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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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RAPPLER

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Climate change's impact on education](#)

By: Marianne Go

It is well known that our country has been identified as among the countries most at risk from climate change. Nowadays even a passing weather disturbance within our area of responsibility is enough to create havoc, which was what happened with the recent flooding by Severe Tropical Storm Trami/Kristine which devastated the Bicol region, Batangas and Cagayan.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

[Senate to hold gov't agencies 'accountable' for Bicol region flooding](#)

By: RG Cruz

Senate President Francis Escudero on Tuesday said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) would be questioned over the massive flooding in parts of the Bicol region last week due to severe tropical storm Kristine.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[A celebration of Filipino craftsmanship](#)

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The National Arts and Crafts Fair 2024 was held at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall from 23 to 27 October. Following the successful 2023 edition, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) once again presented the event to support local artisans and Filipino craftsmanship. This five-day showcase highlighted the Philippines' diverse and rich cultural heritage.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Legarda champions women's leadership in peace, security](#)

Senator Loren Legarda on Tuesday emphasized gender equality and advocated for women's leadership in making the world more inclusive, humane, peaceful, and resilient.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

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The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Plan International, a global humanitarian and development organization, marked the International Day of the Girl Child on October 17 by highlighting the critical role girls and young women play in leading climate action. The event, called the Girls Takeover, brought together youth leaders from across Asia and the Pacific, along with civil society organizations, to discuss and explore innovative nature-based solutions to climate change, as well as recognize the unique contributions of girls and young women in building climate-resilient communities.

At the heart of the Girls Takeover is 20-year-old climate advocate Noa, who symbolically stepped into the shoes of Benjamin Graham, ADB's director for fragility and engagement, climate change and sustainable development department. Noa highlighted how the climate crisis disproportionately affects women and girls, emphasizing their increased vulnerability due to limited access to resources, caregiving roles, and the heightened risks they face during climate-related disasters, including displacement, gender-based violence, and restricted access to education and healthcare. She also shared her vision for a world where girls and young women lead in creating sustainable solutions for vulnerable groups that is truly responsive to their needs, advocating for their inclusion in disaster planning and response efforts.

"When topics of vulnerability arise, there are often assumptions that young people need guidance. But we have a voice, and we want to be heard and acknowledged. Now, more than ever, women, children and the youth are taking the lead to ensure that we push for climate and environmental initiatives that are consultative, inclusive and empowering, transforming our vulnerabilities into opportunities for action," said Noa. Graham reflected on the significance of the Girls Takeover initiative and reaffirmed ADB's commitment to fostering inclusive spaces for young people and supporting gender-responsive approaches to climate change.

"We're working on an operational approach for enhanced engagement with civil society, to include more collaboration with girls' and young women's groups to address major development challenges," he said.

The event also featured a dynamic panel discussion with speakers that included Prachi Shevgoankar from India, creator of the citizen-led application for climate action Cool the Globe; Dikatauna Kea from Papua New Guinea, biologist and founder of the Eda Davara Marine Sanctuary, a marine research center and sanctuary; and Sabrina Escalona from the Philippines, co-founder of Rainfold, a foldable rainwater harvesting tank that transforms rainwater into safe, drinkable water.

Ramesh Subramaniam, director general and group Chief of the sectors group at ADB, highlighted the bank's increased investment in addressing climate change and its consequences, placing it at the top of its development agenda. "The vision for ADB is

to be the Climate Bank for the Asia and the Pacific region. We've allotted \$100 billion in cumulative commitments to be reached by 2030. We also have more funds that have been approved, and a significant portion of that will go [toward addressing] climate change," he said.

"The climate crisis is a social and intergenerational injustice; those who have contributed least are often the most impacted. It also exacerbates inequalities against girls and young women, threatening their futures and hindering their ability to live life to its fullest potential," added Ana Maria Locsin, executive director of Plan International Pilipinas. She also emphasized that it is crucial to integrate gender perspectives into climate policies and ensure that girls have the tools and opportunities to become effective climate leaders and drive change around the world.

