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BBC NEWS

[Climate change: UN warns key warming threshold slipping from sight](#)

By Matt McGrath

There is "no credible pathway" to keep the rise in global temperatures below the key threshold of 1.5C, according to a bleak new UN assessment.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Task Force Build Back Better lines up more climate resiliency actions](#)

By: Jonathan Mayuga

The Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB), an interagency body led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is strengthening disaster-prevention climate resiliency-building efforts in the country's most vulnerable provinces.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Gov't urged to invest in blue carbon initiatives to mitigate climate change effects](#)

By: Hana Bordey

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda is calling on the Philippine government to invest in blue carbon initiatives through the sustainable management of marine resources and marine-linked sectors.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Climate action vital to inclusive growth—NEDA](#)

By: Chino S. Leyco

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said policies against climate change will have a pivotal role in upcoming development plans as these are much needed to achieve inclusive economic growth for the country.

[Climate plans would allow up to 2.6C of global warming: UN](#)

By: Agence France-Presse

Paris, France — Country climate pledges leave the world on track to heat by as much as 2.6 degrees Celsius this century, according to a United Nations assessment Wednesday warning that emissions must fall 45 percent this decade to limit disastrous heating.

[IEA sees global emissions peaking in 2025](#)

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Paris, France — The International Energy Agency said Thursday it believes global energy emissions will peak in 2025 as surging prices due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine propel investment in renewables.

[Legarda: Blue carbon economy key to climate change adaptation](#)

By: Mario Casayuran

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda called on the Philippine government to consider investing in blue carbon initiatives through the sustainable management of marine resources and marine-linked sectors which are also vital for climate change adaptation along the coasts.

[Tropical Cyclone Paeng Tracker](#)

By: Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) last spotted tropical storm Paeng 410 kilometers east of Borongan City, Eastern Samar, and it was moving westward at 15 kilometers per hour (kph).

MANILA STANDARD

[Embracing sustainable, renewable energy](#)

By: Peter Paul Duran

Clean energy is another name for renewable energy, which comes from natural sources or processes and can be used over and over again.

[Energy plays critical role in recharging economy](#)

By: Alena Mae S. Flores

Energy is an essential resource in everyday life and a key driver of economies worldwide. Expensive and lack of access to energy have posed a barrier to economic development.

[Local organizations advocate for clean energy](#)

By: Marron Joshua F. Mendoza and Louise Gallardo

As a country rich in natural resources that are crucial in developing clean and renewable energy, the Philippines is considered a global leader in renewable energy usage.

MINDANAO TIMES

[Global Food Supply and Domestic Solutions](#)

By: Adrian Tamayo

The idea of food security is becoming a global concern brought about by the global impact of the pandemic and multiple issues relating to climate change, global supply chain and logistics, and the growing population.

NPR.ORG

[Here's how far behind the world is on reining in climate change](#)

By Lauren Sommer

World leaders will begin climate talks in Egypt in a little over a week, and tensions are expected to run high in the negotiations to reduce heat-trapping emissions

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[EU auditors criticize executive agencies for poor ‘revolving door’ safeguards](#)

By Reuters

Brussels – The European Union auditors on Thursday criticized the bloc’s specialized agencies for failing to prevent “revolving doors”, a practice that sees officials taking up lucrative private-sector jobs at the risk of conflicts of interest.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH senators conclude 3-day parliamentary visit to France](#)

By: Wilnard Bacelonia

Manila – Several Philippine senators are optimistic that the parliamentary visit to France will pave the way for a deeper relationship and explore opportunities for greater collaboration, particularly in renewable energy, climate change, economic development, and food security.

[Protecting marine ecosystems vital for climate change adaptation](#)

By: Leonel Abasola

Manila - Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda on Thursday urged both national and local governments to help ensure the effective implementation of environmental laws which provide for the conservation, preservation and protection of marine ecosystems which are vital for climate change adaptation along the coasts.

[US Peace Corps to roll out new climate initiative in PH](#)

By: Kris Crismundo

Manila – United States Peace Corps chief executive officer Carol Spahn said here Thursday that the Philippines is among the first countries to implement its new climate initiative.

SUNSTAR

[Legarda calls for blue carbon economy in Philippines to address climate change](#)

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda called on the Philippine government to consider investing in blue carbon initiatives through the sustainable management of marine resources and marine-linked sectors which are also vital for climate change adaptation along the coasts.

[\[Opinion\]: Climate changing ‘burps’ and ‘farts’](#)

By: Rox Peña

Last week, farmers in New Zealand held a protest on their government’s plan to impose a tax for ‘farts’ from their cows and other livestock. This may sound funny, but it’s something that the New Zealand government is seriously considering to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. They will be the first country to do so.

THE MANILA TIMES

[US gives P53M for risk data project](#)

The US government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAid), is providing P53 million (\$900,000) for the second phase of an information management system project to enhance the Philippines' capacity to identify disaster risks and support disaster response operations.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Aboitiz Group deepens innovation footprint to empower gov’t, businesses](#)

Manila, Philippines — The Aboitiz Group is further deepening its innovation footprint in the Philippines and in the region to help the government, businesses and communities leverage Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DSAI) in responding to interdependent challenges and exploring possibilities.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BBC NEWS

Climate change: UN warns key warming threshold slipping from sight

By Matt McGrath

There is "no credible pathway" to keep the rise in global temperatures below the key threshold of 1.5C, according to a bleak new UN assessment.

Scientists believe that going beyond 1.5C would see dangerous impacts for people all over the world.

The report says that since COP26 last year, governments carbon cutting plans have been "woefully inadequate".

Only an urgent transformation of society will avoid disaster, the study says.

Mindful of the fact that the world's attention has been elsewhere since climate diplomats met in Glasgow last year, this week has seen a flurry of reports underlining the fact that climate change hasn't gone away.

Answering questions from BBC viewers and listeners this week, the UN Secretary General António Guterres, said the world needed to re-focus on climate change or face catastrophe.

This gloomy mood among scientists and diplomats is underlined in today's release of the UN emissions gap study.

Now in its thirteenth year, the report analyses the gap between the rhetoric and the reality.

It concludes that the 1.5C threshold is now in serious peril.

This analysis finds that new efforts to cut carbon would see global emissions fall by less than 1% by 2030, when according to scientists, reductions of 45% are needed to keep 1.5C in play.

Looking at the impact on temperatures, the study finds that with the current policies in place, the world will warm by around 2.8C this century.

If countries get financial support and put into practice the plans they have made, this can be limited to 2.4C.

"We had our chance to make incremental changes, but that time is over," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, who produced the study.

"Only a root-and-branch transformation of our economies and societies can save us from accelerating climate disaster," she said.

The UN acknowledges that achieving massive cuts in emissions is now a tall order. But it points to electricity, industry, transport and buildings as areas where rapid transformations away from fossil fuels can be made.

"We've got to take climate change with us wherever we go," said Ms Anderson.

"Into the classrooms, into the boardrooms, into the voting booth, over the dinner table. We cannot let go of climate change."

As well as highlighting the slow pace of progress on tackling the causes of warming, other studies published this week show that governments are failing to prepare for the impacts of higher temperatures.

In the UK, a committee of MPs and peers says the government needs to "get a grip" on the risk to critical infrastructure posed by a warming climate.

The report of the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy cites examples where severe weather has overwhelmed transport and communications.

These include the deaths of three people from a train derailment in Scotland after heavy rainfall in August 2020, and the loss of electric power by almost 1m people during Storm Arwen in November 2021.

"The thing I find most disturbing is the lack of evidence that anyone in government is focusing on how all the impacts can come together, creating cascading crises," said the chair of the Joint Committee, Dame Margaret Beckett MP.

"There are simply no ministers with focused responsibility for making sure that our infrastructure is resilient to extreme weather and other effects of climate change."

While almost all the reports published this week underline the lack of progress on climate, there are some strong positives amidst the gloom.

The State of Climate Action study says that in transport, a transition to sustainable travel is well underway. Globally, almost half of the buses sold in 2021 were powered by battery electric or fuel cell electric engines.

In passenger car sales, electric vehicles have doubled from the previous year to now account for almost 9% of new cars.

This note of hope is also reflected in the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook, also published today.

It argues that the energy crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine is causing changes that have the potential to hasten the transition to a more secure and sustainable energy system.

The report also finds that a raft of new policies in countries like the US, Japan, Korea and the EU will likely see clean energy investments of around \$2 trillion by 2030, a rise of more than 50% from today.

BUSINESS MIRROR

Task Force Build Back Better lines up more climate resiliency actions

By: Jonathan Mayuga

The Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB), an interagency body led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is strengthening disaster-prevention climate resiliency-building efforts in the country's most vulnerable provinces.

During the 35th TFBBB meeting held last October 10, the DENR presented a new policy direction that would give focus on disaster prevention and climate-resiliency capacity building in provinces identified as most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, deviating from the usual disaster response and recovery planning and implementation.

These provinces include Masbate, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Siquijor, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Lanao del Sur.

“One aspect of the gains that the task force can look into is how we can shift our mode from response and recovery to putting in place governance frameworks that will prevent climate-related disasters and climate resiliency in these identified provinces,” said DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, who also serves as the TFBBB Secretariat Head.

The direction was pursuant to the blueprint of action set out by DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, which focuses on strengthening climate risk capacities through improved coherence and implementation of climate-resiliency and adaptive programs under the “whole-of-society” approach.

Also discussed in the meeting were the harmonization of TFBBB's role in relation to the functions of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) as the lead implementor of Republic Act 10121, or Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) of the Department of National Defense.

