



NEWS ROUNDUP

02 November 2022 [08:00 am]

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ABC NEWS

[Philippine leader blames deforestation for killer mudslide](#)

By: Jim Gomez

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is blaming years of deforestation for a deadly mudslide that buried a mountainside community amid last week's torrential rains set off by a storm that has left more than 130 people dead across the country

ABS CBN

[Paeng death toll rises to 112; DSWD spox says storm may have affected over 3 million people](#)

By: Rose Carmella Lacuata

Manila- The death toll from the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Paeng has risen to 112, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said Tuesday night, while 34 others remain missing.

[\[OPINION\] The bridges of Antique and climate change](#)

By Ellen T. Tordesillas

While browsing Facebook on Monday, I saw the Paliwan Bridge in Bugasong, Antique had collapsed. Its approaches were washed away so the bridge is now in the middle of a river- a scene that brings back childhood memories of my dangerous and arduous journey through raging rivers during the rainy season.

BLOOMBERG

[Storm Nalgae Kills 110 in Philippines, Highlighting Climate Risk](#)

By: Ditas B. Lopez

The Philippines said 110 people died from flooding and landslides triggered by storm Nalgae, which displaced hundreds of thousands of residents in the latest example of the risks of climate change.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Paris Climate Change pact vital for PHL-Sen. Legarda](#)

By Jovee Marie Dela Cruz

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda affirmed over the weekend the importance of the Paris Climate Change Agreement to the country as the Philippine

delegation, led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, met Tuesday with French legislators.

BUSINESS WORLD

[Recovery prospects seen boosted by regional R&D, climate change collaboration](#)

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

REGIONAL collaboration in research and development (R&D) and technology to mitigate climate change is expected to drive economic recovery, by making products and investment projects more viable, executives said at a virtual conference.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Philippine senators discuss Paris climate change treaty with French lawmakers](#)

By: Hana Bordey

Philippine senators discussed the importance of the Paris Climate Accords during a meeting with French lawmakers on October 25.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Destructive 'Paeng' episode highlights urgency of national land use policy—Duterte](#)

By: Ellson Quismorio

A Mindanao congressman has underscored the urgency of instituting a national policy that would ensure the efficient and sustainable use of the country's land and physical resources as a means to provide long-term safeguards to communities vulnerable to climate change.

[ELEVENTH HOUR: Defending paradise has never been challenging](#)

By: Climate Reality Project Philippines

Since 2019, St. Joseph's Academy of Las Piñas (SJA) has been the Global Lead School in the collaborative international youth program #Decarbonize organized by the Centre for Global Education and TakingItGlobal based in Canada.

['There is climate change': Marcos pushes for tree planting to prevent future flooding](#)

By: Joseph Pedrajas

Following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" that took the province of Maguindanao by surprise, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. acknowledged the threats of climate change.

MANILA STANDARD

[Drumming up public awareness on climate change](#)

A poetry and art exhibit meant to stir public consciousness on climate change comes off the wraps in Makati City, spearheaded by a Philippine environmental advocate group.

[‘Paeng’ damage balloons to P2 billion](#)

By: Vince Lopez and Francisco Tuyay

Deaths climb to 112 as PBBM calls for better flood control to save lives. Damage to agriculture and infrastructure from severe tropical storm “Paeng” ballooned to over P2 billion, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Tuesday, as its death toll has climbed to 112.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Climate crisis exposes millions of children to dangers of frequent heatwave](#)

By: Cristina Eloisa Bagsic

Manila, Philippines—Globally, 599 million children are exposed to the increasing occurrence of heatwaves per year. With the rapidly accelerating climate crisis, by the year 2050, virtually all children are expected to have been exposed to frequent heatwaves.

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

By: Beatrice Pinlac

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

[New climate reports point to surging global disaster](#)

By: Krixia Subingsubing

Manila, Philippines — Two new reports on climate change are pointing to an accelerating climate disaster, as their conclusions show the world was falling drastically short of its goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[PBBM to DSWD: Prioritize giving medicines to evacuation centers in SK and BARMM](#)

By Nirvana Alpha Vita Fruylan

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Maguindanao (PIA) -- President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. asked Social Welfare and Development Secretary Erwin Tulfo on Tuesday to work with military doctors and workers and prioritize giving medicines to individuals affected by #PaengPH in evacuation centers of Sultan Kudarat and BARMM.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Biden to attend COP27 climate conference in Egypt: White House](#)

Washington – US President Biden will travel to Egypt next month to attend the UN climate change summit, known as COP27, the White House said Friday.

[French agency pledges funding for PH action vs. climate change](#)

By: Leonel Abasola

Manila – The Agence française de développement (French Development Agency) has committed 482 million euros in support of the Philippines' actions against climate change.

[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.

RAPPLER

[How to improve disaster management after Paeng – ex-NDRRMC chief Pama](#)

By: Dwight De Leon

Manila, Philippines – What was supposed to be a long weekend for many Filipinos because of the Undas season became only an afterthought following the havoc caused by Severe Tropical Storm Paeng in several parts of the Philippines, which left over a hundred people dead.

[Paeng's damage to agriculture hits P1.3 billion, likely to push inflation up](#)

By: Ralf Rivas

Manila, Philippines – Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (Nalgae) has wiped out at least P1.3 billion worth of agricultural goods, the latest assessment of the Department of Agriculture (DA) showed on Monday, October 31.

SUNSTAR

[\[Opinion\] Country of storms](#)

Storms have besieged the country in quick succession in the past months. Just as Tropical Storm Paeng (international name: Nalgae) was about to exit on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022, another tropical cyclone entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility—Queenie (Banyan), which the state weather bureau said may start bringing rain on All Souls' Day, which falls on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] Recession may be unlikely but PH should be on guard](#)

We agree with Secretary Amenah Pangandaman of the Department of Budget and Management that a recession is unlikely to happen in the Philippines. Despite the so-called external headwinds, the country's economic fundamentals remain strong as it has been even before the pandemic. Still, the government, particularly the economic team, should take nothing for granted. There are still reforms needed to make the Philippines even stronger and resilient.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Braving the storm](#)

By: Tony F. Katigbak

In the Philippines, there are many things we have to accept. We must accept that we are an archipelago, and that storms and typhoons will come through the country yearly, often leaving devastation in their wake. We have to accept this because they are a part of nature, and we can't change that. However, we don't have to accept that there is nothing we can do to be better prepared.

['Farmer security is key to food security'](#)

By: Iris Gonzales

Manila, Philippines — One of the biggest and most worrisome problems the country is facing today is the lack of food security.

[IFC invests S\\$157 million in sustainability bonds for hospitality sector](#)

By: Louella Desiderio

Manila, Philippines — The private sector arm of the World Bank has invested in its first sustainability-linked bond in the hospitality sector issued by Singapore's CapitaLand Ascott Trust (CLAS) to help decarbonize serviced residences in the Philippines and Indonesia.

[PAL taps climate scientist to lead decarbonization](#)

By: Elijah Felice Rosales

Manila, Philippines — Flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) has hired a scientist to outline the airline's roadmap on decarbonization as it sets out to become a net zero airline by 2050 in compliance with global targets.

[\[Opinion\] Project NOAH or Noah's ark](#)

By: Cito Beltran

In the face of real climate change, Filipino leaders, from the national down to local executives, now have to make a choice: go with Project NOAH and its menu of programs for disaster mitigation and avoidance or live and let live on different versions of Noah's ark.

TIME TURK

[Senior Filipino journalist for innovation in news dissemination on climate change](#)

Lilybet G. Ison, Philippines News Agency's climate news director, says climate change connected to food sustainability

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[Adaptation and mitigation will shield economy from climate change risks](#)

A World Bank economist has signaled the urgency of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in order to shield the Philippine economy from slower growth that could bring about higher economic and human costs to the needy and marginalized sectors.

[CCC needs to act amid PH ranking as ‘most-disaster prone’–Villafuerte](#)

By: Ellson Quismoro

The Philippines’ climate action agenda is more important than ever following the country’s ranking as the most disaster-prone in the world because of its vulnerability to natural calamities and disasters.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH holds consultation meetings ahead of UN climate change conference in Egypt](#)

By: Kristina Maralit

Weeks before the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP27) to be held in Egypt, the Climate Change Commission PH (CCC), in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), recently conducted the Pre-COP27 Consultation Meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Quezon City.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABC NEWS

[Philippine leader blames deforestation for killer mudslide](#)

By: Jim Gomez

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is blaming years of deforestation for a deadly mudslide that buried a mountainside community amid last week's torrential rains set off by a storm that has left more than 130 people dead across the country

During an aerial inspection of the widespread damage wrought by Tropical Storm Nalgae in southern Maguindanao province, the president said he pointed out to the provincial governor how the mudslides cascaded on denuded slopes of Mount Minandar.

"I noticed that in all places where the landslides came down, the mountains were bald. That's the problem," Marcos Jr. told provincial governors in a televised meeting with key Cabinet members in Maguindanao to discuss the worst natural disaster he faced since taking office in June.

"We have to include tree-planting in our flood control," he said. "We have been hearing about this over and over again, but we still cut the trees, so that's what happens, these landslides."