CNN

[The Philippines is prone to extreme weather. But few expected Tropical Storm Trami to be this devastating](#)

By: Kathleen Magramo

Water was already up to his knees, but 22-year-old Kierwen Garlan's first thought was how to help his neighbors, as their homes were filling with floodwater and being lashed by heavy rain.

Tropical Storm Trami, known locally as Kristine, swept across the northeastern Philippines last week, inundating entire towns with severe flooding and triggering deadly landslides in what was the deadliest and most destructive storm to hit the archipelago so far this year.

The Philippines is struck by multiple typhoons a year and Trami was not an especially strong storm when it made landfall, at least in terms of windspeed. But it was the intense downpours that brought destruction.

Nearly 130 people have been killed and at least 30 are missing, the country's disaster relief agency said, as authorities race to deliver relief to remote communities, particularly those in the hardest hit Bicol region, ahead of another powerful storm that could soon lash the region again.

"Of course, we were scared, but luckily my family's house is on higher ground," Garlan, a resident of Sorsogon province, told CNN.

Raging floodwaters covered the rooftops of several homes in the district of Bulan, Sorsogon – over 575 kilometers southeast of the capital Manila.

"There were heavy rains and strong winds that came so suddenly," Garlan said. "And our town normally doesn't get flooded."

As soon as the rains started to weaken, Garland and about 15 volunteers teamed up with local rescue authorities to clear up roads and arrange for the delivery of aid.

"We're worried we won't get to people in time. There are already children getting colds and coughs, maybe some are also contracting leptospirosis (a bacterial disease)," he said.

Bulan, a town of about 100,000 people, was among the first municipality to declare a state of emergency on Wednesday in anticipation of the storm. It quickly got swept by floods, but luckily, no deaths have been reported.

Across Sorsogon province, pictures shared by emergency response teams showed thick mud blanketing many roads making some parts inaccessible to vehicles.

The death toll around the country continues to rise as blocked roads, choppy waters and strong winds hamper rescue operations and make it risky to reach rural areas by land, sea and air.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos ordered Philippine army assets, including his presidential helicopter, to assist in relief and rescue efforts, according to a statement on Friday.

“By air, land, or sea, we’ll keep the support coming. Together, we will rise again,” Marcos said.

Ravaged by landslides

Talisay in Batangas province, about 70 kilometers (43 miles) south of Manila, was one of the worst-hit towns ravaged by Trami.

Residents in the rural lakeside town are accustomed to disaster, as it sits north of the Taal volcano, one of the country’s most active, which regularly sends plumes of ash in the air and people heed to evacuations.

But no one seemed prepared for the unusually high rainfall brought on from Trami.

Entire families were trapped in the deluge of mudslides and nearly 3,000 homes across the province destroyed.

The provincial governor, Hermilando Mandanas, advised families of the deceased to immediately bury those killed, fearing that another potentially powerful storm, Typhoon Kong-Rey, also known locally as Leon, could soon lash the region again.

A funeral was held on Saturday in the small town’s covered basketball court for the 20 people, including 12 children, who died from landslides, according to local authorities in Talisay.

Raynaldo Dejucos lost all his family members – the youngest among them a two-year-old child – after a landslide engulfed their home in the town, state-run PTV reported.

“I’m trying to stay strong,” Dejucos told PTV. “I can never forget this... I don’t know how long it will take to heal.”

“When I got there, everything was gone. No home, and everywhere there were rocks, mud and scrap pieces of metal sheets were left. Not a single house was left.”

A two-year-old girl was rescued, but all four of her direct family members were killed, leaving her an orphan, PTV reported.

In nearby Albay province, Heinrich Sandrino said that although authorities managed to evacuate those living in vulnerable areas in his town, they were still caught off guard by the extreme volume of rain.

Sandrino said the flood brought in sand, which covered the streets and buried half of the houses and vehicles, making it nearly impossible to dispatch rescuers.

Marcos visited Bicol's largest province, Camarines Sur, on Saturday to inspect the damage and met with some victims sheltering at an evacuation center.

"Our main problem here is that many areas are still flooded," he told government officials during a briefing, saying "the amount of water is unmanageable."

"This is climate change. This is all new, so we have to come up with new solutions too," Marcos added.