Teh likewise emphasized that the TFBBB will take part in the drafting of the 2023-2028 Philippine Development Plan, specifically Chapter 17 (Accelerate Climate Action, and Strengthen Disaster Resilience) of the document, which will lay out specific actions on climate and disaster resiliency.

“The DENR is in charge of Chapter 17. We will interface with the OCD in the development of this chapter so that we can craft more specific and concrete plans, rather than motherhood and generic directions,” Teh added.

Executive Order 120 issued on November 18, 2020 by then President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to expedite and lead the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery programs for typhoon-ravaged areas created TFBBB.

So far, TFBBB's focus areas include the Cagayan River Basin, Marikina River Basin and the Bicol River Basin that were damaged by typhoons "Rolly" and "Ulysses" in 2020, as well as Regions 6, 7, 8, 10, Caraga and MIMAROPA that were ravaged by typhoon "Odette" in 2021.

TFBBB oversaw the widening of the Cagayan River to address flooding in the province, clearing a total of 515,441 cubic meters from a big sandbar in Magapit Narrows, exceeding its target of 344,304.51 cubic meters. Another 142,220.7 cubic meters were dredged from a huge sandbar constricting the river in Barangay Dummun in Gattaran town.

Some 119,340 bamboo planting materials through TFBBB's initiatives were planted covering 585 hectares along the stretch of Cagayan River to stabilize its riverbanks.

Marikina River chokepoints consisting of 67,425 cubic meters were likewise removed, resulting in the river's improved water flow at 3 meters per second (mps) from 2.3 mps before the dredging operations in February 2021. Its current flow rate is now close to its ideal flow rate of 4 mps.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

Gov't urged to invest in blue carbon initiatives to mitigate climate change effects

By: Hana Bordey

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda is calling on the Philippine government to invest in blue carbon initiatives through the sustainable management of marine resources and marine-linked sectors.

The lawmaker made the call on Thursday after she and seven other senators met with their French counterparts and discussed several matters, including climate change.

"We need to invest in blue carbon initiatives that will help protect our coral reefs, seagrass beds, lush mangrove forests, and other coastal and marine [resources.] Let us implement Philippine environmental laws in our efforts to bring back the bounty and restore the ecological integrity of our bodies of water," Legarda said in a statement.

According to Legarda, building a blue carbon economy entails creating ocean sectors and businesses that are socially just, environmentally sustainable, and economically profitable.

"The risks are rapidly growing, not only for those in coastal communities, as climate change drives rising sea levels, warmer oceans and increasingly ferocious cyclones. We need to recalibrate our strategies on climate change adaptation, invest in blue carbon initiatives, and embrace the available solutions that nature presents to us," Legarda said.

In her statement, blue carbon was defined as "the sequestered and stored carbon from coastal and marine ecosystems, such as mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes."

"Sequestered carbon from the atmosphere is locked as biomass for a long period, functioning as what is referred to as a carbon sink. Despite being considerably smaller compared to forests, these coastal systems have high sequestration potential for millions of years and are up to a hundred times faster when in healthy condition," the statement said.

Legarda said that mangroves and seagrass along the shorelines of vulnerable coastal communities would serve as natural buffers against storm surges, flooding, erosion, and other climate hazards.

She also said that the country's coastal resources, characterized by rich marine life, have always been a reliable source of food, employment, energy, and even recreation.

She then appealed to both national and local governments to help ensure the proper implementation of environmental laws such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and the Clean Water Act.

Legarda said these measures provide for the conservation, preservation, and protection of marine resources, wildlife, and biological diversity.

Eight Philippine senators flew to France to meet with their counterparts and discuss the strengthening of the bilateral relationship between the two nations.

Among the French officials that they met were Senator Guillaume Kasbarian, President of the Commission for Economic Affairs and Member of Parliament for Eure-et-Loir; Senator Daniel Gremillet, member of the Committee for Economic Affairs and President of the Study Group on Energy; and Senator Mathieu Darnaud, head of the French-South East Asian Friendship Group.

They also met with Madame Gisele Jourda, Vice President of the Committee on European Affairs and President-delegate for the Philippines; and Pascal Chaix, Deputy Director for the International Relations Division of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Philippine delegation was led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Zubiri and Legarda were joined by Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, Deputy Majority Leader JV Ejercito, and Senators Lito Lapid, Nancy Binay, Grace Poe, and Christopher "Bong" Go.

In a separate statement, Go said the lawmakers also met with French companies and private sector leaders to discuss potential opportunities and areas of economic cooperation on October 26—the second day of their official visit to France.

Some of the French private sector leaders include those from the energy and transportation sectors, the senator said.

"It is my hope that through these discussions, we will be able to identify potential areas in which the Philippines and France could collaborate for the benefit of both countries, particularly in the fields of energy, defense, and transportation," Go said.

On the same day, Go said the Philippine delegation also attended another meeting with the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) of France.

The ASN is an independent administrative authority that participates in regulating nuclear safety, radiation protection, and nuclear activities in France.

After that, Go said they were invited to a luncheon hosted by Senator Mathieu Darnaud of the France-South East Asian Friendship Group.

Go said they also met with representatives from the Economic Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly and the Atomic Energy Commission of France.

Go, chairman of the Senate committee on health, took the opportunity to thank the French government for its multi-million COVID-19 vaccine donation to the Philippines through the COVAX Facility at the height of the pandemic, saying this was a significant boost to the country's national vaccination program.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the French government for donating COVID-19 vaccines to the Philippines during the height of the pandemic. Filipinos will forever be grateful to you for this act of kindness, which went a long way toward ensuring the success of our vaccination program and the safety of our citizens against the threat of COVID-19," he said.

MANILA BULLETIN

Climate action vital to inclusive growth—NEDA

By: Chino S. Leyco

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said policies against climate change will have a pivotal role in upcoming development plans as these are much needed to achieve inclusive economic growth for the country.

In a statement on Thursday, Oct. 27, Socioeconomic Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said the integration of climate action into the government's development plans is "absolute necessity" now more than ever.

Balisacan reiterated the Philippines' heightened risk against the adverse effects of climate change, highlighting that the country faces an average of eight to nine tropical cyclones annually.

The resulting damages cripple the Filipino people's sources of food, shelter, and livelihood, the NEDA chief noted.

Super Typhoon Karding, for instance, ravaged areas in Central Luzon just last September, and left with at least P304 million-worth of infrastructural damages and P2.99 billion-worth of agricultural damages.

He also highlighted that the Philippines has a running "ecological deficit" due to the prevalence of harmful and unsustainable consumption practices affecting the environment.

"Our ecological footprint, or the impact created by our population on our environment, goes beyond our area's natural capacity," Balisacan said.

"If we do not get our acts right soon, more communities will be routinely displaced, more economic activities disrupted, and more agricultural systems devastated due to these extreme, climate change-induced weather conditions," he added.

According to Balisacan, the upcoming Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 will lay out the government's priorities for pursuing a greener economy and more sustainable, affordable, and livable residential areas by 2028.

"Examples of such priority actions will include mechanisms involving carbon pricing and incentivizing local government units to focus on more climate-friendly projects, such as electric vehicles, sustainable tourism, biodiversity protection, and energy efficiency," said Balisacan.

NEDA also plans to release the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP) in November that contains actions enabling the country's shift

towards climate-smart and sustainable practices over the short, medium, and long terms.

Designed toward contributing to climate change mitigation goals, the PAP4SCP intends to expedite the scaling up of renewable energy systems, adopt resource-efficient green technologies, implement sustainable, multi-modal transport, among others.

The CCDR is a core diagnostic report of the World Bank Group analyzing each country's development goals in the context of addressing the effects of climate change.

Climate plans would allow up to 2.6C of global warming: UN

By: Agence France-Presse

Paris, France — Country climate pledges leave the world on track to heat by as much as 2.6 degrees Celsius this century, according to a United Nations assessment Wednesday warning that emissions must fall 45 percent this decade to limit disastrous heating.

The United Nations Environment Programme, in its annual Emissions Gap report, found that updated national promises since last year's COP26 summit in Glasgow would only shave less than one percent off global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

The Emissions Gap examines the difference between the CO2 pollution that will be released under countries' decarbonisation plans and what science says is needed to keep the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to between 1.5-2C from pre-industrial levels.

A day after the UN's climate change agency said governments were still doing "nowhere near" enough for 1.5C, UNEP found progress on emissions cutting had been "woefully inadequate".

It said that additional pledges made since the COP26 summit in Glasgow last year would result in emissions being less than one percent lower by 2030. It said failure left the world "hurtling towards" a temperature rise far in excess of the Paris goals.

"It's another year squandered in terms of actually doing something about the problem," report lead author Anne Olhoff told AFP.

"That's not to say that all nations have not taken this seriously. But from a global perspective it's definitely very far from adequate."

The report found that in order for temperatures to be capped at 2C, emissions would need to fall 30 percent faster by 2030 than envisioned under countries' most up-to-date plans.

For 1.5C, the gap is 45 percent.

Under the 2015 Paris deal, countries are required to submit ever deeper emission cutting plans, known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs.

UNEP found that "unconditional" NDCs — which countries plan regardless of external support — would likely limit global warming to 2.6C by 2100 — a level that scientists warn would be catastrophic for humanity and for nature.

Conditional NDCs, which rely on international funding to achieve, would likely see a 2.4-C temperature rise this century, it said.

All told, current plans are likely to see a 5 to 10-percent reduction in emissions by 2030 — a far cry from the near halving required for 1.5C.

‘Missed opportunity’

UNEP said that 2020 saw emissions reductions roughly in line with what is needed every year this decade to stay on track for 1.5C, with carbon pollution falling more than seven percent largely due to Covid-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions.