The storm's vast rain clouds swamped a wide swath of the Philippine archipelago, leaving at least 132 people dead and lashing another 2.4 million people, including some who had to be rescued from the roofs of flooded houses. More than 6,500 houses were either damaged, torn down or swept away by flash floods, according to disaster-response officials.

The storm made landfall Saturday in the eastern Philippines and blew out into the South China Sea on Sunday.

The worst-hit area was Maguindanao's Kusiong village, which lies between the foothills of Mount Minandar and the Moro Gulf.

A night of heavy downpour Thursday loosened the upper reaches of the mountainside which crashed down in a boulder- and tree-laden deluge and buried about 5 hectares (12 acres) of the community, populated largely by the Teduray ethnic group, officials said.

Twenty-one bodies, including those of children, have been pulled out by more than 260 army, police, firefighters, coast guard and civilian rescuers backed by a backhoe, two payloaders and sniffer dogs, said army Maj. Gen. Roy Galido.

Only four remain missing, Galido said, citing Kusiong village leaders. But other local officials fear entire families may be buried, leaving no one to report them as missing.

Naguib Sinarimbo, the interior minister for a Muslim autonomous region run by former separatist guerrillas that includes Maguindanao, told Marcos Jr. that a “major number of deaths” had occurred in Kusiong either due to the mudslide or flash floods that swept away houses and people. He did not elaborate but told The Associated Press earlier that between 80 to 100 people may have either been swept away by flash floods or hit by the mudslide.

A video provided by the coast guard to media on Monday showed some of its men helping search for buried bodies in Kusiong by poking long wooden sticks into the muddy, light-brownish sludge.

Officials told the president that disaster-preparedness has been complicated by the more unpredictable weather, including in Maguindanao, a mountainous region with marshy plains, which in the past was rarely hit by storms. Marcos Jr., a former provincial governor, agreed, saying it’s been difficult to decide where to deploy rescue boats and other earth-moving equipment as typhoons approached.

“That’s the problem today, there’s really climate change now. It’s undeniable,” he said.

About 20 typhoons and storms batter the Philippine archipelago each year. It is located on the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” a region along most of the Pacific Ocean rim where many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur, making the nation one of the world’s most disaster-prone.

Paeng death toll rises to 112; DSWD spox says storm may have affected over 3 million people

By: Rose Carmella Lacuata

Manila- The death toll from the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Paeng has risen to 112, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said Tuesday night, while 34 others remain missing.

Out of the total reported deaths, 82 have been confirmed while 30 remain for validation, said the NDRRMC.

Over half of the fatalities were from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, where a series of flash floods and landslides unleashed by Paeng destroyed villages on Friday.

According to the agency's report, 61 deaths were recorded in BARMM, 22 were in Western Visayas, 12 were in the Calabarzon, while the rest were in Regions 4-B, 5, 7, 8, 12, and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

A separate report though by the Office of Civil Defense-Calabarzon as of Tuesday morning showed that deaths in the region stood at 32, and five others are missing.

The number of injured across all affected areas, meanwhile, stood at 103, of whom 65 have been confirmed and 38 are still for validation.

The NDRRMC said 751,800 families or 2,491,316 people were affected by Paeng, of whom 52,541 families or 189,392 individuals are staying in 2,724 evacuation centers.

Western Visayas has the most number of evacuation centers, at 935, accommodating 74,283 people, followed by Calabarzon, which has 745 evacuation centers housing 55,007 people, based on its report.

Social welfare department spokesman Romel Lopez told ABS-CBN's TeleRadyo though that they are estimating the affected population to breach 3 million, from 7,492 barangays in all of the country's regions.

"Ngayon po, yung binabantayan natin sa mga evacuation centers, although it po ay nababawasan na pautay-utay, pero ito ay umabot ng 294,193 individuals. So 'yun yung ating mga kababayan na alam naman nating umalis lang sila sa evacuation centers dahil medyo gumanda na yung panahon. Pagbalik nila sa kanilang mga tahanan, yung normalcy ay hindi pa naman established. Kaya kailangan pa rin nating ayudahan," he said.

Meanwhile, Paeng destroyed 1,631 houses and damaged 5,409 others, all worth P12.7 million, the NDRRMC said.

Up to 193 roads and 85 bridges remain impassable after the storm's onslaught, added the agency.

The cost of damage to infrastructure is so far pegged at around P760.4 million. Damage to agriculture, meanwhile, was estimated at P1.34 billion, with 60,474.342 hectares of crops and 56,681 farmers and fisherfolks affected.

Several nations, including the United States, China, Japan, and Australia have pledged assistance for the Philippines.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday said there is no need to place the country under a state of calamity for a year after the onslaught of Paeng.

The NDRRMC recommended the declaration of a year-long national state of calamity, saying 16 out of 17 regions in the Philippines were classified as high risk areas during the onslaught of Paeng.

Paeng exited the Philippine area of responsibility noontime of Monday.

Tropical depression Queenie, which has further weakened into a low pressure area Tuesday afternoon, will continue bringing rains in parts of Mindanao.

[OPINION] The bridges of Antique and climate change

By Ellen T. Tordesillas

While browsing Facebook on Monday, I saw the Paliwan Bridge in Bugasong, Antique had collapsed. Its approaches were washed away so the bridge is now in the middle of a river- a scene that brings back childhood memories of my dangerous and arduous journey through raging rivers during the rainy season.

I called up my niece in Guisijan, a barrio in the town of Laua-an next to Bugasong, just a few kilometers from Paliwan Bridge. Our conversation was brief because electricity had not been restored and her power bank was draining. Nobody could cross the rampaging waters of Paliwan River, she said.

The distance between San Jose de Buenavista, the capital town of Antique – one of the four provinces (Antique, Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan) in Panay island – and Guisijan is about 50 kilometers, crossing at least five rivers. I'm not sure about the exact number of rivers. Some may only be brooks (sapa) but they are all spanned by bridges, some short and others long.

The three known long bridges in Antique are Sibalom Pampang Bridge, made infamous by the ambush and killing of nine supporters of the late Evelio Javier, former Antique governor, on the eve of the 1984 parliamentary election; Cangaranan Bridge, also in Bugasong; and, Paliwan Bridge.

Those bridges are now made of concrete; they used to be made of wood. Walking on those wooden planks when buses were unable to cross the river was always a scary experience for me.

Washed away bridge approaches were a common occurrence during storms and typhoons. A bridge in the middle of a river was a common sight in Antique.

Traveling was an ordeal. We would take the bus up to one river bank, take a boat or ride on a raft, and take another bus on the other side of the river. The ordeal was repeated once we reached the next river. What usually was a one-hour bus ride had become a six to eight-hour agony on the road.

One can imagine the effect of this disturbance on the economic life of the people. Aside from the scarcity of goods, prices were tripled, even tenfold.

Antique roads, with countless potholes, were "abortion highways." During the dry season, a bandana was a necessary accessory because of the dust that could turn your hair from black to white-gray.

In the past 15 to 20 years, traveling in Antique has greatly improved. Roads had been asphalted or cemented (although there are places where there's a gap between

cemented roads, making us suspect that part of the budget went to some people's pockets).

Antique was hit hard by typhoon Yolanda in November 2013. After that, if I remember correctly, Antiqueños had a respite from damaging storms and typhoons. Until Paeng came last weekend.

Antique Gov. Rhodora Cadio said in an interview on GMA-7 last Monday that she did not expect the province to be severely affected because it was not the center of the storm. She reported that Paeng left nine people dead. "Grabe talaga ang ulan (the rain was heavy)," she said, adding that there were places which experienced flooding for the first time.

As we are confronted with the loss of lives and damage to infrastructure and crops due to storm Paeng, we should be reminded that rain does not kill people. Do you know of anybody who died because of the rain?

Mahar Lagmay, executive director of the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute and the driving force behind Project Noah (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards), said, "Rainfall is not a hazard."

But, Lagmay said, somebody needs to translate that rainfall amount in the future into hazard maps that will be used by communities to adapt to climate change.

Cadio's lament was exactly what Lagmay shared with VERA Files in an interview last Friday, hours before Paeng came.

"Hindi ba kapag nagkakaroon ng mga disaster, tapos may biktima na iinterbyuhin ng media, ano ba sinasabi ng mga tao? Hindi ba commonly, sinasabi nila ay: 'First time nangyari ito. Hindi pa binabaha dito dati. Ngayon lang namin nakita ito. Ngayon lang kami nakakita ng ganito kalaking storm surge. Ngayon lang kami nakakita ng ganito kalaking baha. Hindi pa nagkakaroon ng landslides'."

(Isn't it that whenever there's a disaster, when a victim is interviewed by the media, what do they say? Commonly, they say: 'It's the first time that this has happened. This place had not been flooded. We experienced it just now. It's only now that we saw that huge storm surge. It's only now that we saw such massive floods. Never have we had landslides.)

Lagmay said: "It only tells us that, aba, we failed to anticipate. 'Yun lang ang (That's the) collective meaning nun, eh. Bakit lahat 'yan sinasabi nila na ngayon lang (Why are they all saying), first time, first time. It only tells us that we failed; they failed to anticipate the bigger event than what they have experienced.

"And that also tells us that we need really to change it to prepare for the bigger impacts. The impacts that will be brought about by climate change; those that are predicted by climate scientists from all over the world that can happen in the future ... and it may be happening now."