Marcos stressed the need to revisit long-term development projects, particularly the Bicol River Basin Project, to address severe flooding during weather disasters.

On Monday, Trami continued moving west across the South China Sea from the Philippines, lashing central Vietnam, where it killed at least two in the central province of Thua Thien Hue, state media reported.

The region is also bracing for Kong Rey, which has now hit typhoon strength, as it hurdles towards Taiwan this week, bringing heavy rains and strong winds to the Philippines' northern Luzon island over the next few days.

Southeast Asia is one of the most climate vulnerable regions of the world, experts warn, making it more susceptible to extreme weather like heatwaves, storm surges and floods.

The Philippines, a nation highly susceptible to natural disasters, has seen an increasing number of storms and typhoons with greater severity in recent years.

So far this year, its capital Manila and parts of Luzon have seen devastating flooding as a result of Typhoon Gaemi. Last month, the country was also hit by the region's most powerful storm this year, Typhoon Yagi, which left dozens dead after sweeping across southern China and Southeast Asia.

GMA

[OCD calls on LGUs to utilize DENR's geohazard map after landslides during Kristine](#)

By: Vince Angelo Ferreras

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) called on local government units to fully utilize the geohazard map developed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB) following the landslides during the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

"Kumpleto ho 'yan, kailangan lang gamitin ng todo ng mga kasamahan natin sa local government units," said OCD administrator Ariel Nepomuceno in Raffy Tima's report in "24 Oras" on Tuesday.

(It's already complete, our local government units should full utilize it.)

Government data showed that 125 were killed during Kristine's onslaught, with more than 100 individuals missing. Of the fatalities, 27 died due to the landslides.

The geohazard map can be accessed by anyone with Internet connection and it shows the areas that are prone to landslides and floods.

For instance, Barangay Sampaloc in Talisay, Batangas is colored red in the geohazard map, which indicates that it is a landslide-prone area during heavy downpour.

But the OCD thinks that few are aware that such a map exists.

"Hindi na ngayon yung panahon na hindi alam yung mangyayari eh. Kulang lang sa kaalaman na meron nang ganyang impormasyon," said Nepomuceno.

(It's not normal these days not to be informed of what's really happening. But the problem is there is only a lack of awareness on such information.)

But the MGB admitted that further data is needed to be integrated into the map for more accurate landslide prediction.

"As of now po above 50% po ang na-meet po natin for updating na 1 is to 10,000 scale ng ating rain induced landslide and flooding po, and we aim to finish it by 2028 po," said Aldrich Gerard Gatbunton of DENR-MGB.

(As of now, we are already at 50% of the updating for the 1is to 10,000 scale for rain-induced landslides and flooding, and we aim to finish it by 2028.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Storm surge warning up over Batanes, Cagayan](#)

By: Jown Manalo

The state weather bureau on Tuesday warned that Typhoon Leon (international name: Kong-rey) might cause a storm surge within the next 48 hours in the low-lying coastal areas of Batanes and Cagayan.

An estimated storm surge of 2.1 to 3 meters may be expected in the areas, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Areas threatened by storm surge as of 2 p.m. Tuesday
Batanes

- Bacso
- Itbayat
- Ivana
- Mahatao
- Sabtang
- Uyugan
- Cagayan
- Calayan

Storm surge danger

State meteorologists said a storm surge may cause moderate to significant damage to communities, coastal or marine infrastructures and disruptions to all marine-related activities.

River flooding and beach erosion may also be possible during a storm surge, Pagasa added.

Pagasa advised residents to evacuate from these coastal areas, cancel all marine activities, and monitor weather updates.

Typhoon Leon was last spotted some 590 kilometers east of Tuguegarao City, moving west-northwest at 10 kilometers per hour (kph), with a maximum sustained wind speed of 130 kph near the center and gusts of up to 160 kph.

Due to Leon's intensification, Pagasa raised Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 2 over four areas in Luzon while 20 other areas are under TCWS Signal No. 1.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Greenhouse levels surged to new record in 2023: WMO](#)

Global greenhouse gas levels surged to a new record in 2023, locking the planet into a path of rising temperatures for years ahead, according to a new report published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on Monday.