However, it said that 2021 could end up being the highest on record for greenhouse gas emissions — some 52.8 billion tonnes — as countries power on with their fossil-fuelled pandemic recoveries.

“We see a full bounce-back in emissions after Covid,” said Olhoff. “It’s a missed opportunity in terms of utilising these unprecedented recovery funds to accelerate a green transition.”

“We basically need emissions reductions in that order of magnitude (in 2020) every single year, until 2030, to get on track to the Paris Agreement goal.”

UNEP said that while the switch to renewables in the power sector was accelerating, several industries were lagging behind in the push towards net-zero emissions.

For example in the food sector, responsible for around a third of emissions, dietary changes and cutting food loss could help reduce the sector’s footprint by more than 30 percent by 2050.

‘Transformation’

Olhoff said the financial sector was “part of the problem rather than part of the solution” to climate change, with hundreds of billions funnelled annually to fossil fuel projects.

UNEP suggested the introduction of an effective carbon price under a global cap and trade system that would push investors to consider the environmental impact of their portfolios.

It also called for central banks to make more funds available and help create global low-carbon technology markets.

“We had our chance to make incremental changes, but that time is over,” said UNEP executive director Inger Andersen. “Only a root-and-branch transformation of our economies and societies can save us from accelerating climate disaster.”

Last year the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change said that the world was likely to reach and even exceed the 1.5C Paris goal within decades, no matter how quickly emissions fall in the short term.

Olhoff said that for every year that passed without significant emissions cuts, 1.5C was getting “less realistic and less feasible”.

But she insisted that governments needed to accelerate the green transition to avoid as much damage as possible.

“The more we learn, it’s absolutely clear that we should aim to get (temperature rises) as low as possible,” she said.

“Even if that means 1.6C instead of 1.5C. That’s definitely better than 2C degrees, just as 1.7C is worse than 1.6C.”

[IEA sees global emissions peaking in 2025](#)

By: Agence France-Presse

Paris, France — The International Energy Agency said Thursday it believes global energy emissions will peak in 2025 as surging prices due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine propel investment in renewables.

Only last year the IEA said there was “no clear peak in sight” in energy emissions, but the new higher investment in wind and solar is setting up demand for all fossil fuels to peak or plateau, leading to a drop in emissions.

“The global energy crisis triggered by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is causing profound and long-lasting changes that have the potential to hasten the transition to a more sustainable and secure energy system,” the IEA said as it released its latest annual World Energy Outlook report.

Based on the latest measures and policies announced by governments in the face of soaring energy prices, the IEA forecasts global clean energy investment to rise by more than 50 percent from today’s levels to \$2 trillion per year by 2030.

Those measures will propel sustained gains in renewables and nuclear power.

“As a result, a high point for global emissions is reached in 2025,” the IEA said.

Global energy-related CO₂ emissions are then set to fall back slowly from a high point of 37 billion tonnes per year to 32 billion tonnes by 2050, it added.

The Paris-based organisation, which advises energy-consuming nations, said that its forecast sees demand for all types of fossil fuels peaking or hitting a plateau.

Coal use, which has seen a temporary bump higher, will drop back in the next few years as more renewables come online.

Natural gas hits a plateau at the end of the decade, instead of the previous forecast of a steady rise.

Oil demand levels off in the mid-2030s and then gradually declines towards mid-century due to uptake of electric vehicles, instead of the earlier estimate of a steady increase.

Overall, the share of fossil fuels in the global energy mix in the IEA’s stated policies scenario falls from around 80 percent to just above 60 percent by 2050.

Energy markets ‘changed’

“Energy markets and policies have changed as a result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, not just for the time being, but for decades to come,” said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol in a statement as the report was released.

But that will still leave the world on track for a rise in global temperatures of around 2.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, which would likely trigger severe climate change impacts.

The IEA also has a scenario to arrive at zero net emissions in 2050, which is seen as necessary to hit the 1.5C warming target enshrined in the Paris climate pact.

That would require clean energy investments to rise to \$4 trillion per year by 2030, instead of the current forecast of \$2 trillion.

“The IEA, with all its expertise and authority is clear: clean energy investments must triple by 2030, and gas is a dead end,” said Laurence Tubiana, head of the European Climate Foundation and France’s former climate ambassador.

“The current European energy crisis clearly proves the dangers of gas: high price, volatility, geopolitical dependence,” she added.

“We are approaching to the end of the golden age of gas,” the IEA’s Birol said at a later news conference.

The IEA’s analyses show “that we are seeing a turning point in the history of energy and this crisis indeed accelerates clean energy transitions,” he added.

However Birol noted that energy security, not climate change, is “the biggest driver for renewable” energy development currently.

Another motivation is that governments want to ensure they have got in on the manufacturing of new renewable energy technologies.

“The three drivers, when they come together, is the reason I am optimistic we are going to see an acceleration of clean energy technologies,” Birol said.

Russia takes \$1tn hit

The IEA’s analyses also concluded that this energy crisis has also harmed Russia’s long-term economic outlook.

By reducing natural gas supplies to European nations it has not only pushed them to accelerate their transition to renewables, but reduced the attractiveness of gas in security terms while making it expensive for developing markets.

“Russia’s role in the international energy affairs will be diminished, much diminished in terms of oil and gas trade,” said Birol.

“As a result of the decline in oil and gas sales between now and 2030, Russia will lose about \$1 trillion in export revenues” according to IEA calculations, he added.

Legarda: Blue carbon economy key to climate change adaptation

By: Mario Casayuran

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda called on the Philippine government to consider investing in blue carbon initiatives through the sustainable management of marine resources and marine-linked sectors which are also vital for climate change adaptation along the coasts.

The appeal came following the Philippine senators' meeting with their French counterparts where they discussed matters of global concern including environment and climate change in Paris today.

Building a blue carbon economy entails creating ocean sectors and businesses that are socially just, environmentally sustainable, and economically profitable, Legarda stressed.

The term "blue carbon" refers to the sequestered and stored carbon from coastal and marine ecosystems, such as mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes. Sequestered carbon from the atmosphere is locked as biomass for a long period, functioning as what is referred to as a carbon sink.

Despite being considerably smaller compared to forests, these coastal systems have high sequestration potential for millions of years and are up to a hundred times faster when in healthy condition.

Legarda explained that the planting and rehabilitation of mangroves, and seagrasses along the shorelines of vulnerable coastal communities would also serve as natural buffers against storm surges, flooding, erosion and other climate hazards. Aside from these, the country's coastal resources characterized by its rich marine life have always been a reliable source for food, employment, energy and even recreation for many Filipinos.

"We need to invest in blue carbon initiatives that will help protect our coral reefs, seagrass beds, lush mangrove forests, and other coastal and marine sources. Let us implement Philippine environmental laws in our efforts to bring back the bounty and restore the ecological integrity of our bodies of water," she urged.

Legarda appealed to both national and local governments to help ensure the effective implementation of the environmental laws she authored such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and Clean Water Act which provide for the conservation, preservation and protection of marine resources, wildlife, and biological diversity.

Moreover, Legarda leads the Philippines' concurrence to the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People, which aims to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and ocean by the year 2030.

The 30×30 global target includes the protection of natural maritime ecosystems that serve as one of the main and biggest natural carbon sinks.

Recently, Legarda has secured the commitment of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in acceding to the agreement.

“The risks are rapidly growing not only for those in coastal communities, as climate change drives rising sea levels, warmer oceans and increasingly ferocious cyclones. We need to recalibrate our strategies on climate change adaptation, invest in blue carbon initiatives, and embrace the available solutions that nature presents to us,” she added.

Among the French officials whom the Philippine senators met are Senator Guillaume Kasbarian, President of the Commission for Economic Affairs and Member of Parliament for Eure-et-Loir; Senator Daniel Gremillet, member of the Committee for Economic Affairs and President of the Study Group on Energy; and Senator Mathieu Darnaud, head of the French-South East Asian Friendship Group.

They also met with Madame Gisele Jourda, Vice President of the Committee on European Affairs and President-delegate for the Philippines; and Pascal Chaix, Deputy Director for International Relations Division of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Philippine delegation, on the other hand, is headed by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Aside from Legarda, founder and president of the Philippines-France Parliamentary Friendship Association, Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, Senate Deputy Majority Leader Joseph Victor Ejercito, and Senators Manuel Lapid, Maria Lourdes Binay, Grace Poe, and Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go are also part of the delegation.

Tropical Cyclone Paeng Tracker

By: Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) last spotted tropical storm Paeng 410 kilometers east of Borongan City, Eastern Samar, and it was moving westward at 15 kilometers per hour (kph).

It said Paeng may move west-northwestward over the Philippine Sea until Sunday, Oct. 30, while moving toward the central or southern portion of Luzon.

Paeng is still expected to make landfall in or pass very close to Catanduanes by Saturday morning, Oct. 29.

Meanwhile, another landfall scenario is likely over Aurora or the coastal areas of eastern Quezon, including Polillo Islands on Sunday morning.

“Considering the southward shift in the forecast track, a possible landfall in the eastern portion of Bicol Region is not ruled out at this time,” PAGASA pointed out.

PAGASA said Paeng slightly intensified packing maximum sustained winds of 75 kph near the center and gusts of up to 90 kph.

11 p.m., Oct. 27

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) last spotted tropical storm Paeng 485 kilometers east of Borongan City, Eastern Samar, and it was slowly moving westward.

It is packing maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gusts of up to 80 kph.

“On the forecast track, Paeng may make landfall or pass very close to Catanduanes on Saturday. Another landfall scenario is possible on Sunday (Oct. 30) over Aurora or the east coast of Quezon,” PAGASA said.