BLOOMBERG

[Storm Nalgae Kills 110 in Philippines, Highlighting Climate Risk](#)

By: Ditas B. Lopez

The Philippines said 110 people died from flooding and landslides triggered by storm Nalgae, which displaced hundreds of thousands of residents in the latest example of the risks of climate change.

About 2.4 million individuals were affected by Nalgae and related flooding, including 866,000 forced to flee homes in one of the most destructive storms to hit the country this year, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said on Tuesday. Agriculture losses are estimated at 1.3 billion pesos (\$22.4 million) while the cost of damaged infrastructure is about 760 million pesos, it said. The death toll has risen from 98 reported on Monday.

Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum said the nation must brace itself for more intense tropical cyclones due to climate change, noting that their actual impact will depend partly on several factors including risk management.

“If we look at the long-term trend, yes, indeed, tropical cyclones will get stronger, but we have to separate the character of the typhoon versus the exposure,” Solidum said in a phone interview. “Independently, the typhoon can have very strong winds or can carry with it a lot of rain but how the impact will be is dependent on the exposure, the number of people, the area, the preparedness, or the vulnerability.”

Scientists say climate change will cause more extreme rainfall, which can trigger worse floods. But flooding can also be exacerbated by the shallowing of the rivers and the denuding of upland areas that lead to deadly mudslides, Solidum said.

“In the long term, the land use will be critical,” the nation’s chief scientist said. “We need to restrict where our people should be staying because otherwise every time there’s extreme rain, for sure their lives will be placed at risk.”

How Global Warming Makes Extreme Weather More Likely: QuickTake

Storm Nalgae, locally called Paeng, has since left the Philippines and is forecast to approach the coast of southern China, the state weather bureau Pagasa said. A new, less powerful storm entered the Philippines on Monday but has since further weakened, it said.

About 20 cyclones pass through the Philippines each year, causing fatalities and damage to agriculture, homes and infrastructure.

BUSINESS MIRROR

Paris Climate Change pact vital for PHL–Sen. Legarda

By Jovee Marie Dela Cruz

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda affirmed over the weekend the importance of the Paris Climate Change Agreement to the country as the Philippine delegation, led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, met Tuesday with French legislators.

Legarda reminded that one of the many advocacies and issues that bond France and the Philippines is the Paris Agreement.

“Being number one in the world risk index, as the most vulnerable nation in the world, we value our ratification of the Paris Accord in 2015,” Legarda said recalling their meeting with Guillaume Kasbarian, President of France’s Commission for Economic Affairs and Member of Parliament of the National Assembly (Eure-et-Loir).

She noted that the World Risk Index 2022 Report released last September ranked the Philippines with the highest natural disaster risk among 193 nations globally.

Citing this ranking, Legarda prodded the European Union (EU) to increase its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), the climate action plans submitted by nations, to lessen the impact of climate change on vulnerable countries, such as the Philippines.

The senator recalled it has been “seven years since the ratification of the accord and it is incumbent upon industrialized nations in the EU, including France, to perhaps scale up the Nationally Determined Contributions so that vulnerable nations like the Philippines, which only emits 1/3 of 1 percent in terms of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, will not be as affected.”

At the same time, Legarda affirmed, “This is one of the advocacies that I share with my colleagues, which we know the French government and the French people hold dearly, as well, because this impacts our energy security, our food security.”

It will be recalled that the European Commission has committed to decrease GHG emissions from the EU by 2030 and produce “net zero” emissions by 2050, according to World Bank.

Moreover it also notes that 76 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are coming from China, the United States and the EU.

Legarda and the rest of the Philippine delegation also met with French-South East Asian Friendship Group led by Senator Mathieu Darnaud and Madame Gisele Jourda, Vice President of the Committee on European Affairs and President-designate for the Philippines.

She recalled that during the meeting, Legarda, founder and president of the Philippines-France Parliamentary Friendship Association, conveyed the Philippines's commitment to the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People, at the same time thanking France "for its continued assistance to the Philippines."

"I am glad that France does not stop in helping in giving technological, technical, and capacity-building, and even financial assistance in so far as biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and climate action," she said.

In leading the support for the Philippines's actions against climate change, the senator also acknowledged the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as it also committed EUR 482 million for the country.

The lawmaker likewise recalled that in 2021, a policy-based loan amounting to EUR 250 million was granted to the Philippines by France as funding support for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response at the local level.

"We are grateful for your continued support for the Philippines and other developing nations, and as the COP talks start in the first week of November in Egypt this year. We hope that France will be on the side of developing nations so that the \$100 billion commitment in the Paris Agreement would finally be realized, and so that the issues of loss and damage, which is important to vulnerable nations, could also be defended or even discussed," said Legarda.

The Philippine delegation comprised of Legarda, Zubiri, Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, Senate Deputy Majority Leader Joseph Victor Ejercito, and Sens. Manuel Lapid, Maria Lourdes Binay, Grace Poe, and Christopher Lawrence Go, also met with Senator Daniel Gremillet, member of the Committee for Economic Affairs and President of the Study Group on Energy; and Pascal Chaix, Deputy Director for International Relations Division of the Atomic Energy Commission.

House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Joey Sarte Salceda, for his part, said countries like the Philippines must continue to push for acknowledgment and compensation for "loss and damage" ahead of COP 27, or the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

In a news statement, Salceda said "Typhoon Paeng wasn't supposed to be that strong, and yet killed several dozens of people due to stronger than expected floods."

Salceda, who was formerly the Co-Chair of the United Nations Green Climate Fund, will be part of the Philippine delegation to the Conference of Parties (COP) 27, or the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, set in Egypt this year.

“Climate change kills. There is loss and damage. And countries like the Philippines that are the most at-risk due to its impacts have a moral responsibility and the moral ascendancy to fight for the principle of loss and damage,” Salceda said.

BUSINESS WORLD

Recovery prospects seen boosted by regional R&D, climate change collaboration

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

REGIONAL collaboration in research and development (R&D) and technology to mitigate climate change is expected to drive economic recovery, by making products and investment projects more viable, executives said at a virtual conference.

“Cross-border collaboration is vital... We look more broadly as to how we can further collaboration. People-to-people exchanges will lead to a greater degree of trust,” Nikhil Sawhney, vice-chairman and managing director of Indian energy equipment manufacturer Triveni Turbines Ltd. said on Tuesday at the Asian Association of Management Organisations conference.

“I believe certain areas in terms of research and development has become a fast changing and important area for building reliable products and there needs to be a diversified base of talent. There is a world of technology and collaboration through R&D to establish platforms and standards would allow a greater degree of prosperity. It will also help bridge and build a more resilient ecosystem,” he added.

Pakistan Cables Ltd. Chief Executive Fahd K. Chinoy said that Asia needs to collaborate on climate financing, as the changing climate is one of the most pressing risks the region faces.

“The pandemic was a wakeup call. Climate change is definitely happening, and the horizon is pretty clear. It is key to build financial incentives for countries to shift into a carbon-neutral direction... There must be sort of financial incentive,” he said.

“Each country needs to build resilience around their food security and water situation. It’s all connected. There needs to be a collective narrative where the voice of the region is strongly felt, opposed to just one country. If we could collectively as a region, make more noise that would make more of an impact,” he added.

Mr. Chinoy added: “There’s no reason why we can’t collaborate at a regional level. There could be opportunities to network. There’s no restriction on learning, which is a good starting point,” he added.

Mr. Chinoy also cited best practices that can be adapted in other countries.

“Pakistan was lucky with how the pandemic impacted us. The (infection) numbers were relatively better globally and in the region. The government acted quite fast and... subsidized financing for imported equipment, (which) encouraged investments in future projects,” he said.

“The government also ensured no job losses, (providing) subsidized financing to keep people on versus letting people go. We kept unemployment relatively under control,” he added.

Mr. Sawhney also cited India’s own strategy in mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

“India’s government took a progressive view that there (should be) business continuity for essential industries; at the same time they took a humanitarian view and provided reassurances in terms of access to food and health,” he said.

“Now having come through it, the country managed well in terms of liquidity. It has the flexibility to use monetary measures to navigate through crises,” he added.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Philippine senators discuss Paris climate change treaty with French lawmakers](#)

By: Hana Bordey

Philippine senators discussed the importance of the Paris Climate Accords during a meeting with French lawmakers on October 25.

In a meeting with French National Assembly member and Economic Affairs Committee Chairman Guillaume Kasbarian, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda raised the need to uphold the 2015 Paris Accord as the Philippines was one of the nations that suffered from the effects of climate change.

"One of the many advocacies and issues that bond France and the Philippines is the Paris Agreement. Being number one in the world risk index, as the most vulnerable nation in the world, we value our ratification of the Paris Accord in 2015," said Legarda.

She then urged the European Union to increase its National Determined Contributions or the climate action plans submitted by nations, to lessen the impact of climate change on vulnerable countries such as the Philippines.

In the latest World Risk Index report, the Philippines has the highest disaster risk among 193 countries around the world.

The Philippines scored high in its exposure, vulnerability, susceptibility, lack of coping capacities, and lack of adaptive capacities in the face of disasters.

"It's been seven years since the ratification of the accord and it is incumbent upon industrialized nations in the EU, including France, to perhaps scale up the National Determined Contributions so that vulnerable nations like the Philippines, which only emits ? of 1% in terms of global greenhouse gas emissions, will not be as affected," Legarda said.