WMO's annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin found that carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations have increased 11.4 percent in 20 years.

"Another year. Another record. This should set alarm bells ringing among decision-makers. We are clearly off track to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C and aiming for 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels," WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said.

Saulo added: "Every part per million and every fraction of a degree temperature increase has a real impact on our lives and our planet."

Data from the WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch network shows that the globally-averaged surface concentration of CO₂ reached 420 parts per million (ppm) in 2023.

Methane and nitrous oxide concentrations also increased sharply, reaching 1,934 parts per billion (ppb) and 336.9 ppb, respectively.

These figures mark a 151 percent, 265 percent, and 125 percent rise from pre-industrial levels for CO₂, methane, and nitrous oxide, according to the WMO.

The WMO report recorded the atmospheric CO₂ increase for 2023 was 2.3 ppm, higher than in 2022 but slightly below the previous three years.

This increase marks the 12th consecutive year with CO₂ levels rising by more than 2 ppm annually, it said.

The uptick in CO₂ in 2023 was attributed to a mix of persistently high fossil fuel emissions, extensive vegetation fires, and a potential decrease in forest carbon absorption, according to the report.

Additionally, the WMO said natural events such as El Nino years can exacerbate the situation, leading to a vicious cycle where "drier vegetation and forest fires reduce the efficiency of land carbon sinks," intensifying the effects of greenhouse gases.

WMO Deputy Secretary-General Ko Barrett underscored the role of natural climate patterns in the carbon cycle but warned that climate change itself could amplify greenhouse gas emissions from natural sources.

"The Bulletin warns that we face a potential vicious cycle," Barrett stated. "Wildfires could release more carbon emissions into the atmosphere, whilst the warmer ocean might absorb less CO₂. Consequently, more CO₂ could stay in the atmosphere to accelerate global warming. These climate feedbacks are critical concerns to human society."

The report noted that from 1990 to 2023, the warming impact on the climate from long-lived greenhouse gases increased by over 51 percent, with CO₂ alone contributing to 81 percent of that rise.

This trend is expected to continue unless there is a sharp reduction in emissions, as CO₂'s long atmospheric lifetime ensures that temperature levels will persist even with rapid emission reductions.

RAPPLER

[Current climate pledges still fall way short on Paris goals, UN body says](#)

National pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions still fall far short of what is needed to limit catastrophic global warming, the United Nations said on Monday, October 28, as countries prepare for the next round of climate change negotiations in November.

The “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) already submitted by countries to the UN are enough to cut global emissions by 2.6% from 2019 to 2030, up from 2% last year, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) said in its annual assessment.

But they are far from sufficient to achieve the 43% cut that scientists say is required to stay within reach of a Paris Agreement target to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit), it warned.

As part of their Paris obligations, nations must deliver new and stronger NDCs before a deadline in February next year, and the report’s findings should mark a “turning point”, said Simon Stiell, UNFCCC secretary general.

“Current national climate plans fall miles short of what’s needed to stop global heating from crippling every economy and wrecking billions of lives and livelihoods across every country,” he said.

“The last generation of NDCs set the signal for unstoppable change,” said Stiell. “New NDCs next year must outline a clear path to make it happen.”

Persuading nations to set and implement more ambitious pledges could depend on the success of COP29 climate talks beginning in two weeks in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

Nearly 200 countries will thrash out the details of a new global emissions trading system as well as a hefty \$100 billion annual financial package to help developing countries meet their climate goals.

“What we are seeing is that in some cases, (the NDC process) might be used as a negotiating mechanism – more money for more ambition,” said Pablo Vieira, global director of the NDC Partnership, a non-government group that is helping around 60 countries draw up updated pledges.

“They also want to make sure that the new NDCs are investable, that they have the necessary elements that will attract not just public finance, but also private,” he said.

Atmospheric CO2 at new record

In a separate report, the UN’s weather monitoring body said on Monday that greenhouse gases have been accumulating in the atmosphere “faster than any time experienced during human existence” over the last two decades.

Carbon dioxide concentrations hit a new high of 420 parts per million (ppm) last year, up 2.3 ppm from a year earlier, and they have risen by 11.4% in just 20 years, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in its annual greenhouse gas bulletin.