“Considering the southward shift in the forecast track, a possible landfall in the eastern portion of Bicol Region is not ruled out at this time,” it added.

5 p.m., Oct. 27

Tropical storm Paeng (international name: Nalgae) maintained its strength while traversing the Philippine Sea. Last spotted 510 kilometers (km) east of Borongan City, eastern Samar, the weather disturbance was packing winds of 65 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 80 kph.

“Paeng is forecast to further intensify while moving over the warm waters of the Philippine Sea. It is forecast to reach severe tropical storm category within 24 hours and may intensify into a typhoon by Saturday, [Oct. 29]. The occurrence of rapid intensification in the next 72 hours is not ruled out,” said the state weather bureau.

Meanwhile, the following areas were placed under Wind Signal No. 1 as of 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27: the eastern portion of Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, and Masbate including Ticao Island and Burias Island, eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Samar, Biliran, and the northern portion of Leyte.

11 a.m., Oct. 27

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said tropical storm Paeng was estimated 540 kilometers east of Borongan City in Eastern Samar as of 10 a.m., and is moving west-northwestward at 10 kph.

“Tropical storm Paeng is forecast to track generally west-northwestward over the Philippine Sea through Sunday (Oct. 30), while moving towards the central or northern portion of Luzon,” PAGASA said.

“On the forecast track, Paeng may pass close to Catanduanes on Saturday (Oct. 29), and a landfall scenario is possible on Sunday within any of the coastal areas along the eastern portions of Central Luzon or mainland Cagayan Valley,” it added.

However, PAGASA has not ruled out a possible southward shift in the forecast landfall, which could be over the eastern portion of Southern Luzon, due to the recent shift in Paeng’s track.

5 a.m., Oct. 27

The center of tropical depression Paeng was last spotted 660 kilometers east of Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

“Tropical depression Paeng is forecast to track generally west-northwestward over the Philippine Sea through Sunday (Oct. 30), while moving towards the northern or central portion of Luzon. On the forecast track, a landfall scenario is possible on Sunday within any of the coastal areas along the eastern portions of Central Luzon or mainland Cagayan Valley,” the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

It pointed out that with the recent shift in the forecast track, “a possible southward shift in the possible area of landfall—i.e. towards the eastern portions of Central or Southern Luzon—is not ruled out at this time.”

As of Wednesday, the weather disturbance has maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gusts of up to 70 kph.

“Paeng may further intensify while moving over warm waters of the Philippine Sea. It is forecast to reach tropical storm category within 24 hours and may become a typhoon by Saturday (Oct. 29). The occurrence of rapid intensification in the next 72 hours is not ruled out,” PAGASA said.

11 p.m., Oct. 26

Tropical depression Paeng was last spotted 725 kilometers east of Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said it is likely to move west until Thursday morning or noon, Oct. 27, before turning west-northwest or northwest the rest of Thursday until Sunday afternoon, Oct. 30, while approaching Northern Luzon.

“On the forecast track, a landfall scenario is possible within any of the coastal areas along the eastern portion of mainland Cagayan Valley or the northern portion of Aurora on Sunday,” PAGASA said.

As of Wednesday, tropical depression Paeng maintained its maximum sustained winds of 45 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gusts of up to 55 kph.

“Based on the latest forecast scenario, tropical cyclone wind signal may be hoisted for some areas in Eastern Visayas and Bicol Region tomorrow morning (Oct. 27) at the earliest,” it added.

5 p.m., Oct. 26

Tropical depression Paeng was estimated to be 945 kilometers (km) east of Eastern Visayas, and was moving westward at 10 kilometers per hour.

“On the forecast track, this tropical cyclone is forecast to maintain this heading until it makes landfall on the eastern coast of Isabela or Cagayan,” said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

It has maintained its maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gusts of up to 55 kph.

“Paeng is forecast to intensify into a tropical storm tomorrow (Oct. 27) [while] further intensification is likely while moving over the Philippine Sea and may reach the typhoon category prior to its landfall,” PAGASA said.

A typhoon has maximum sustained winds of 118 kph to 184 kph.

11 a.m., Oct. 26

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said tropical depression Paeng was estimated at 965 kilometers east of Eastern Visayas and was moving slowly west-northwestward.

“Tropical depression Paeng is forecast to track generally westward until tomorrow afternoon (Oct. 27), then it will turn west-northwestward for the remainder of tomorrow through Saturday morning (Oct. 29). Afterwards, Paeng will begin to move northwestward on Saturday afternoon or evening and may pass close to Northern Luzon on Sunday (Oct. 30) or Monday (Oct. 31),” PAGASA said.

It added that a landfall scenario in Northern Luzon is not ruled out.

Paeng has maximum sustained winds of 45 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 55 kph.

“Based on the latest forecast scenario, tropical cyclone wind signal may be hoisted for some areas in Eastern Visayas and Bicol Region tomorrow morning (Oct. 27) at the earliest,” PAGASA said.

“Per latest track and intensity forecast, the most likely highest wind signal that will be hoisted is Wind Signal No. 4,” it added.

8 a.m., Oct. 26

The low pressure area (LPA) east of Visayas became a tropical depression.

The tropical depression, which will be locally known as “Paeng,” is the country’s 15th tropical cyclone for 2022 and the fourth for October.

MANILA STANDARD

[Embracing sustainable, renewable energy](#)

By: Peter Paul Duran

Clean energy is another name for renewable energy, which comes from natural sources or processes and can be used over and over again.

The United Nations defines renewable energy as power that comes from natural resources that can be regenerated at a faster rate than they can be used up. For instance, the sun's rays and the wind are two examples of such sources that are continually being replenished.

Renewable sources of energy are abundant and can be found all around us.

On the other hand, coal, oil, and gas are non-renewable fossil fuels that develop over hundreds of millions of years. Burning fossil fuels produces greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide.

Cleaner energy generated from renewable sources is gradually replacing traditionally used "dirty" fossil fuels in the electricity generation industry.

Solving today's environmental issues warrants long-term prospective initiatives for sustainable development. Renewable energy sources appear to be one of the most efficient and effective alternatives in this respect—the very reason why renewable energy and the search for sustainability are intrinsically tied.

World Wildlife Fund Philippines notes that there have been many use cases for how RE can save money as renewable sources can shield the Philippines from volatile prices of fossil-fuels like gas, oil, and coal, 90% of which are imported at wildly varying rates.

The organization opined that converting to renewable energy is the cheapest option for achieving energy independence and combating climate change.

Renewable energy sources are getting better at the same time that technology is making them cheaper. This is starting to make the promise of a more environmentally friendly energy future come true.

Despite the fact that coal and natural gas still account for 76.1% of the country's electricity, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. gave natural gas a boost by describing it as a "transition fuel" to renewable energy, a necessary step in achieving concrete goals in the path to RE sustainability.

Renewable energy is poised for growth in the Philippines, says the World Resources Institute (WRI), adding that the time is right for RE in the country.

Both the Philippines and Indonesia have more geothermal power plants per capita than any other Asian country. With an installed capacity of 1,918 MW, the Philippines has the third-largest geothermal power capacity in the world, after Indonesia and the US.

In fact, the Philippines' economic and energy problems can be fixed by putting more money into the development of renewable energy. The WRI said that the country may have reached a turning point when it comes to updating its old energy infrastructure.

The Philippines' efforts to create a sustainable energy infrastructure, according to the Department of Energy, focus on using more renewable energy sources.

Renewable energy must be at the center of the country's plan for low-emission development in order to fight climate change, provide energy security, and increase access to energy.

Republic Act 9513 establishes the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP). It lays out the plan for reaching the goals set by the Renewable Energy Act of 2008. The NREP shows that the country is moving from a lot of different renewable energy projects to a steady push for energy security and clean energy.

Only 30% of the energy consumed in the country comes from renewable sources. The goal of the government-led National Renewable Energy Plan (NREP) is to increase RE capacity by thrice, reaching 15,304 MW by the year 2030.

To bolster these efforts, the Philippine Energy Plan 2020–2040 was developed by the agency to set lofty goals for the country's energy transformation. Under the Plan's Clean Energy Scenario, the Philippines wants to meet the aspirational goal of having at least 35% of its power come from renewable energy by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

The DOE has pinpointed 25 key regions where wind and solar resources are most abundant.

In addition to solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and biomass, the country has a total potential capacity of 58,110 MW of green energy.

Moreover, the Philippines Offshore Wind Roadmap cites the country's capacity to deploy 178 gigawatts of offshore wind power with the correct long-term vision, policies, infrastructure development, and investments.

The decision by the Marcos government to allow foreign investment of up to one hundred percent in the renewable energy sector was applauded by advocacy groups, including the Foundation for Economic Freedom.

Energy security and climate adaption measures would benefit from the influx of foreign investment in renewable energy, the FEF stated in a statement.

It deemed “correct, timely and judicious” the Department of Justice’s conclusion that renewable energy sources like the sun, wind, and oceans are not depletable “natural resources” subject to the legal limitations on foreign ownership.

The idealistic shift to renewable energy in the Philippines would ensure the country’s energy security and independence from foreign suppliers.

Furthermore, it would provide an inviting environment for investors and stimulate growth in the local economy. If the correct pieces fall into place, this would lead to increased employment and lower health care and welfare expenditures. McKinsey reported in May 2020 that government spending on renewables and energy efficiency generated three times more jobs than fossil fuels.

Since fossil fuels generate air pollution, renewable energy reduces health hazards. Renewable energy can provide electricity to everyone at lower costs.