"That is one of the advocacies that I share with my colleagues, which we know the French government and the French people hold dearly, as well, because this impacts our energy security, our food security," she added.

Citing the World Bank, Legarda said the European Commission had committed to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions from the EU by 2030 and to produce "net zero" emissions by 2050.

The Philippine senators also met with the French-South East Asian Friendship Group led by Senators Mathieu Darnaud and Gisele Jourda.

In the meeting, the Philippine lawmakers conveyed the country's commitment to the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People and they also thanked France for its assistance to the Philippines.

"I'm glad that France does not stop in helping in giving technological, technical, and capacity-building, and even financial assistance in so far as biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and climate action," Legarda said.

"We are grateful for your continued support for the Philippines and other developing nations, and as the COP talks start in the first week of November in Egypt this year, we hope that France will be on the side of developing nations so that the 100 billion commitment in the Paris Agreement would finally be realized, and so that the issues of loss and damage, which is important to vulnerable nations, could also be defended or even discussed," she added.

To help Philippine efforts against climate change, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) committed €482 million to the country.

In 2021, Legarda also mentioned a policy-based loan amounting to €250 million which was granted to the Philippines by France as funding support for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response at the local level.

Apart from these discussions, the Philippine senators also raised with their French counterparts matters related to the environment such as the investments in the blue carbon economy.

The Filipino lawmakers also met with different French companies, private sector leaders, and France's Nuclear Safety Authority.

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.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Destructive 'Paeng' episode highlights urgency of national land use policy–Duterte](#)

By: Ellson Quismorio

A Mindanao congressman has underscored the urgency of instituting a national policy that would ensure the efficient and sustainable use of the country's land and physical resources as a means to provide long-term safeguards to communities vulnerable to climate change.

According to Davao City 1st district Rep. Paolo Duterte, the recent destruction wrought by severe tropical storm "Paeng" in Maguindanao, which resulted in the deaths of dozens of people via landslides, demonstrate the direct impact of proper planning and use of land resources on saving people's lives.

Along with Benguet lone district Rep. Eric Yap and two other lawmakers, Duterte filed House Bill (HB) 3956, which aims to establish clear parameters on the utilization of all land and physical resources in the country by institutionalizing a national land use policy.

The bill outlines land use policies to determine areas allocated for agricultural production, housing and settlements, energy development, industries and other economically productive sites, and protected zones for environmental sustainability.

Duterte said the bill and other similar measures filed in Congress seek to "end the current degradation of the country's land resources, and optimize balanced development".

He said one key aspect of passing the proposed National Land Use Act (NLUA) that is often understated or overlooked is its importance in protecting communities from the destructive effects of climate change.

"We often mention the National Land Use Act in the context of ensuring food security by, for one, preventing the conversion of agricultural lands to housing and commercial projects. But the rational and efficient planning and use of our land resources is also vital in ensuring that we get to identify high-risk and danger-prone locations in our communities," the second-term solon said.

The bill, of which ACT-CIS Partylist Reps Edvic Yap and Jeffrey Soriano are also principal authors, states that "priority shall be given to life and safety, and thus to identifying hazard prone areas and corresponding risk reduction measures as part of the DRR (disaster risk reduction) and CCA (climate change adaptation) objective"

"Given the country's approximate land area of 300,000 square kilometers, there is a need for a comprehensive and responsive land use policy to address the impact of

deforestation and urbanization on food, housing, business, health and the environment,” the authors said.

Duterte said the bill and other similar measures should be approved at the soonest possible time by Congress to protect future generations of Filipinos, and enable them to adapt better to climate change and respond to the growing needs of the population for food, shelter and jobs.

He recalled that the passage of the NLUA has been certified as urgent by the previous administration of his father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, who had said the law “will address our competing land requirements for food, housing business, and environmental conservation”.

On top of addressing these needs, the Davao City lawmaker said a national land use policy will also assist the local government units (LGUs) in mapping out their climate-resilient development plans.

[ELEVENTH HOUR: Defending paradise has never been challenging](#)

By: Climate Reality Project Philippines

Since 2019, St. Joseph's Academy of Las Piñas (SJA) has been the Global Lead School in the collaborative international youth program #Decarbonize organized by the Centre for Global Education and TakingItGlobal based in Canada.

#Decarbonize seeks to gather the voices and opinions of youth worldwide on climate change and climate action, with this year's run focusing on food sustainability and the links between climate change and agriculture. Through the program, young climate advocates will deliver a manifesto during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or COP27 in Egypt happening this November.

My mentees, Irene Desiree C. Reyes and Vince Alphart O. Pallera, were selected to represent not just the school but the country in COP27. They will present a position paper on behalf of the youth of the Global South, alongside their counterparts from different parts of the world.

In preparation for COP27, our school is doing its best to raise climate change awareness among our students through different learning modalities and a variety of engaging activities. We mold our students to be agents of change who are actively involved in the social, moral, and political issues affecting society and its environment.

To realize this, we collaborated with The Climate Reality Project Philippines, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, and Living Laudato Si Las Piñas for an impact screening of DELIKADO, a documentary film that tells the story of environmental defenders trying to stop politicians and businessmen from destroying the Philippines' "last ecological frontier."

The screening, which was held last Oct. 7 at the SJA Auditorium as part of the culminating activity of the Laudato Si Season of Creation, served as an eye-opener for my students on the realities of environmental conservation in the country:

"Watching the film made me think twice. What is more important? Environment protection or community development? If the advancement cost is environmental degradation, is it beneficial for us? Sometimes, we focus on the short-term goal too much that we neglect the long-term effects of our actions. I believe that community advancement is possible without the need for irresponsible development. Let us spread our knowledge and inspire others to take action to the best of our capabilities. We may be diverse in many ways, but we all yearn for one thing." – Marc Jeomil Mendoza, Grade 12 STEM

"I feared for myself as part of the younger generation and for our land, environmental defenders, and activists. As the film depicted the sad and dangerous reality of the Philippines for our local environmentalists, we could see how ecological protection

involves the environmental sector and the socioeconomic, cultural, and political spectrums. Furthermore, it motivated me to participate in the climate action movement and hold large institutions accountable for their actions.” – Christian Joseph Mendoza, Grade 12 STEM

“It was an eye-opening documentary film, making me see and understand the reality of our fellowmen in the provinces, especially in Palawan. The film honestly angered me, and I think that I can use this anger, this passion, to call and advocate for climate action and climate justice in our country, and I know I can start this by being an advocate for climate action in school.” – Vince Alphart Pallera, Grade 12 GAS

“Environmental defenders risking their lives for their land and environment are commendable. It left me wondering what we can do to help these people struggling to find peace with their ongoing uproar with the government. People with money have power. Less fortunate people (remain) powerless and have no right to speak, or they will receive threats.” – Lianna Cayleigh Lopez, Grade 12 STEM

“It was a painful experience as it humanized the statistics I had gotten used to. It showed me just how much pain these defenders go through because of systems of impunity. Delikado highlighted the importance of meaningful participation and how action can be different for everyone.” – Irene Desiree Reyes, Grade 12 STEM

“A government that is genuinely concerned with our nature must also be concerned with the people living in it. We must defend (environmental defenders) as they only want what is suitable for the community and what is right for our country.” – George Allyson Noblejas, Grade 12 STEM

“(The film) awakens people to the need to conserve the environment because it is our home. As a student, I think even small actions can significantly impact the environment. No one will suffer if we all take action to preserve nature, and the following generation will get to experience the beauty of our planet. – Daphney Herrera, Grade 12 STEM

“My call to action regarding this film is to keep raising more awareness about the environmental crisis through social media. I would create brochures or posters about illegal logging and fishing in Palawan and post them online. Through this, I will be able to share it with my family and friends and encourage them to share it with other people they know until I can encourage many people to help support the Palawan NGO Network Inc. (PNNI) in its mission to protect the environment. It is time that we give more attention to these documentary films because, just like any other film, there is a story and lesson behind it. We can learn so much from it, and it can even inspire us to do our part in caring for our common home, the earth.” – Christian Edsel EJ Soriano, Grade 12 STEM

The issues showcased in the film, specifically the struggles of environmental defenders in the country, are now included in the position paper that our students will present in COP27.

Truly, defending the environment has never been more challenging. This could not go on any longer. If we want the younger generation—our kids and grandchildren— to experience a healthy life communing with nature, we need to protect our environmental defenders, ensure the implementation of the country's environmental laws, and deliver climate solutions to the last mile.

'There is climate change': Marcos pushes for tree planting to prevent future flooding

By: Joseph Pedrajas

Following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" that took the province of Maguindanao by surprise, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. acknowledged the threats of climate change.

During a situational briefing he presided in the province on Tuesday, Nov. 1, Marcos realized how unexpected the wrath of nature could be, including those brought by typhoons.

He said areas that were not prone to flooding in the past are now being inundated, while typhoons no longer follow their forecasted path.

"That's the problem today. Talagang may (There is really a) climate change talaga. It's undeniable," the President said.

As of Tuesday, 61 people were reported as casualties of "Paeng" in Maguindanao.

After conducting an aerial ocular inspection in the province, Marcos said he noticed that those areas badly-hit by "Paeng" were the ones that were deforested.

So, on top of building flood-control facilities, he also recommended tree-planting activities as part of a long-term solution against flooding.