There are already signs that rising temperatures are driving dangerous “feedbacks” that will further increase atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations, the report warned.

Last year’s increase in CO2 concentrations, the second largest annual rise of the last decade, could have been driven by a surge in forest fires, with the carbon released from Canada’s worst ever wildfire season exceeding the annual emissions of most major countries.

CO2 concentrations are now 51% higher than pre-industrial levels, while methane – another potent greenhouse gas – is 165% higher than in 1750, WMO said.

“This should set alarm bells ringing among decision makers,” said WMO Secretary General Celeste Saulo.

“These are more than just statistics. Every part per million and every fraction of a degree temperature increase has a real impact on our lives and our planet.”

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Climate change's impact on education

By: Marianne Go

It is well known that our country has been identified as among the countries most at risk from climate change. Nowadays even a passing weather disturbance within our area of responsibility is enough to create havoc, which was what happened with the recent flooding by Severe Tropical Storm Trami/Kristine which devastated the Bicol region, Batangas and Cagayan.

Just last July, Metro Manila once again experienced Ondoy-level flooding that brought the metropolis to a standstill due to the passage of Super Typhoon Gaemi/Carina.

Aside from the physical damage to infrastructure and agriculture, the devastating effect of climate change is clearly affecting the education and future ability of the youth to get proper education, which in turn also impacts our economic ability to grow.

According to a recent World Bank report, a staggering 400 million students globally have experienced school closures from extreme weather since 2022. The report examines the detrimental impacts of climate change on education in low- and middle-income countries and offers solutions to harness education to spur climate action. It also estimates that a one-time investment of \$18.51 per child can mitigate the impact from climate shocks.

New analysis in the report “Choosing Our Future: Education for Climate Action,” shows that the climate crisis is hitting education the hardest in low-income countries, with 18 school days lost annually on average, compared to 2.4 days in wealthier nations.

According to the World Bank report, a 10-year-old in 2024 will experience three times more floods, five times more droughts and 36 times more heatwaves over their lifetime compared to a 10-year-old in 1970. And even when schools are open, students are losing learning due to the climate. In Brazil, students in the poorest 50 percent of municipalities could lose half a year's learning due to heat alone.

“Young people are directly impacted by this crisis, and they are eager to act. Yet education systems are not delivering the information, skills and opportunities they need in a climate-affected world,” said Mamta Murthi, vice president, People Vice Presidency, World Bank. “This is a missed opportunity to harness the power of education so we can adapt to and mitigate the climate crisis.”

The World Bank points out that education is not only under threat from climate change – it is massively overlooked in climate financing. Past analyses have shown that a mere 1.5 percent of climate finance goes to education.

New estimates in the report show that for \$18.51 per child, schools can help better safeguard learning from climate change – by improving classroom temperature, building resilient infrastructure and training teachers, among other adaptation measures.

“The promising news is that there are many low-cost steps that governments can take to harness education and learning for climate action while adapting education systems to climate change,” said Luis Benveniste, global director of education at the World Bank. “Improving school infrastructure, ensuring learning continuity and leveraging students and teachers as effective agents of positive change can all contribute to a more livable planet.”

Surveys in the report shed light on the disconnect between the eagerness of young people in low- and middle-income countries to do something and the lack of knowledge and skills to act. Around 65 percent of young people across eight countries believe their futures are at stake if they don’t develop green skills, but 60 percent also believe they didn’t learn enough about climate change in school.

The report shows that each year of education increases climate awareness by nearly nine percent, based on data from 96 countries. It argues that education is key to addressing these gaps in information, skills and knowledge and driving climate action worldwide by reshaping mindsets, behaviors, skills and innovation.

With demand for green skills outpacing supply in many low- and middle-income countries, the report busts commonly held myths. For instance, the World Bank report cited, around 73 percent of young people across eight countries mistakenly believe that they cannot get a green job without Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills.

New World Bank data and analysis show that green skills are being demanded at nearly all skill levels and sectors across low- and middle-income countries. For example, 31 percent of green jobs in the Philippines are medium skill roles.