The WRI also said that technologies for decarbonizing and decentralizing power generation that don’t need expensive, large, and hard-to-manage transmission networks in rough and inaccessible terrain would help reach total electrification.

The low-carbon energy transition, according to the WRI “will help thwart climate change and reduce the carbon intensity of the Philippines’ power sector, and improve its energy system resilience” as distributed renewable energy (DRE) systems that don’t require fuel are ideal for the Philippines’ over 7,000 islands.

With a strong focus on renewable energy, the Philippines is taking big steps after big steps toward sustainability. The future is bright for RE in the country, and it is up to each and everyone of us to do our part in achieving this lofty, but necessary goal.

Energy plays critical role in recharging economy

By: Alena Mae S. Flores

Energy is an essential resource in everyday life and a key driver of economies worldwide. Expensive and lack of access to energy have posed a barrier to economic development.

Amid the energy crisis faced by economies and the challenges brought about by the pandemic, the Marcos administration vowed to pursue energy security, energy access and a low-carbon future.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. wanted to achieve energy security through the development of indigenous energy resources, providing access to energy and transitioning to a sustainable low-carbon future.

Lotilla said the Philippines is “very energy-insecure” as only 43 percent of the country’s total energy comes from domestic or indigenous sources.

He said this dependence is a cause for concern, especially in the wake of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, which exposed the country’s “vulnerability to volatilities in global prices.”

He said one solution the President is looking at is reviving the upstream natural gas industry.

“He wants to make sure that the policy environment for investors in the upstream is going to be one, certain; two, stable; and three, absolutely clear. We are addressing the desire of the president to make sure that the investment climate and the legal environment for the investment in the upstream become absolutely clear,” Lotilla said, referring to President Marcos.

Lotilla said the government’s plan to maximize indigenous resources drew strong interest from foreign investors such as Australian firm Nido Petroleum Philippines Pty. Ltd., the technical operator of Service Contract 6B.

Nido is proceeding with the site survey of the Cadlao oil field in the fourth quarter. The activities will pave the way for drilling two wells—one exploration and one appraisal—by the first half of 2023.

Cadlao is an old oil field that produced over 11 million barrels in the early 1990s.

Lifting of barriers

Recognizing the private sector’s role in promoting energy security, the DOE is pushing for the entry of more foreign investors.

“Private sector investments are central to achieving our renewable energy targets and vision for the Filipino people, and this is a welcome development for our foreign investors to invest in renewable energy production here in our country,” Lotilla said.

The agency sought clarification and received a favorable opinion from the Department of Justice on the foreign ownership limit on renewable energy resources.

The DOJ issued a legal opinion that exploration, development and utilization of inexhaustible renewable energy sources are not subject to the 60:40 foreign equity limitation as provided under Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution.

The DOJ opinion means that foreign ownership restrictions that hamper the flow of investments in the RE sector may now be relaxed.

“This will certainly contribute to our target share of renewable energy in the power generation mix of 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040,” the energy chief said.

Off-grid electrification

Meanwhile, the DOE is pursuing the electrification of households nationwide as there are still more than a million unserved households or families without electricity access.

Lotilla said off-grid areas should continue to have power even as electricity costs had sky-rocketed amid the high price of diesel.

Oil accounted for 89 percent of the fuel used by power plants in off-grid areas.

Lotilla said the National Power Corp., mandated to provide electricity to off-grid areas under the Electric Power Reform Industry Act of 2001, is looking at ways to address the problem.

“The longer-term solution, however, is to move from again, the President said, over-dependence on imported sources. We have to go for more indigenous sources,” Lotilla said.

He said the key is transforming state-run Napocor “into dynamo work for missionary electrification.

Lotilla said another aspect of the president’s legislative agenda is initiating reforms in electric cooperatives to help ensure electricity access in the countryside.

“We will have to take a close look at how we should help, we should reorganize, we should strengthen the EC. The concept of an EC is a development agent,” Lotilla said.

“There are areas in the country which, up to now, still need that developmental support.”

Nuclear solution

President Marcos directed the DOE to re-examine the Philippines' strategy on building nuclear power plants.

"In the area of nuclear power, there have been new technologies developed that allow smaller-scale modular nuclear plants and other derivations thereof," Marcos said in his State-of-the-Nation Address early this year.

SMRs are advanced nuclear reactors with a capacity of up to 300 megawatts, about a third of the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors. SMRs are smaller than conventional power reactors and easier to install.

"The challenge before us, which the President has also indicated, is that we will be open, and we'll look into the options for nuclear because nuclear is non-carbon emitting," Lotilla said.

"For the small modular power plants, we will attend to them when they become commercially available. But right now, we will focus instead on one, for example, establishing the regulatory framework," he said.

Lotilla said the Philippines would abide by the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency, especially after the Fukushima accident in Japan, where compliance requirements were reinforced and strengthened.

Lotilla said one of the most critical points is to address the concerns of the host communities.

"We would have to strengthen the trust and confidence of our people in the ability of the government to regulate safely, to put up necessary standards. We can even look at this from the regional standpoint," he said.

Lotilla said the DOE does not ban technologies. What the Constitution bans are nuclear weapons, and not the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, he said.

Challenges ahead

Lotilla admits power supply remains thin, and the DOE is preparing for a possible "difficult" power situation in May and June next year.

"For 2023, the situation is a bit difficult, especially in the summer months, and the scenario again assumes that Ilijan will not be available, and it shows several yellow alerts and the possibility of red alerts in 2023," the energy chief said.

"These are the ones we are attending to with some urgency and which is to plan for how to bridge this particular gap," Lotilla said.

The DOE hopes that energy facilities, particularly on liquefied natural gas, will come on stream next year to help meet demand.

Data from the DOE show that yellow alerts or tight supply situation would occur 17 times, with three red alerts in Luzon in May and June.

Lotilla said transmission constraints should also be addressed to improve the supply in the Luzon grid and avoid any red alerts.

This can be done by improving system operations to maximize available plants, timely completion of transmission projects, and identifying specific segments where the government is the reason for the delay (e.g., local government units and courts' timely action on right-of-way issues) and provision of necessary intervention.

Local organizations advocate for clean energy

By: Marron Joshua F. Mendoza and Louise Gallardo

As a country rich in natural resources that are crucial in developing clean and renewable energy, the Philippines is considered a global leader in renewable energy usage.

According to Energy Tracker Asia, over 47 percent of the country's total energy use comes from green sources.

The United Nations established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for every country in the world to take action toward a sustainable planet and society. One of these goals is to ensure everyone has access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy.

Renewable energy usage is very relevant, especially today when the world is facing a global energy crisis caused by labor shortages, disputes, the effects of climate change, and other economic factors, such as inflation and rising gas prices.

Several local groups in the Philippines play a role in advocating and supporting the use of clean energy in the country. Their continuous efforts raise awareness and encourage the public to transition to cleaner energy alternatives.

Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC)

Formed in 1998, the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities is a Philippine-based international non-governmental organization that promotes fair climate policy as well as low-carbon and climate-resilient development, particularly in Asia. The organization is recognized for its work in advancing effective global climate action and the Paris climate agreement.

It began as the Green Renewable Independent Power Producer (GRIPP), a sustainable energy solutions initiative that owes its history to defeating the construction of a coal-fired power plant in the town of Pulpandan, Negros Occidental and pushing the province of Negros Occidental to pursue 100 percent development of renewable energy.

Since then, the ICSC has organized numerous projects and initiatives such as their e-jEEPney project and a book on climate change titled *Agam*, which received numerous awards, including the 2015 National Book Award for Anthology in English and two Gintong Aklat Awards for Design and English Literature from the Book Development Association of the Philippines.

Light of Hope PH

Based in Cebu, Light of Hope PH is a grassroots movement that advocates lessening climate change through public awareness of the importance of fighting against its

effects, reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of renewable energy, and making clean energy more affordable and accessible for underprivileged citizens.

One of their main projects, the Cloudgrid project, aims to provide power to less privileged, off-the-grid communities that are not connected to a power grid using clean and renewable energy. The project's target milestone is to serve more than 1,000 household beneficiaries and reduce 130,000 kg of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per year, which is equivalent to planting 6,190 fully-grown trees. It is mostly funded by monetary donations from donors and volunteers

Light of Hope PH's work has been recognized by international organizations such as the British Council and has received the 2020 Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Philippines YOUNIFIED Award from the United States Embassy in the Philippines in the Environment category.

Greenpeace Philippines

Founded in 1971, Greenpeace is an "independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behavior, to protect and conserve the environment, and to promote peace."

Its story began in 1971 when a group of individuals protested against US nuclear testing off the west coast of Alaska. Because the Greenpeace activists had protested in a peaceful and non-violent way, they had set an example that thousands soon followed.

The organization focuses on exposing environmental criminals and challenging government corporations that fail to meet their mandates to protect the environment and people's future.

Greenpeace Philippines began working in the country in the 1990s, and by March 1, 2000, they finally opened an office in Manila "following the first visit of our flagship Rainbow Warrior to the region for the 'Toxic-Free Asia Tour.'"

Since then, Greenpeace Philippines has been working with its allies and communities to create environmental investigations, scientific research, and reports for a better and sustainable future for Filipinos. The organization also assists Filipinos in combating illegal fishing, campaigning for cleaner seas and climate justice, and calling for the elimination of toxic environments.

Greenpeace Philippines also takes pride in its volunteers and fundraising. They emphasize that they are an independent organization that does not accept donations from governments and corporations, but only through donations from passionate individuals.

Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines

The Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines (REAP) was formed in 1985 as a “non-stock, non-profit organization of companies and private individuals committed to the nationwide development, promotion, utilization and commercialization of renewable energy technologies/systems for sustainable energy generation.”

REAP’s mission is to create a platform for private sectors to discuss ideas, perspectives, and expertise about renewable energy systems and to grow an environment of “unity and cooperation conducive to the long-term development of renewable energy.”

Their vision is to be the leading organization in an industry that deals with critical national development issues.

Some private companies also share the responsibility of promoting green energy to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Some notable brands include San Miguel Corporation, Global Power, Aboitiz Power, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), Meralco, Energy Development Corporation (EDC), FirstGen, and Alsons Power.

All these local organizations have been aiming and planning proper resources to help give the Filipinos a greener and better future.

What all of these local organizations have in common is that they all plan to both help and hold the government accountable when it comes to the country’s renewable energy.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has always been vocal about the effects of climate change. In his first State Of the Nation Address (SONA), he stated that increasing the usage of renewable energy is at the very top of his climate agenda. He also stressed the importance of investing in science and technology to help save lives.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has recently made significant advances toward developing the country’s renewable energy. It is currently revising the rules and regulations of the country’s renewable energy law in order to encourage investment in the sector by lowering the foreign ownership limit.

The DOE also intends to increase renewable energy’s share of the country’s power generation mix from 22 to 35 percent by 2030 and by 50 percent by 2040.

A future reliant on green energy is not far from fruition. Proper implementation in the Philippines requires more than just the efforts of the government. Luckily, private organizations and companies are also taking on the responsibility of securing a safe and sustainable future for all.

MINDANAO TIMES

Global Food Supply and Domestic Solutions

By: Adrian Tamayo

The idea of food security is becoming a global concern brought about by the global impact of the pandemic and multiple issues relating to climate change, global supply chain and logistics, and the growing population.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic is highly suspected to be coming from the food system in Wuhan, where wild animals were commercially sold for food. This incident raised the alarm of a possible accelerated global hunger.

The world is seeing various angles on the framework of food security.

For years, it was believed that food stocks of the world are done in silos, that every country can rely on its food supply and that global supply disruption won't lead to severe hunger across the world. This was the manner they conceived food supplies before the pandemic, and it proved to be wrong.

When the global supply was altered, the quick signal was for countries to shore up food for survival, and cut production for commercial use to avoid rapid depletion of resources.

Additionally, climate change is a game changer never been seen to alter the global food supply significantly.

Two camps appreciate climate change differently.

The neo-Malthusian strategists espouse technology to increase the yield of limited land.

They assume that farmers adapt to new farming techniques, including new seed varieties resistant to dramatic changes in the climate. These experts are saying that the presence of high carbon dioxide in the atmosphere makes plants yield better.

The other side, the alarmist, tolls the bell for the people and governments to revive the lost nature, protect the global ecosystem and work to protect the future by combining climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

But the inconvenient truth remains. The lower crop yield poses a threat to feeding ten billion mouths.

Such threat is more pronounced in tropical countries where climate change results in more intense and heavier rainfalls, occurring at much shorter intervals between droughts and dry spells, and stronger typhoons.

The tropical rainforest forecasts include an expected reduction in vegetation production, temperature uptrend due to deforestations, reduction in precipitation, and longer dry spells.

The global prognosis has a particular impact on the food supply and security in tropical countries like the Philippines.

The country's experience of food supply capacity in the last two decades follows an erratic but peculiar pattern. The prevalence of undernourishment shows no significant alterations with food supply changes.

What does this mean?

It means that food can be grown in the backyard, yet the consuming public sourced food elsewhere.

It means that local food is available but is not purchased, not consumed, not patronized.

Too much import hurts domestic firms, disincentivizes local producers, and depresses consumption behavior from welfare satisfaction to status consumption.

There is nothing patriotic in importing too much. It bleeds our domestic economy.

Buying local products, even when expensive, is called patriotic buying. This is how to survive as a nation, this is how to rev up domestic production, this is how to fight off global food insecurity, and this is how to ensure food security.

Just be patriotic in your purchases. If it is hard to be one, then be compassionate. After all, in the abundance of the heart comes generosity.

Buy local and grow your food.

[Here's how far behind the world is on reining in climate change](#)

By Lauren Sommer

World leaders will begin climate talks in Egypt in a little over a week, and tensions are expected to run high in the negotiations to reduce heat-trapping emissions.

Now, new research shows the world has already fallen drastically behind in adopting the changes needed to avoid a future with even more extreme storms, heat waves and floods.

Collectively, countries have promised to reduce heat-trapping emissions by about 3% by 2030, compared to 2020 levels. That's far from the 45% drop that's needed, according to a new report from the United Nations Environment Program.

Cutting emissions nearly in half by the end of the decade would put the world on track to limiting warming to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 degrees Celsius) by 2100. But at the current pace of emissions, the planet would heat up by 5 degrees Fahrenheit, leading to more deadly heat waves and storms and the flooding of coastal cities due to polar ice melt.

At last year's climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, world leaders agreed to strengthen their commitments to cut emissions rapidly. But as of late September, only 24 out of 193 countries submitted more ambitious climate goals, according to a recent report by another U.N. body, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Expectations are low that countries will make new, bolder pledges at the upcoming climate meeting in Egypt. The war in Ukraine and inflation are drawing governments' focus, and climate talks have been frozen in recent months between the two largest emitters, the United States and China.

Emissions are still rising but they need to fall 45% by 2030

At the 2015 Paris climate summit, world leaders agreed that limiting climate change to 1.5 degrees Celsius was a critical target. Extreme hurricanes, floods and heat waves could displace billions of people around the globe, making their lives and livelihoods untenable where they reside now.

Still, the new U.N. report shows that current climate pledges, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), are substantially short of that goal.

In reality, most countries are already falling behind on their pledges. After a short dip during the pandemic, emissions are on the rise again and are expected to keep rising through 2030. In 2021, emissions from burning coal reached their highest levels in history, largely driven by China.

Strengthening national pledges is on the agenda for discussion at the upcoming COP27 talks in Egypt, but major emitters aren't expected to make dramatically larger commitments. The European Union announced it could update its climate only after the negotiations are complete.

Last year, the U.S. committed to reducing emissions 50-52% by 2030, a goal that was bolstered recently by the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides billions of dollars for electric cars and more efficient buildings and homes. The administration has not signaled that it's considering a stronger target.

"We want the COP to make sure that everybody understands we're doing the things necessary to keep 1.5 degrees alive," U.S. special climate envoy John Kerry said this week. "We need to have the NDCs, not just of developed countries, but developing countries around the world, need to step up and put in their NDCs because everybody needs to do their part here."

The transition from fossil fuels to renewables isn't fast enough

The world's largest emitter, China, will continue to increase its greenhouse gas emissions until 2030 under its national plan. India, the third-largest source of emissions, is planning to do the same.

While both countries are rolling out significant amounts of renewable energy, they're still building new coal-fired power plants, too. At last year's summit, the two countries joined others in pushing back against policies that would phase out the use of coal, arguing that developing economies have the right to use it as richer nations have done.

With the cost of solar and wind often cheaper than building new fossil fuel power plants, renewable energy has grown by leaps and bounds. From 2019 to 2021, solar grew by 47%. But the transition to cleaner energy sources needs to speed up six times faster, according to a new report from a number of climate think tanks, including the World Resources Institute.

Action is lagging on many other fronts, too. The report found the rate of deforestation needs to slow down by 2.5 times. Electric cars need to be adopted five times faster than they are now.

"We've never known more about the climate crises, and we've never known more about what we need to do about it and how," says Claire Fyson of Climate Analytics. "This global report card about climate action makes clear that we're not moving fast enough."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[EU auditors criticize executive agencies for poor ‘revolving door’ safeguards](#)

By Reuters

BRUSSELS – The European Union auditors on Thursday criticized the bloc’s specialized agencies for failing to prevent “revolving doors”, a practice that sees officials taking up lucrative private-sector jobs at the risk of conflicts of interest.

The EU has more than 40 agencies operating in areas such as banking, border security and medicine, including the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Medicines Agency that played key roles in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year, EU agencies had a joint budget of more than 4 billion euros (\$4 billion), employed some 14,500 people – 17 percent of all EU staff – spending European funds worth more than 13 billion euros, according to the European Court of Auditors (ECA).

“EU rules set out very few obligations for EU bodies to monitor compliance of current and former staff with the ‘revolving door’ requirements,” the ECA said in a report.

“On the other hand, EU agencies – especially those with regulatory powers and links to industry – are particularly prone to the risk.”

With lobbying firms and sectoral businesses keen to hire former officials with inside knowledge and contacts, at stake is the integrity of EU policies and spending.

While the bloc’s executive and main regulator, the Brussels-based European Commission, has some safeguards against such practices, there were no unified rules for the agencies, meaning they relied on scarce and patchy self-regulation at best.

For the agencies’ board members, there are no coherent and binding limits on revolving doors whatsoever, which the ECA said created a legal vacuum and meant only a tiny part of such potential conflicts of interests were ever reviewed.

The ECA said only nine EU agencies had any internal rules for their board members on revolving doors. Out of about 1,500 such posts, some 650 people left their jobs in 2019-21, but only 25 cases were assessed vis-à-vis such risk.

“What we see is probably just the tip of the iceberg,” auditor Rimantas Sadzius said of these numbers.

Damage

Prominent cases of a former head of the powerful European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, joining Goldman Sachs, or of the bloc’s ex-digital chief, Neelie Kroes accused of unfair lobbying for Uber have drawn public anger in recent years.

“Every time that happens, the EU is damaged,” said the bloc’s ombudswoman, Emily O’Reilly.