"We have been hearing this over and over again, pero patuloy pa rin tayo nagpuputol ng kahoy, 'yan ang nangyayari nagkakalandslide ng ganyan (But we keep on cutting down trees, so landslides happen)," he said.

"Mag-isip tayo ng mabuti doon sa tree planting. Hindi maliit na bagay yan (Let's think about that tree planting. It's not just a small thing). I know people think that it is just for to save the environment. No, it's to save lives," he added.

MANILA STANDARD

[Drumming up public awareness on climate change](#)

A poetry and art exhibit meant to stir public consciousness on climate change comes off the wraps in Makati City, spearheaded by a Philippine environmental advocate group.

The exhibit, dubbed “The Making and Unmaking of Places: Stories of Loss, Resilience, And Restoration Using Poetry and Art,” was put together by The Climate Reality Project Philippines in partnership with the Makati City government and the British Embassy in Manila.

It will be on display at the Makati City hall until November 7, then move over to the University of Makati and Glorietta in the following weeks. Photo taken at the launch of the exhibit shows (from left) United Kingdom COP26 Regional Ambassador to Asia-Pacific and South Asia Ken O’Flaherty, British Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufile, Makati City Mayor Mar-len Abigail Binay, Climate Reality PH Branch Manager Nazrin Castro, and Agam Agenda Strategist for Creative Communications Carissa Pobre.

'Paeng' damage balloons to P2 billion

By: Vince Lopez and Francisco Tuyay

Deaths climb to 112 as PBBM calls for better flood control to save lives. Damage to agriculture and infrastructure from severe tropical storm "Paeng" ballooned to over P2 billion, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Tuesday, as its death toll has climbed to 112.

The NDRRMC said damage to agriculture was at almost P1.3 billion so far, with the Bicol Region the hardest hit with over P700 million in damage, followed by Western Visayas with P293 million, and Central Luzon with P233.7 million.

Damage to infrastructure was at P760 million. Bicol Region was again the hardest with P375 million in damage, followed by Central Visayas with P272 million, and Northern Mindanao with P110 million.

Of the fatalities, 79 were already confirmed to be typhoon-related while 31 are yet to be validated. A total of 33 other people were still missing.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday said it was important to address climate change and flood control to avoid mass casualties during tropical cyclones.

Talking to Bangsamoro regional and local officials, Mr. Marcos noted that some areas that were not known to be flood-prone were among those heavily inundated during the storm.

He said this was undeniably the effect of climate change.

Mr. Marcos said tree planting should be part of the government's flood control efforts, as it "will really save lives."

He said that on an aerial survey of the damage wrought by Paeng, he noticed that the mountains had been denuded.

Several countries said they would help with relief and recovery efforts.

The US embassy said it helped transport 10,000 family food packs from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to Cotabato.

"An additional 25 trucks are mobilizing to deliver emergency food and relief supplies to families affected by the storm... We stand with our Filipino #FriendsPartnersAllies in this time of crisis," the US Embassy said in a Facebook post.

China said it donated the first batch of disaster relief materials to the Datu Odin Sinsuat, North Maguindanao Province, which was hit hard by floods brought on by Paeng.

The Chinese Embassy said it brought thousands of cases of distilled water, instant noodles, water containers, rice, toothbrushes, coffee, isopropyl alcohol, and anti-mosquito gels to the affected areas in Mindanao.

Japan's Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa said Tokyo was "ready to provide the maximum possible assistance to the Philippines."

Australian Ambassador to the Philippines HK Yu also offered assistance.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, too, said his government was prepared to help.

The Philippine Red Cross on Tuesday said it welcomes donations to support its ongoing relief operations for families affected by Paeng.

As of Monday, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that over P51 million worth of humanitarian assistance has been provided to affected communities by government and humanitarian partners.

As the storm left the Philippine area of responsibility Monday, some 865,000 residents were still displaced, with some of them taking shelter in 2,728 evacuation centers nationwide.

The storm damaged some 5,000 homes and destroyed around 1,000 houses, the NDRRMC reported. It said the damage to these houses was estimated at P12.41 million.

Some 294 areas lost power during the storm, but 140 of them now have electricity.

As of Tuesday, 160 areas were placed under a state of calamity, which allows the government to tap calamity funds, impose a price freeze on basic commodities and offer zero-interest loans.

The state weather forecaster warned that a low-pressure area could bring more rains in parts of Mindanao still reeling from Paeng.

Provincial officials said 61 people were killed in Maguindanao—more than half of the death toll so far—and 17 were still missing.

The storm also affected 622,505 people—or 124,501 families—in the province.

In a situation briefing in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao del Norte, the President acknowledged that typhoon victims are asking for medicine, and he instructed the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to facilitate the distribution of medical kits.

"We will have to supply them with the medicines they need. That's one aspect we failed to focus on," he said.

Urging swift action, Mr. Marcos noted that common ailments can be cured by non-prescription medicine. He said there should also be close coordination with military doctors and medical workers to ensure the immediate distribution of medical supplies.

In response, DSWD Secretary Erwin Tulfo said the agency would begin distributing health kits to typhoon victims.

A total of 741,777 families or 2,418,249 people in 17 regions nationwide have so far been affected by Paeng, according to the situation report by NDRRMC on Tuesday.

About 329,299 families or 859,981 people are taking temporary shelter inside and outside evacuation centers.

During his visit to Maguindanao, Mr. Marcos also distributed goods and financial assistance to the typhoon victims.

He also advised the Bangsamoro government to adopt the “standard package” being distributed by the DSWD to the typhoon victims.

“If you’re going to make your own packs, let’s have it similar to the ones being distributed by the DSWD because that comes from long experience [and the agency knows] what are the needs of the victims of a calamity like this,” the President said.

He also urged the Bangsamoro government to coordinate with local government units (LGUs).

Mr. Marcos also said it was vital to establish a district office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to ensure the immediate repair of damaged infrastructure.

This, he said, would enable the BARMM to effectively and efficiently respond to emergencies.

Noticing bottlenecks in the distribution of relief, the President also stressed the importance of improving standard operating procedures for assisting victims of natural disasters.

He also said there was no need to ensure that some people weren’t getting double their rations.

“So what if they receive two food packs? Give out everything,” he said in Filipino. “Will they get rich if they receive two food packs? They will not get rich.”

“There is no such thing as an excess of relief goods. No such thing,” he added. “We have to give everything that we have. It doesn’t matter if they have the ticket. Just give

them relief goods because they have nothing to eat. That is something that we can improve on.”

After the situation briefing, Mr. Marcos led the relief efforts for victims of Paeng that hit the BARMM.

He distributed the food packs and assistance to the victims who are currently taking temporary shelter in one of the evacuation centers in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao del Norte.

In his speech, Mr. Marcos said concerned government agencies would continue assisting to ensure the fast recovery of disaster victims.

He said the government would also grant cash aid worth between P5,000 and P10,000 to help them rebuild their homes.

The Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), upon Mr. Marcos’ directive, vowed to attend to the needs of people who have been severely affected by the tropical cyclone.

In a statement on Tuesday, PCUP chairperson Undersecretary Elpidio Jordan Jr. said he has directed all the field operations offices of the commission to conduct quick response to affected urban poor families.

In other developments:

- The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines said Tuesday that power transmission operations in Luzon are back to normal after it completed the restoration of lines affected by tropical storm Paeng. The NGCP also said it has normalized transmission services in the provinces of Benguet, Mountain Province, Pangasinan, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Laguna, Quezon, Batangas, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Northern Samar, Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Aklan, and Antique.
- The country’s two largest telecom companies said they have restored their network services in Metro Manila and other areas after Paeng swept over several provinces. Globe has fully restored call, text, and data connectivity in all Metro Manila areas where service was affected by the storm. All services have also been fully restored in Laguna, Palawan, Masbate, and Western Samar, the company said. PLDT and its wireless unit Smart Communications, Inc. said it has fully restored network services in Leyte.
- The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) reminded business establishments in areas under a state of calamity to adhere to the price freeze on basic necessities.
- Manila Rep. Joel Chua said he opposed the idea of a year-long state of calamity due to Paeng. In contrast, Senate President Migz Zubiri said he believes that the President

should declare a national state of calamity in the wake of Tropical Storm Paeng, echoing the call of the NDRRMC.

Marcos has rejected the NDRRMC recommendation, saying there was no need to declare a national state of calamity.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Climate crisis exposes millions of children to dangers of frequent heatwave](#)

By: Cristina Eloisa Bagsic

Manila, Philippines—Globally, 599 million children are exposed to the increasing occurrence of heatwaves per year. With the rapidly accelerating climate crisis, by the year 2050, virtually all children are expected to have been exposed to frequent heatwaves.

Heatwaves, or prolonged periods of extreme high temperatures, are becoming longer, stronger, more widespread, and more frequent due to the climate crisis—and this causes a devastating impact on children worldwide, a recent report by Unicef found.

“Heatwaves are a global phenomenon. As extreme high temperatures increase and the longevity, duration, and severity of heatwaves accelerate, children are increasingly exposed to health-related vulnerabilities,” the report stated.

Across the globe, 599 million children are currently suffering from the impacts of high heatwave frequency. By 2050, over 2 billion children are forecast to face more frequent heatwaves or one of three other high heat measures—high heatwave duration, high heatwave severity, or extreme high temperatures.