The report lays out evidence, data, on-the-ground examples and a policy agenda to support country efforts. For example, improving foundational and STEM skills, mainstreaming climate education and building teacher capacity will help harness schooling for climate action. Governments can prioritize green skilling and innovation in tertiary education to help supercharge a shift to more sustainable practices.

According to the 2015 UNESCO Education 2030 Agenda, the recommended national expenditure for education should be at least four to six percent of the national gross domestic product or GDP, or 15 to 20 percent of the national budget.

For 2024, our education sector was allotted a budget of P924.5 billion, which was equivalent to 16 percent of the national budget and for 2025, the proposed budget was set at P977.6 billion which is equivalent to 15.4 percent of the national budget.

That amount includes state funding for state universities and colleges, the Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Educational and Skills Development Authority.

Hopefully, Education Secretary Sonny Angara will be able to ensure that Filipinos get the necessary education to help our country grow.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

[Senate to hold gov't agencies 'accountable' for Bicol region flooding](#)

By: RG Cruz

Senate President Francis Escudero on Tuesday said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) would be questioned over the massive flooding in parts of the Bicol region last week due to severe tropical storm Kristine.

Escudero said DPWH, as well as other agencies, would be asked during the start of the Senate's budget deliberations set next week.

"Principally DPWH, yes, pangalawa marahil DENR, ano nga ba ang projection nila? Ano nga ba ang kailangan baguhin, ganun din ang Climate Change Commission. Ano nga ba ang mga kailangang pagbabago at update na kailangang gawin kaugnay ng infrastructure design natin sa ating bansa," Escudero said.

Escudero, however, noted that the flooding was limited to a few provinces in the Bicol region.

"Actually 'wag niyo namang lahatin. Ang tinamaan ng solid na malakas-lakas ay ang Camarines Sur at ang Albay. Ang Bicol region ay binubuo ng 6 na lalawigan, kabilang na ang Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon at Camarines Norte. 'Di gaanong tinamaan yung 4," said Escudero, a former governor of Sorsogon.

The Senate chief also backed President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s position to revisit the Bicol River Basin Development Program.

Escudero also stressed the need to make sure the budget is attuned to climate change.

Escudero, meantime, expressed satisfaction on the performance of state weather bureau Pagasa in giving weather updates.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[A celebration of Filipino craftsmanship](#)

By: Pauline Joyce Pascual

The National Arts and Crafts Fair 2024 was held at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall from 23 to 27 October. Following the successful 2023 edition, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) once again presented the event to support local artisans and Filipino craftsmanship. This five-day showcase highlighted the Philippines' diverse and rich cultural heritage.

Launched in 2016 under Senator Loren Legarda's visionary leadership, the NACF was conceived as a celebration dedicated to safeguarding the richness of Filipino cultural heritage while promoting the economic sustainability of indigenous arts and crafts.

As Senator Legarda eloquently expressed, "When I first conceptualized this project in 2016, I envisioned it as a way to uplift our local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) while celebrating the vibrant beauty of Filipino culture. Seeing it come to life each year, growing in reach and impact, reminded me of the power of collaboration and the importance of preserving our unique heritage. This fair was more than just an event; it was a community dedicated to empowering our artisans and keeping our traditions alive. I'm grateful for everyone who continued to share in this vision."

The five-day event highlighted the finest traditional and contemporary crafts from across the Philippines, offering a platform for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to promote local culture. Visitors could explore and purchase unique handmade products, from indigenous textiles to intricately crafted home decor, all proudly made by Filipino artisans.

The theme focused on preserving and evolving traditional arts and crafts. Mallgoers encountered a wide array of handmade goods, from intricate textiles and traditional baskets to contemporary art pieces and eco-friendly products. Live weaving demonstrations, workshops and cultural performances allowed guests to experience the artistry and craftsmanship from different regions.

Among the NACF's highlights were the Schools of Living Traditions (SLTs). These community-managed centers acted as cultural hubs where indigenous groups imparted traditional skills and crafts to younger generations. The SLTs played a crucial role in preserving intangible cultural heritage, including traditional weaving, pottery, metalwork and performing arts, ensuring that these vital practices were passed down through the ages.