She said eurosceptics in Britain seized on the case of Barroso in the 2016 Brexit referendum, while now companies seeing their business affected were out to water down the bloc’s policies meant to mitigate climate change.

Barroso has denied lobbying former EU colleagues for his new employer.

A 2017 report by Transparency International (TI) said a half of former EU Commissioners and a third of the bloc’s ex-lawmakers moved to work in EU lobbying entities.

TI’s Vitor Teixeira said there were too few firm rules on avoiding revolving doors, insufficient monitoring and even less enforcement, with the situation particularly bad in EU agencies.

“The current system of self-regulation, self-monitoring, and self-enforcement doesn’t work and we need a new one,” he said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH senators conclude 3-day parliamentary visit to France](#)

By: Wilnard Bacelonia

Manila – Several Philippine senators are optimistic that the parliamentary visit to France will pave the way for a deeper relationship and explore opportunities for greater collaboration, particularly in renewable energy, climate change, economic development, and food security.

This, as the official Philippine Senate delegation concluded on Thursday their three-day trip after being invited to visit France as part of inter-parliamentary exchanges and on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Philippine-French diplomatic relations.

"It is my sincere desire that during this parliamentary visit, we will be able to identify areas of cooperation that will lead to even closer ties between our two nations," Senator Christopher Lawrence Go said in a statement.

Go, who chairs the Senate Committee on Health, said the visit also serves as an opportunity to personally thank the French government for its multi-million coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) vaccine donation to the Philippines through the COVAX Facility.

He noted that the assistance provided a significant boost to the country's national vaccination program.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the French government for donating Covid-19 vaccines to the Philippines during the height of the pandemic," Go said.

"Filipinos will forever be grateful to you for this act of kindness, which went a long way toward ensuring the success of our vaccination program and the safety of our citizens against the threat of Covid-19," he added.

On Tuesday, Go and his fellow senators met with Guillaume Kasbarian, a member of the French National Assembly and chair of its Economic Affairs Committee, French Senator Daniel Gremillet, and members of the Atomic Energy Commission.

They also attended a meeting with the French-South East Asian Friendship Group, presided over by French Senators Mathieu Darnaud and Gisèle Jourda.

Go expressed optimism that the visit will lead to more exchanges in crafting legislation designed to safeguard the safety of Filipinos considering that the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change.

Also joining the parliamentary visit were Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, Senate Deputy Majority Leader Joseph Victor Ejercito, and Senators Manuel Lapid, Maria Lourdes Binay, and Grace Poe.

Legarda had the opportunity to discuss matters relating to the environment and the blue economy during their meetings stressing that deliberating on the issues is timely and significant as these are connected to climate change which remains a top global concern.

“Our visit to France is a chance for the Philippines to convey our vision, plans, and involvement in addressing global challenges such as climate change. Our country fully recognizes France’s steady allegiance to be a global leader in addressing the issue, and we are fully committed to supporting the Paris Agreement,” she said.

The lawmaker urged the Philippine government to consider investing in blue carbon initiatives through the sustainable management of marine resources and marine-linked sectors which are also vital for climate change adaptation along the coasts.

Building a blue carbon economy, Legarda said, entails creating ocean sectors and businesses that are socially just, environmentally sustainable, and economically profitable.

She said the planting and rehabilitation of mangroves and seagrasses along the shorelines of vulnerable coastal communities would also serve as natural buffers against storm surges, flooding, erosion, and other climate hazards. Aside from these, the country's coastal resources characterized by its rich marine life have always been a reliable source of food, employment, energy, and even recreation for many Filipinos.

“We need to invest in blue carbon initiatives that will help protect our coral reefs, seagrass beds, lush mangrove forests, and other coastal and marine sources. Let us implement Philippine environmental laws in our efforts to bring back the bounty and restore the ecological integrity of our bodies of water,” Legarda said.

“The risks are rapidly growing not only for those in coastal communities, as climate change drives rising sea levels, warmer oceans, and increasingly ferocious cyclones. We need to recalibrate our strategies on climate change adaptation, invest in blue carbon initiatives, and embrace the available solutions that nature presents to us,” she added.

Recently, Legarda has secured the commitment of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in acceding to the agreement.

Protecting marine ecosystems vital for climate change adaptation

By: Leonel Abasola

Manila - Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda on Thursday urged both national and local governments to help ensure the effective implementation of environmental laws which provide for the conservation, preservation and protection of marine ecosystems which are vital for climate change adaptation along the coasts.

“Let us implement Philippine environmental laws in our efforts to bring back the bounty and restore the ecological integrity of our bodies of water,” Legarda said in a statement.

The senator made the appeal following the Philippine senators' meeting with their French counterparts where they discussed matters of global concern including environment and climate change.

Legarda, who led the Philippines' concurrence to the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People, said this in line with the 30x30 global target which aims to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and ocean by the year 2030.

Attaining this objective includes the protection of natural maritime ecosystems that serve as one of the main and biggest natural “carbon sinks.”

A carbon sink is anything that absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases. Thus, protecting maritime ecosystems is essential for tackling climate change and keeping our climate stable.

Besides being a carbon sink, Legarda said “planting and rehabilitation of mangroves, and seagrasses along the shorelines of vulnerable coastal communities would also serve as natural buffers against storm surges, flooding, erosion and other climate hazards.”

Aside from these, the country's coastal resources characterized by its rich marine life have always been a reliable source for food, employment, energy and even recreation for many Filipinos.

To further protect the country's marine ecosystems, Legarda also called on the national government to consider investing in “blue carbon” initiatives that will further help protect our coral reefs, seagrass beds, lush mangrove forests, and other coastal and marine sources.

Building a blue carbon economy involves the creation of ocean sectors and businesses that are socially just, environmentally sustainable, and economically profitable.

"The risks are rapidly growing not only for those in coastal communities, as climate change drives rising sea levels, warmer oceans and increasingly ferocious cyclones. We need to recalibrate our strategies on climate change adaptation, invest in blue

carbon initiatives, and embrace the available solutions that nature presents to us," Legarda said.

US Peace Corps to roll out new climate initiative in PH

By: Kris Crismundo

Manila – United States Peace Corps chief executive officer Carol Spahn said here Thursday that the Philippines is among the first countries to implement its new climate initiative.

Spahn said around 40 coastal resource management volunteers will be working with the government next year to identify and implement strategies on climate change adaptation.

“Every person, every volunteer has a role to play in supporting climate change initiatives. This can be through education, teaching of students as we’re working with youth, and really enabling them to support their own communities, as well as through coastal resource management, which is very more directly impacting climate change,” she said in a press conference.

The US Peace Corps announced its climate initiative last month, which targets to deploy 1,000 Peace Corps volunteers in 50 countries to serve 2 million hours of volunteer work related to climate change adaptation.

Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) executive director Donald James Gawe said among the areas where the climate initiative of the US Peace Corps will be rolled out include Pangasinan extending up to Ilocos Norte.

“During the bilateral meetings, this is where we set the areas and we have criteria in choosing the areas. Aside from (they are) broadly (in) Luzon and Visayas, we use criteria such as incidence of poverty as well as these are areas vulnerable to climate change and disaster risk,” Gawe added.

This is the first time that Spahn visited the Philippines as the US Peace Corps celebrated its 61st anniversary in the country.

Spahn said the Philippines is one of the first countries that the agency has partnered with since its inception in 1961.

For the past six decades, over 9,300 Peace Corps volunteers have been deployed in the country to work alongside communities and the government to achieve development priorities.

SUNSTAR

[Legarda calls for blue carbon economy in Philippines to address climate change](#)

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda called on the Philippine government to consider investing in blue carbon initiatives through the sustainable management of marine resources and marine-linked sectors which are also vital for climate change adaptation along the coasts.

The appeal came following the Philippine senators' meeting with their French counterparts where they discussed matters of global concern including environment and climate change.

Building a blue carbon economy entails creating ocean sectors and businesses that are socially just, environmentally sustainable, and economically profitable.

The term "blue carbon" refers to the sequestered and stored carbon from coastal and marine ecosystems, such as mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes. Sequestered carbon from the atmosphere is locked as biomass for a long period, functioning as what is referred to as a carbon sink. Despite being considerably smaller compared to forests, these coastal systems have high sequestration potential for millions of years and are up to a hundred times faster when in healthy condition.

Legarda explained that the planting and rehabilitation of mangroves and seagrasses along the shorelines of vulnerable coastal communities would also serve as natural buffers against storm surges, flooding, erosion and other climate hazards. Aside from these, the country's coastal resources characterized by its rich marine life have always been a reliable source of food, employment, energy and even recreation for many Filipinos.

"We need to invest in blue carbon initiatives that will help protect our coral reefs, seagrass beds, lush mangrove forests, and other coastal and marine sources. Let us implement Philippine environmental laws in our efforts to bring back the bounty and restore the ecological integrity of our bodies of water," Legarda urged.

She appealed to both national and local governments to help ensure the effective implementation of the environmental laws she authored such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and Clean Water Act which provides for the conservation, preservation and protection of marine resources, wildlife and biological diversity.

Moreover, Legarda leads the Philippines' concurrence to the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, which aims to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and ocean by the year 2030.

The 30x30 global target includes the protection of natural maritime ecosystems that serve as one of the main and biggest natural carbon sinks.

Legarda has secured the commitment of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in acceding to the agreement.

“The risks are rapidly growing not only for those in coastal communities, as climate change drives rising sea levels, warmer oceans and increasingly ferocious cyclones. We need to recalibrate our strategies on climate change adaptation, invest in blue carbon initiatives, and embrace the available solutions that nature presents to us,” Legarda said.