The findings, Unicef noted, are “regardless of whether the world achieves a ‘low greenhouse gas emission scenario’ with an estimated 1.7 degrees of warming in 2050 or a ‘very high greenhouse gas emission scenario’ with an estimated 2.4 degrees of warming in 2050.”

“These disasters are not inevitable or ‘natural’—they are of our making,” Unicef said.

Yet children, who are the least responsible for climate change, are bearing the biggest costs.

“The world also needs to listen. Children and young people are most affected by the climate crisis. They are not only demanding change, they are driving it—and they must be at the center of our response,” said Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell.

“Lives are being lost from preventable causes because the world is acting too slowly on mitigation and not providing enough support for adaptation,” climate activist and Unicef Goodwill Ambassador Vanessa Nakate said.

Filipino children exposed to heatwaves

Data from Unicef showed that in 2020, an estimated 1.1 million children in the Philippines had already been exposed to high heat frequency—or 4.5 or more

heatwaves per year, while around 1.9 million children in the country were affected by high heatwave duration or prolonged heatwave, which usually lasts 4.7 days or longer.

In 2050 under the low emission scenario, the number of Filipino children who will suffer the effects of having five or more heatwaves rises to 33.5 million, or 99 percent of all children living in the country that year.

At least 26.3 million Filipino children—77 percent of the estimated total children in the country in 2050—will experience high heatwave duration.

Under the very high emission scenario in 2025, 33 million children in the Philippines (99 percent) will experience high heatwave frequency, while 30.6 million (92 percent) will bear brunt of the impacts of the days-long heatwaves.

Last year, a preprint study by The Lancet investigated climate anxiety or “eco-anxiety”—characterized by a wide range of painful and complex emotions like worry, fear, anger, grief, despair, guilt, shame, and hope linked to the climate crisis—in children and young people globally.

The study—the largest of its kind—surveyed 15,543 children aged 16-25 years old from 10 countries, including the Philippines, United Kingdom (UK), Finland, France, United States (US), Australia, Portugal, Brazil, India, and Nigeria.

Results showed that the highest number of respondents who felt “very worried” and “extremely worried” about the impacts of climate change were from the Philippines (84 percent: 49 extremely worried, 35 very worried).

“Climate change has important implications for the health and futures of children and young people, yet they have little power to limit its harm, making them vulnerable to climate anxiety,” the researchers stressed.

Respondents from the Philippines also believed that the government lied about the impact of actions taken to address climate change (69 percent), failed the young (68 percent), betrayed future generations (56 percent), and dismissed the youth’s call for action (53 percent).

Still, 52 percent said the government is acting in line with climate change.

“The failure of governments to adequately address climate change and the impact on younger generations potentially constitutes moral injury,” it said.

“Nations must respond to protect the mental health of children and young people by engaging in ethical, collective, policy-based action against climate change,” it added.

Heat harms children’s health, future

Heatwaves, Nakate stressed, have a “devastating impact on children.”

“The more frequent, longer lasting and more severe heatwaves children are exposed to, the greater the impacts on health, safety, nutrition, education, access to water and future livelihoods,” she said.

According to Unicef, children are more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat and heatwave. Compared to adults, infants and young children are less able to regulate their body temperature compared to adults, making it more dangerous when they are exposed to high heat.

“Extreme heat poses unique risks at different stages of childhood. Babies and young children under age 5 are the most at risk of increased heat-related mortality and morbidity,” Unicef explained.

“School-aged children are the most affected by asthma exacerbations. Adolescents are vulnerable to exertional heat-related injuries and educational/social risk,” it added

Children are affected by heat in two ways, according to the report. These are:

- risks to health and well-being; and
- social and societal risks.

Among the risks of extreme and prolonged periods of high heat to children’s physical health were:

- allergy development
- heat stroke and heat stress
- increased risk of chronic respiratory virus
- increased rates of asthma
- risks of mosquito-borne disease, including dengue fever
- increase in cardiovascular diseases
- low birth weight
- undernutrition
- Diarrhea

Previous studies also found that high temperatures are linked to increases in mental health problems in children and adolescents, including post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

Unicef also found that extreme heat threatens children’s access to food and water.

“Heatwaves exacerbate drought, causing crop failure and food insecurity, with severe impacts on child nutrition, particularly in communities that depend on agriculture. Higher temperatures also increase the demand for water.”

“The resulting water scarcity hinders children’s ability to regulate body temperatures and stay hydrated,” Unicef explained.

Poor health and nutrition in children due to heatwaves can also lead to lower achievement in school and lower school attendance. High air temperature, along with lower hydration amid extreme heat, also alters the children’s ability to concentrate.

Prepare, prioritize, prevent

“Heatwaves are a clear example. As hot as this year has been in almost every corner of the world, it will likely be the coldest year of the rest of our lives. The dial is being turned up on our planet and yet our world leaders haven’t begun to sweat. The only option is for us to continue to turn up the heat—on them—to correct the course we are on,” said Nakate.

“World leaders must do this at COP27 for children everywhere, but especially the most vulnerable children in the most affected places. Unless they take action, and soon, this report makes it clear that heatwaves will become even harsher than they are already destined to be.”

Unicef urged governments to:

protect children from climate devastation by adapting social services;
prepare children by providing climate change education, disaster risk reduction education, green skills training and opportunities to meaningfully participate and influence climate policy-making;
prioritize children and young people in climate finance and resources.
Moreover, governments were asked to act now and prevent a climate catastrophe by drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and keeping 1.5 degrees Celsius alive.

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

By: Beatrice Pinlac

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US-PH ties 'stand on its own'

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

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

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

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

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

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

[New climate reports point to surging global disaster](#)

By: Krixia Subingsubing

Manila, Philippines — Two new reports on climate change are pointing to an accelerating climate disaster, as their conclusions show the world was falling drastically short of its goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Both reports by the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) were released ahead of the 27th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, which begins on Sunday.

With their respective findings, the UNFCC and WMO aim to convince governments to revisit and revamp their climate plans within the next eight years—considering that 2030 was the target period set by the United Nations when global warming should be eased to 2 degrees Celsius, then 1.5 degrees Celsius.

According to the UNFCC report, climate pledges among the 194 parties (193 countries plus the European Union) under the 2015 Paris Agreement could still put the world on track for the goal of 2.5 degrees warming by the end of this century. The planet has a total of 195 states, including the Vatican and the State of Palestine.

UNFCC analyzed the climate action plans, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs), of those countries under the agreement.

‘Global catastrophe’

Among others, it found that, despite ambitious promises to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions dramatically, the world’s nations could only shave off less than 1 percent from their projected 2030 emissions of 54 to 56 GtCO₂eq (gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent). An earlier UN report pegged carbon emissions at 42 GtCO₂eq as a manageable level to ease global warming.

A more recent report, the 2022 UN Emissions Gap Report by the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) released last Thursday, said GHG emissions needed to be cut by 45 percent by 2030 “to avoid global catastrophe.”

The WMO, in its report, noted that atmospheric levels of the three main GHGs—carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide—reached new record highs in 2021. But UNFCC said there was still hope in averting a climate disaster—affirming Unep’s recommendation that NDCs must be improved to strengthen commitments among nations to help reduce global warming.

Sameh Shoukry, Egyptian minister of foreign affairs and COP27 president designate, said the upcoming conference was the right occasion for that goal.

Meanwhile a lawmaker said the Philippines could seek compensation from developed countries for damage caused by climate change-related disasters, such as the destruction wrought by Severe Tropical Storm “Paeng” (international name: Nalgae). (See related story on Page A2)

‘Moral responsibility’

“Climate change kills. There is loss and damage, and countries like the Philippines that are most at-risk due to its impacts have a moral responsibility and the moral ascendancy to fight for the principle of loss and damage,” Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said in a statement on Monday.

He said countries vulnerable to climate change conditions like the Philippines should band together at COP27 and “demand more” in terms of not only compensation, but also relief funding and promotion of clean energy, from “major polluters like the United States and the European Union.”

“Mitigation and adaptation measures are not enough ... And coming from a disaster like Paeng, we have the moral duty and moral ascendancy to make demands to the world’s biggest polluters,” Salceda said.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[PBBM to DSWD: Prioritize giving medicines to evacuation centers in SK and BARMM](#)

By Nirvana Alpha Vita Fruylan

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Maguindanao (PIA) -- President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. asked Social Welfare and Development Secretary Erwin Tulfo on Tuesday to work with military doctors and workers and prioritize giving medicines to individuals affected by #PaengPH in evacuation centers of Sultan Kudarat and BARMM.

The President made the request following the appeal made by Governors Bai Mariam Mangudadatu and Datu Pax Ali Mangudadatu of the provinces of Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat for the immediate provision of medicines particularly for individuals in the evacuation centers who are currently suffering from cough, colds, and fever.

'Erwin siguro pwede na nating unahan wag na nating antayin yung mga prescribed medicines magdala na tayo yung mga simple lang yung mga para sa sipon, para sa ubo, para sa sirang tyan yung mga common ailments that can be cured by non-prescription medicines isama na natin yun, then we work in coordination with the military doctors and medical workers para mabilis,' Marcos said.

