing off prospects for a liveable world," said Paul Ekins, professor of Resources and Policy at University College London's Bartlett School.

He said climate and health emergencies were the result of a "deep failure" by governments to recognise the urgent need to work towards a zero-carbon world.

The authors called for a "health-centred response" to the energy, cost of living and climate crises.

Improving air quality would help prevent deaths resulting from fossil fuel exposure, of which there were 1.3 million in 2020 alone.

Accelerating the move towards plant-based diets would reduce 55 percent of agricultural emissions and prevent up to 11.5 million diet-related deaths annually, the authors said.

UN chief Antonio Guterres, responding to the report, said that the world's fossil fuel "addiction" was "out of control".

"The science is clear: massive, common sense in renewable energy and climate resilience will secure a healthier, safer life for people in every country."

## [US backs discussing payments to poor countries at climate talks](#)

WASHINGTON, United States — The United States backs addressing the loss and damage suffered by developing countries due to global warming at upcoming international climate negotiations, US climate envoy John Kerry said Wednesday.

The countries most vulnerable to climate change are also those that contribute the least to it, and they are demanding financial compensation specifically for what is known as loss and damage in Earth's climate crisis.

This issue is likely to be one of the hottest subjects of debate at UN climate talks known as COP27 opening November 6 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt.

The 2015 Paris climate accord says signatories must try harder to address loss and damage, Kerry told a news conference.

"Now we have to go the next level and get engaged in a serious dialogue about how the world is going to deal with loss and damage," Kerry said.

"And we are prepared to discuss in Sharm el Sheikh fully all the ways in which we can try to be fair and gather the efforts of the world to help us address the concerns of a lot of countries in the world," Kerry said.

He added: "So we're very supportive of addressing loss and damage in the context of the process of the UN."

Although the issue is in fact mentioned in the Paris accord, rich countries that built their wealth on fossil fuels are reluctant to address it.

"I hope this will be the year where people all kind of get on the same page, recognizing that there are some special inequities, and they deserve some special attention," said Kerry.

He said Africa accounts for three percent of global greenhouse gas emissions but 17 of the countries most at risk from climate change are located on the continent.

At the Egypt talks the United States will make announcements on helping Africa adapt to climate change, Kerry said.



## UN NEWS

### [Countries' climate promises still not enough to avoid catastrophic global warming: UN Report](#)

#### **Increasing instead of decreasing**

In 2019, the IPCC indicated that to curb global warming, CO2 emissions needed to be cut by 43 per cent by 2030, compared to 2010 levels, but current climate plans show a 10.6 per cent increase instead.

However, this is an improvement compared to last year's report, which showed a 13.7 per cent increase by 2030, and a continued raise of emissions after 2030.

"The downward trend in emissions expected by 2030 shows that nations have made some progress this year," said Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change.

"But the science is clear and so are our climate goals under the Paris Agreement. We are still nowhere near the scale and pace of emission reductions required to put us on track toward a 1.5 degrees Celsius world", he warned.

Mr. Stiell underscored that national governments need to strengthen their climate action plans now and implement them in the next eight years.

#### **Glimmers of hope**

Last year, during the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, all countries agreed to revisit and strengthen their climate plans, however, only 24 out of 193 nations submitted updated plans to the UN.

"...It's disappointing. Government decisions and actions must reflect the level of urgency, the gravity of the threats we are facing, and the shortness of the time we have remaining to avoid the devastating consequences of runaway climate change", highlighted the UN Climate Change chief.

The good news is that most of the nations who submitted a new plan strengthened their commitments, demonstrating more ambition in addressing climate change, according to the agency, which deemed this fact as a "glimmer of hope".

More positive trends were found in a second UN Climate Change assessment published on Wednesday looking at long-term net-zero strategies.

62 countries, accounting for 93 per cent of the world's GDP, 47 per cent of the global population, and around 69 per cent of total energy consumption, have these plans in place.

"This is a strong signal that the world is starting to aim for net-zero emissions", the agency said.

Nevertheless, experts note that many net-zero targets remain uncertain and postpone into the future critical action that needs to take place now.

### **A call for global leaders**

In less than two weeks, the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 will take place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, and Mr. Stiell called on governments to revisit their climate plans and make them stronger to close the gap between where emissions are heading and where science indicates they should be this decade.

“COP27 is the moment where global leaders can regain momentum on climate change, make the necessary pivot from negotiations to implementation and get moving on the massive transformation that must take place throughout all sectors of society to address the climate emergency,” he said.

Stiell urged national governments to show at the conference how they will put the Paris Agreement to work through legislation, policies and programs, as well as how they will cooperate and provide support for implementation.

He also called for nations to make progress in four priority areas: mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and finance.

**- END -**