Established through the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), SLTs were found throughout the Philippines, from the Cordilleras to Mindanao, with each community sharing its unique knowledge and cultural legacy. At that year's NACF, SLT artisans took center stage, showcasing their crafts and demonstrating the importance of maintaining cultural identity in an ever-modernizing world.

The NACF 2024 also paid tribute to the Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan (GAMABA) Awardees — master artisans honored by the Philippine government for their exceptional contributions to preserving traditional arts. Established in 1992 through Republic Act 7355, the GAMABA (or National Living Treasures Award) recognized individuals and groups who made outstanding contributions to the practice, transmission and preservation of traditional Filipino craftsmanship.

These artisans are the cultural guardians of their crafts, preserving techniques and traditions that span generations. Many GAMABA Awardees hailed from indigenous groups and rural areas, where their work was woven into the fabric of community life and cultural rituals.

At NACF 2024, several GAMABA awardees and their apprentices proudly displayed their masterworks, inviting visitors to experience the artistry that had earned them this prestigious recognition. Through their participation, the NACF served as a key platform for promoting the legacies of GAMABA awardees and inspiring new generations of artisans.

The fair featured the exceptional works of five GAMABA Awardees: MB Abina Coguit, MB Bundos Fara, MB Marife Ganahon, MB Samporonia Madanlo and MB Barbara Ofong, who were present during the opening ceremonies to mark the start of the fair with a symbolic ribbon-tying ceremony.

Through its ongoing partnership with DTI, SM Supermalls continued its support for MSMEs by providing a marketplace for aspiring entrepreneurs promoting local creativity and innovation. The National Arts and Crafts Fair 2024 was a celebration of Filipino pride, showcasing the talent, creativity and resilience of the country's artisans.

In attendance were also NCCA executive director Eric B. Zerrudo, Department of Tourism secretary Christina Frasco, and Climate Change Commission Vice Chairman Robert Borje, along with representatives from the embassies of Korea, Singapore, Greece, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as officials from partner agencies.

With over 250 exhibitors nationwide, the NACF showcased the products and services of micro, small and medium enterprises, local artisans, and traditional communities making it a vibrant celebration of Filipino craftsmanship and cultural heritage.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Legarda champions women's leadership in peace, security](#)

Senator Loren Legarda on Tuesday emphasized gender equality and advocated for women's leadership in making the world more inclusive, humane, peaceful, and resilient.

In her opening message at the International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security (ICWPS), Legarda highlighted the important role lawmakers play in driving the transformation.

“In my almost three decades of legislative experience, I have realized that the road towards addressing the unique needs of women in conflict areas requires practical measures, in terms of resources and financing, and gender-responsive policies,” she said.

“This is what this conference is all about. It is about enriching and expanding our appreciation and understanding of the many ways we are all championing the rights and well-being of women and empowering them in all aspects of their participation in our societies, including as leaders in peace and security.”

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, the Philippines is hosting the three-day ICWPS at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City on Oct. 28 to 30.

Adopted in 2000, Resolution 1325 recognizes women’s critical role in conflict prevention, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction, emphasizing their equal and active participation in sustaining peace and security.

With 90 ministers and 158 senior officials and delegates from around the world present, Legarda expressed hopes that legislators can collectively champion Women, Peace, and Security initiatives to eliminate barriers that prevent women from shaping their futures globally.

“With focused legislation that promotes gender equality and gender-responsive budgeting, we can build better foundations for women’s leadership in conflict prevention, resolution, and recovery,” she said.

“As lawmakers, we have the responsibility not only to create these enabling legal frameworks but also to ensure their sustained implementation, and to amplify this commitment nationally, regionally, and globally,” Legarda said.

The Philippines has stood firm in its role as a global gender champion, with Legarda helping pave the way in the passage of landmark legislation advancing women's rights and welfare.

These include the Southeast Asia's first Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act; its expanded version, the Magna Carta of Women; Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act; 105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law; and the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises law, which bolsters rural livelihoods largely managed by women.

Additionally, the Climate Change Act, which she authored, mandates female representation in the Climate Change Commission to ensure gender-responsive climate policies.

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