During the situation briefing on the effects of Tropical Storm Paeng in BARMM, Gov. Datu Pax Ali disclosed that there are 32,000 families affected in the province of Sultan Kudarat particularly in the coastal town of Lebak, Kalamansig, and Palimbang.

He said that based on the assessment of the local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office half of the population in the evacuation centers in the town of Lebak are sick.

"Hihingi po sana kami ng assistance with DOH, tumawag din po kami sa DRRM na pina-stay ko po sa Bayan ng Lebak. As far as they have observed ay halos kalahati po ng population na nasa evacuation center may sipon, lagnat at ubo.... karamihan sa ating mga evacuees di lamang nawalan ng bahay, naantala, nagkakasakit na rin po sa oras na ito," he added.

Meanwhile, Gov. Bai Mariam disclosed that a total of 622,480 individuals are in the different evacuation centers of Maguindanao as of 6:04 a.m. of October 31, 2022. Some of the victims, she said are also having symptoms of flu.

The President said he will request government doctors, with the help of military doctors, to visit the evacuation centers to conduct medical mission.

He noted the lack of standard operating procedure (SOP) for the provision of medicines to affected individuals in evacuation centers even when he was still a governor.

“I’ve noticed wala tayong SOP talaga sa pag provide ng gamot sa disaster response natin; we should add that madali lang namang gawin eh,” he said.

Secretary Tulfo then assured the president that aside from the hygiene kits, the DSWD will also put up a “health kit” where medicines like paracetamol, cough tablets, and other non-prescription medicines will be included in the distribution along with the food packs. (PGFruylan/PIA-12 General Santos City)

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Biden to attend COP27 climate conference in Egypt: White House](#)

Washington – US President Biden will travel to Egypt next month to attend the UN climate change summit, known as COP27, the White House said Friday.

"On November 11th, President Biden will attend the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt," spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

"At COP27, he will build on the significant work the United States has undertaken to advance the global climate fight and help the most vulnerable build resilience to climate impacts, and he will highlight the need for the world to act in this decisive decade," it said.

After the COP27 summit, Biden will head to Phnom Penh, Cambodia from November 12 to 13 to participate in the annual US-Asean Summit and the East Asia Summit.

"In Cambodia, he will reaffirm the United States' enduring commitment to Southeast Asia and Asean centrality, building on the success of the historic US-Asean Special Summit in Washington, DC. He will underscore the importance of US-Asean cooperation in ensuring security and prosperity in the region, and the wellbeing of our combined one billion people," said Jean-Pierre.

From November 13-16, the president will be in Bali, Indonesia for the G20 Leaders' Summit where he will commend Indonesian President Joko Widodo's leadership of the G20 and highlight the US' commitment to the premier forum for economic cooperation with countries representing more than 80 percent of the world's GDP.

"He will work with G20 partners to address key challenges, such as climate change, the global impact of Putin's war on Ukraine, including on energy and food security and affordability, and a range of other priorities important to the global economic recovery," said the statement.

The White House said after Biden's travel to Asia and North Africa, Vice President Kamala Harris will travel to Bangkok, Thailand to attend the November 18-19 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Meeting.

"The Vice President's participation will underscore the US commitment to economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and she will outline US goals for our APEC host year in 2023," said the statement.

After her talks in Bangkok, Harris will travel to Manila, Philippines to meet government leaders and civil society representatives.

"Her visit (will) re-affirm and strengthen the US-Philippines Alliance and underscore the breadth of our cooperation as friends, partners, and allies," it added.

[French agency pledges funding for PH action vs. climate change](#)

By: Leonel Abasola

Manila – The Agence française de développement (French Development Agency) has committed 482 million euros in support of the Philippines' actions against climate change.

Senate President Pro-Tempore Loren Legarda announced the development on Friday, an addition to the 250 million euros granted to the Philippines last year for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response at the local level.

"We are grateful for your continued support for the Philippines and other developing nations and we hope that France will be on the side of developing nations so that the issues of loss and damage, which is important to vulnerable nations, could also be defended or even discussed," Legarda said in a news release.

"I'm glad that France does not stop in helping in giving technological, technical, and capacity-building, and even financial assistance in so far as biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and climate action," she added.

Legarda previously stated the importance of the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 parties at the Conference of the Parties 21 in Paris on Dec. 12, 2015 and entered into force on Nov. 4, 2016.

Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri and Legarda led the Philippine delegation that met with French legislators in Paris on Tuesday.

"One of the many advocacies and issues that bond France and the Philippines is the Paris Agreement. Being number one in the World Risk Index, as the most vulnerable nation in the world, we value our ratification of the Paris Accord in 2015," Legarda said.

The World Risk Index 2022 report released in September ranked the Philippines with the highest natural disaster risk among 193 nations.

India and Indonesia ranked second and third, followed by Colombia and Mexico.

"Floods, heat waves and droughts are increasing seriously, and climate change is also having a massive impact on the assessment of risks. For a country's risk of an extreme natural event turning into a disaster, natural and climate-related exposure forms the first part of the equation," explained Peter Mucke, project manager of the World Risk Report 2022.

Legarda urged the European Union (EU) to increase its National Determined Contributions, the climate action plans submitted by nations, to lessen the impact of climate change on vulnerable countries such as the Philippines.

The EU has committed to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by its members by 2030 and produce net zero emissions by 2050, according to the World Bank.

It also said that 76 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are coming from China, the United States, and the EU.

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.

RAPPLER

[How to improve disaster management after Paeng – ex-NDRRMC chief Pama](#)

By: Dwight De Leon

Manila, Philippines – What was supposed to be a long weekend for many Filipinos because of the Undas season became only an afterthought following the havoc caused by Severe Tropical Storm Paeng in several parts of the Philippines, which left over a hundred people dead.

Even Alexander Pama, former executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), was surprised by the high death toll, and wondered why preparations for the storm's onslaught did not successfully minimize the risks.

“Bakit hindi natumbok ang kahandaan doon sa lugar na maraming tinamaan at maraming casualties (Why didn't they manage to gauge the preparedness of places that were hit hard and suffered many casualties?)” he said in a Rappler Talk interview that aired on Tuesday, November 1.

“There are some implementing measures that are evidently not being done as they should,” he added.

Pama, in a 45-minute interview assessing the Marcos administration's initial response to Paeng's threat and aftermath, offered ways to improve the government's disaster management efforts in the future.

1. More thorough pre-disaster risk assessment (PDRA)

Pama underscored the need for government disaster officials to rethink how they evaluate the impact of disasters prior to its occurrence.

“When we say PDRA, the first thing to ask: okay, you had a meeting, but did the result seek to address vulnerabilities, risks, and capacity of local government units (LGUs)?” Pama explained.

He said understanding the storm's risks includes the following:

Hazard-specific: knowing the tropical cyclone's characteristics, such as whether it would dump substantial amount of rain, or would bring strong winds

Area-focused: knowing not only where the storm will hit land, but also how it will affect areas it would pass by

Time-bound: knowing when and how long the storm will hit

“What was only looked at was Paeng's path. Maybe they overlooked the rain band in southern Philippines, which affected Maguindanao. If you notice, Paeng had not made landfall when it battered Maguindanao with rain, floods and landslides,” he said.

2. Better coordination with LGUs, communication with the public

Every calamity in the Philippines reignites discussions on the national government's coordination with LGUs, and Paeng is no exception.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Interior Minister Naguib Sinarimbo has said Maguindanao residents were caught off guard by the storm-driven floods.

"We know that local government units do not have the capacity [to know the specific risks]. It now becomes the responsibility of the national government to provide LGUs with the proper information, with the proper data as a result of the PDRA," Pama said.

While the text alerts provided by the NDRRMC are a welcome development, he also noted that the public may still have a difficult time gauging the threat of the calamities.

"The challenge right now is to make these area-specific, and more data and information on what to expect, and not just say red or orange warning," Pama said. "The next question becomes: so what? Many of our countrymen need help in that aspect."

4. Investing in more weather radars

Pama also emphasized the need to improve the country's rain forecasting system.

The Philippines reportedly only has 18 Doppler radars, which are used to help predict storms' severity, and Pama said he received reports that some may no longer even be functioning.

"Let's help PAGASA on the Doppler radars," he added.

The state weather bureau under the helm of administrator Vicente Manalo had acknowledged in July that the government has its work cut out in acquiring more equipment, and improving its flood forecasting and monitoring system.

5. Focus on disaster adaptation

Climate change has detrimental effects on the country, Pama asserted, and it's time to put more premium on disaster adaptation.

"Just like what happened in Maguindanao. The relocation site was also a landslide-prone area," he pointed out. "What should be discussed is how to adapt on the basis of what have been discovered relative to the climate risks, and what the solutions should be."

The most recent World Risk Index report in September assessed the Philippines as having the highest disaster risk out of 193 countries.

As of Tuesday morning, November 1, Paeng's devastation has killed 110 people, affected over 2.4 million residents, and led to the declaration of state of calamity in 160 cities and municipalities.

[Paeng's damage to agriculture hits P1.3 billion, likely to push inflation up](#)

By: Ralf Rivas

Manila, Philippines – Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (Nalgae) has wiped out at least P1.3 billion worth of agricultural goods, the latest assessment of the Department of Agriculture (DA) showed on Monday, October 31.