[Opinion]: Climate changing 'burps' and 'farts'

By: Rox Peña

Last week, farmers in New Zealand held a protest on their government's plan to impose a tax for 'farts' from their cows and other livestock. This may sound funny, but it's something that the New Zealand government is seriously considering to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. They will be the first country to do so.

The New Zealand government said the proposed tax would reduce greenhouse gas from 'burps' and 'farts' released by the 10 million beef and dairy cattle, and 26 million sheep owned by their farmers. Agricultural emissions account for around half of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. In 2020, the government of New Zealand through Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared a climate emergency and set a target of reducing methane by 10 per cent in 2030 and also to be carbon neutral by 2050.

According to research, livestock, especially cows, is responsible for 14.5% of global greenhouse emissions like nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide and methane. After carbon dioxide, the next most abundant greenhouse gas is methane. Although carbon dioxide is more abundant in the atmosphere than methane, methane 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat.

Cows and other ruminants generate methane through their digestion and through their waste. Ruminants have stomachs with four distinct chambers. They have microbes in their rumen called methanogens. These microbes produce methane (from the fermentation of feed) that is then belched out. Cows release methane mainly through their belches (burps). The rest comes out as flatulence (farts).

What cows eat has a big effect on how much methane they produce. Digesting certain types of food produces more methane than digesting other foods. Digesting hay and grass for instance produces more methane than corn. Scientists are studying alternatives to cow feed like seaweed that may produce less methane. They hope that seaweed can inhibit a specific enzyme that is involved in the production of methane while the cow digests its food.

A research farm in New Zealand is experimenting on feeding cows with Kowbucha, a probiotic that studies show reduces burps. Probiotics are good bacteria that help in digestion. The Kowbucha powder is blended into a milk-like drink fed to the calves. Some trials suggested that calves emit up to 20% less methane when they receive the probiotic supplement.

As ordinary citizens, there is something we can do to reduce methane emissions from cows. We can eat less meat which will lower the demand for meat products. It will prevent deforestation too. Extensive cattle ranching accounts for 80% of the deforestation in the Amazon.

The special report on climate change and land by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change describes plant-based diets as a major opportunity for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

THE MANILA TIMES

[US gives P53M for risk data project](#)

The US government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAid), is providing P53 million (\$900,000) for the second phase of an information management system project to enhance the Philippines' capacity to identify disaster risks and support disaster response operations.

USAid Philippines Mission Director Ryan Washburn and Undersecretary Raymundo Ferrer, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) administrator, made the announcement during the launch of phase two of the Early Warning and Decision Support Capacity Enhancement project on Oct. 12, 2022.

The initial phase of the project, implemented from 2019 to 2021 in partnership with the University of Hawaii's Pacific Disaster Center, introduced PhilAware (All-hazards Warning, Analysis and Risk Evaluation), a customized data platform that collects complex information on disaster risks, vulnerabilities and other real-time data to assist disaster response operations.

The OCD Operations Center used the PhilAware system to support monitoring and response efforts during the passage of Super Typhoon Karding in the Philippines in September.

The system was also used to establish the flight path that allowed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and other officials to conduct damage assessment in affected areas shortly after the storm had passed.

In the second phase of the project, the OCD will further develop data sharing and processing, rollout pilot systems in regional offices and provide more training to deepen the integration of PhilAware within the NDRRMC and reflect a whole of government approach to enhance digitization, data sharing, and reporting.

"Information and communication management is among the most challenging aspects in disaster response. We are proud of our latest collaboration with the OCD and the Pacific Disaster Center on the PhilAware information management platform," Washburn said.

"The US government, through USAid, remains steadfast in our commitment to boost the Philippine government's capacity to improve disaster preparedness and management systems for the benefit of the Filipino people," he added.

Washburn noted the timeliness of the project in light of recent disasters in the country, including the Abra earthquake, "Karding" and Tropical Depression "Agaton."

In September, the World Risk Index Report 2022 ranked the Philippines with the highest natural disaster risk among 193 countries.

"I commend the enduring partnership among our NDRRMC agencies alongside USAid to build safer climate change adaptation practices in the Philippines," Ferrer said.

Since 2010, the US government, through USAid, has provided more than P21.1 billion (over \$359 million) in disaster relief and recovery aid and has boosted the disaster risk reduction capacity of more than 100 cities and municipalities in the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Aboitiz Group deepens innovation footprint to empower gov't, businesses](#)

Manila, Philippines — The Aboitiz Group is further deepening its innovation footprint in the Philippines and in the region to help the government, businesses and communities leverage Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DSAI) in responding to interdependent challenges and exploring possibilities.

Dr. David R. Hardoon, chief executive officer of Aboitiz Data Innovation (ADI), said the company is poised to help businesses and governments make well-informed decisions and build their own journeys through DSAI frameworks and solutions.

“By tackling key industry focuses such as financial services, power, and smart cities, ADI showcases the possibilities DSAI can contribute to accelerate organizations’ business, environmental, social, and governance goals,” Dr. Hardoon said.

ADI consolidates DSAI operating models across the Aboitiz Group and promotes a data-driven culture throughout the organization. Its chief responsibility is to transform data into business outcomes, use information to make better decisions, reinvent business models, and develop high-value solutions to create new processes, products and services.

Championing financial inclusion

ADI has developed an AI-powered alternative credit scoring solution to help increase financial inclusion and sustainability nationwide.

With this, the Aboitiz-led Union Bank of the Philippines (UnionBank) and its fintech arm UBX can now offer loans to a broader range of individuals and small businesses who may have not qualified under traditional scoring methods.

This initiative effectively doubled UnionBank’s loan approval rate, continuing to help connect the unbanked and underbanked to accessible financial services.

“Access to mainstream financial products and services is critical to realizing financial inclusion and sustainability. Our approach is proof that we can leverage AI and alternative data to help connect the underbanked to the greater ecosystem without compromising on risk appetite,” said Guy Sheppard, chief operating officer for Financial Services at ADI.

Based on the 2021 Financial Inclusion Survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the share of Filipino adults with formal bank accounts almost climbed by 27 percentage points to 56% in 2021 from 29% in 2019. This is equivalent to 42.9 million Filipino adults with formal bank accounts last year from 20.9 million in 2019.

“Account ownership almost doubled in two years, the highest growth to date for the country. Ownership of a formal account is a basic indicator of financial inclusion. Account penetration significantly increased to 56% in 2021 from 29% in 2019, equivalent to an additional 22 million Filipinos opening an account within that period,” the BSP stated in the report.

The central bank added that the number of unbanked Filipino adults dropped by 16.9 million to 34.3 million or 44% of the total adult population last year from 51.2 million or 71% in 2019.

Based on the 2021 World Bank Global Findex, the percentage of Filipino adults with an account in 2021 was higher than Cambodia (33%), Laos (37%), Myanmar (48%), and Indonesia (52%), but lower than Malaysia (88%), Thailand (96%), and Singapore (98%) among Southeast Asian countries.

Under its Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap, the BSP aims to increase the number of Filipino adults with formal accounts to 70% and shift 50% of total retail transactions to electronic channels by 2023.

Philippines’ 1st ‘techglomerate’

By operationalizing DSAI across the Aboitiz Group’s business units, ADI is advancing an over-a-century-old company’s Great Transformation journey into becoming the Philippines’ first “techglomerate.”

ADI is working with AboitizPower to operationalize DSAI in power generation and distribution, grid and power markets.

It continues to build capabilities enabled by DSAI that best orchestrate the growing complexities of the power industry—where power plants become more reliable, markets become less volatile, and renewable energy becomes more economically feasible.

This translates to a more efficient, less expensive, and more sustainable energy for all Filipinos.

In line with Aboitiz Power’s 2030 goal for a 50:50 balance between thermal and renewable energy generation, ADI’s role is to empower a sustainable transition into the future of generation through DSAI.

It continues to help transmission and distribution utilities transform the power grid by looking to DSAI to improve safety and resiliency, reduce operational cost and increase customer satisfaction.

As geopolitical, socioeconomic and technological factors shape power markets, ADI continues to look for avenues to innovate and reshape, resulting in the delivery of power in the best and most cost effective way.

Accelerated dev't through smart cities

ADI is also providing advisory solutions to arm businesses and governments with relevant information and strategic directions to realize the power of data to be able to develop and deploy DSAI.

ADI empowers and supports businesses and government efforts to implement DSAI in smart cities—whether it's the use of machine learning to develop efficient food waste management based on the needs of a target area, to strengthen a community's commitment to responsible water management, or even to employ responsible manufacturing processes for a growing population.

Smart cities are intelligent cities that are built to make lives better for the people living in them.

“I view smart cities from the perspective of learning—building smart cities that are enabled by data to learn and work in conjunction with the inhabitants. It's not entirely about tech. For us at ADI, it's incorporating AI that plays a huge role in learning to enhance the lifestyle and improve the livelihoods of the communities,” ADI Chief Operating Officer for Smart Cities Alvin Ng said.

Leaving no one behind

The Aboitiz Group continues to connect its capabilities with the goals of the Philippine government on financial sustainability, affordable and sustainable energy and accelerated development through smart cities.

During the 2021 Aboitiz Leaders Conference, Aboitiz Group President and CEO Sabin Aboitiz underscored that innovation must be instilled and not merely lived.

“An instilled value of innovation will help carry us through these disruptive times. The way we lead our organization will determine the future of all who depend on us,” Aboitiz said.

Aboitiz explains that the Aboitiz Group continues to take a long-term view and further champion innovative strategy and succeed amid and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

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