Damage and losses have been reported in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Soccsksargen, affecting 53,849 farmers and fisherfolk, with volume of production loss at 66,963 metric tons and 64,607 hectares of agricultural areas.

Rice accounted for nearly all of the damage, with a total value loss of P1.2 billion.

Other damaged goods included corn (P5.6 million), high value crops (P60 million), livestock and poultry (P1.9 million), and fisheries (P16 million).

The following forms of assistance are available for distribution to affected farmers and fisherfolk:

Rice, corn, and assorted vegetable seeds

Drugs and biologics for livestock and poultry

Fingerlings and assistance to affected fisherfolk from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council with loanable amount of up to P25,000 payable in three years at zero interest

Quick Response Fund for the rehabilitation of affected areas.

Losses in agricultural goods further put pressure on inflation.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on Monday estimated inflation in October hitting between 7.1% and 7.9% on the back of transport fare hikes, elevated domestic petroleum prices, higher agricultural commodity prices due to recent storms, and the depreciation of the peso.

SUNSTAR

[\[Opinion\] Country of storms](#)

Storms have besieged the country in quick succession in the past months. Just as Tropical Storm Paeng (international name: Nalgae) was about to exit on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022, another tropical cyclone entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility—Queenie (Banyan), which the state weather bureau said may start bringing rain on All Souls' Day, which falls on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Queenie, however, was expected to dissipate and become a low pressure area. Despite this forecast, the typhoons that have wreaked havoc on the Philippines are a stark reminder of climate change's savage effect.

The Philippines is an archipelagic country, which means that most of the towns and cities have coastlines. There are river systems and other forms of waterways in the country.

It is high time for local governments to strictly not allow the building of structures along coastlines and other waterways, especially structures of informal settlers.

Local governments must also identify the areas that are susceptible to big waves when it is either Amihan season or Habagat season.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has geohazard maps; it is a no-brainer for local government units to follow and implement the agency's recommendations like the no-build zones. If there are already houses and other structures in these no-build zones, the local governments must relocate the residents to a safer place.

The Saturday, Oct. 29 landslide in Sitio Garahe, Barangay Busay in Cebu City is enough to jolt the senses of local officials. Imagine if it had happened at night? There could have been lives lost.

Two days before the landslide, residents in Garahe noticed that the ground had moved amid the non-stop rains brought by Paeng. This prompted them to abandon their houses. Being cautious and having a sense of doom could save lives.

It was later learned in an inspection that the area in Garahe where the landslide happened was a waterway, but concrete structures were built on it.

Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama must approve the recommendation of the local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office to declare the area off-limits to human habitation. It is for the safety of the residents.

The city and the rest of the local governments, including the National Government, must take the geohazard maps with all seriousness because the Philippines is a country of storms and miseries.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] Recession may be unlikely but PH should be on guard](#)

We agree with Secretary Amenah Pangandaman of the Department of Budget and Management that a recession is unlikely to happen in the Philippines. Despite the so-called external headwinds, the country's economic fundamentals remain strong as it has been even before the pandemic. Still, the government, particularly the economic team, should take nothing for granted. There are still reforms needed to make the Philippines even stronger and resilient.

Referring to the possibility of a recession, Ms. Pangandaman told reporters last week, "I think we're far from it." She added: "We have our Medium-Term Fiscal Framework, our socioeconomic agenda, and a national budget that is anchored on, and funds our eight-point socioeconomic agenda."

The secretary also mentioned that the near-term objectives of the socioeconomic agenda aim to address inflation, socioeconomic scarring and low income, among others. "The overall goal is to reinvigorate job creation and reduce poverty by steering the economy back to its high-growth trajectory in the near term and sustaining the high yet inclusive and resilient growth of 6.5 [percent] to 8.0 percent up to 2028."

Typically, though, the outlook from outside is not as rosy as the government's view. Recently, the Asean+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, or AMRO, downgraded the Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) forecast from 6.5 percent to 6.3 percent. Asean, of course, is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a regional bloc of 10 countries that includes the Philippines. And the "plus 3" refers to China, South Korea and Japan.

The downgrade seems related to the bleak global outlook. Earlier, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported that the growth forecast was likely to slow down further, from 6 percent in 2021 to 3.2 percent this year and 2.7 percent in 2023. Also, a recession in the United States and Europe seems more probable. "The cost-of-living crisis, tightening financial conditions in most regions, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the lingering Covid-19 pandemic all weigh heavily on the outlook," the IMF explained.

Strong enough

Given the external volatilities, the relevant question is whether the Philippine economy can withstand the pressures from abroad? It seems to be, at least for now, but what about in 2023 and beyond?

Even if the Philippine GDP slows down next year, the usual symptoms of a recession are unlikely to materialize. For instance, unemployment will likely remain low, perhaps lower than the jobless rate when economic recovery was just starting, as the economy

continues to reopen. Plus, the increase in the labor participation rate seems encouraging, suggesting that more job opportunities are becoming available than last year.

Also, consumption is likely to remain robust despite the high inflation rate that is primarily caused by fuel prices. Programs to fight off climate change should help address that in the long run.

In the short run, consumer spending typically increases during the Christmas season. That is fueled by remittances from Filipinos working abroad and earnings from the outsourcing sector that is thriving from the peso depreciation. Private consumption accounts for about 70 percent of GDP.

Still, the Philippine economy has vulnerabilities that need attention. It should export more goods and services to reduce the trade gap. That not only requires more trade agreements, but also capacity building that enables Filipino firms to produce better goods and services.

In that regard, the government is helping micro, small and medium enterprises that account for 99.6 percent of registered firms in the country. There is also a road map to digitalize the economy, build more infrastructure and make the country more friendly to foreign investments. As Ms. Pangandaman said, "We will try to really push and open the economy."

Besides all that, the Philippines needs to address many lingering issues including red tape and corruption that add to the costs of doing business here. There is also a high prevalence of poverty, which became worse during the pandemic, and an education crisis. Both of those weigh down productivity.

In fairness to the government, there are good plans to address the issues mentioned here. The challenge will be to implement its plans swiftly and effectively.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Braving the storm](#)

By: Tony F. Katigbak

In the Philippines, there are many things we have to accept. We must accept that we are an archipelago, and that storms and typhoons will come through the country yearly, often leaving devastation in their wake. We have to accept this because they are a part of nature, and we can't change that. However, we don't have to accept that there is nothing we can do to be better prepared.

We already know that we're going to face storm season every year. The only thing that's changed is when we expect the storms to arrive. Thanks, in no small part, to climate change, the seasons have been changing. We usually expect the rainy season to start around June and last until August.

Storms in September used to happen occasionally, but anything after that was uncommon. Now though, the seasons seem to have moved. Storm season starts later, and rains sometimes last until December. Even the minimal cold season we usually get is shorter now. It used to be from mid-December through January. Now, we're lucky if we get two weeks of pleasant chill.

This change in seasons happened over the past couple of years. And it's becoming the new norm. So, knowing that, we also have to change our disaster preparedness plans. The Philippines has always been reactive regarding how we deal with disasters. We seem to work under the assumption that we'll always be able to fix things "after the fact."

This is a dangerous way of thinking, and many people suffer because of it. The recent tropical storm Paeng (international name: Nalgae) is the newest example of the dangers of reactive thinking. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council report, Paeng has claimed the lives of up to 98 Filipinos (as of this writing). Many of them were from the Bangsamoro region.

There are several still missing. Ironically, for a storm that ended up being as strong as it was, we didn't hear much about it beforehand. I have to hand it to our disaster preparedness teams – recently, we seem to be trying to refine our early warning systems. The more time people can prepare, the better their chances of weathering the storm.

In the past year, we have been given an advanced warning for storms that could be very dangerous, giving people more time to get to shelters or to batten down the hatches. And while that's a step in the right direction, more should be done to prepare for communities in dangerous areas that are prone to flooding and landslides.

It would be a good use of money and resources to invest in better infrastructure and response teams for storms, especially since storms are never a one-time deal in the country. Once we have better systems in place and utilize best practices, we will be able to respond better and mitigate the potential devastation of a super typhoon.

Unfortunately, we were not prepared for the storm over the weekend, and it wasn't all over the news like previous potential super typhoons. But from all the videos and stories coming in, Paeng was incredibly strong.

The storm impacted over 570,000 families and over one million Filipinos across 17 regions. Presently, we have over 80,000 families in evacuation centers and needing aid. The government has currently provided over P30 million in aid distributed through food packs, hygiene kits, and financial aid.

And while that's good, it's not going to be enough to help people who have lost everything get back on their feet. We must find a way to get through just providing help after the storm ravages a community. We need to start finding ways to help communities better prepare themselves. After all, if we create a sustainable support system in areas often hard hit by storms, they will be better prepared to face them when they come.

I continue to pray for our fellow citizens impacted by the storm and hope we get some reprieve from the rain as the country again gets back on its feet once again.

'Farmer security is key to food security'

By: Iris Gonzales

Manila, Philippines — One of the biggest and most worrisome problems the country is facing today is the lack of food security.

What is food security?

According to the United Nations, food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

At the recent Jaime V. Ongpin Memorial Lecture on Public Service in Business and Government, Raul Montemayor, the national manager of the Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives Inc. (FFFCI) and the private sector adviser to the Department of Agriculture, said there are four key aspects of food security: availability, affordability, quality and safety, and sustainability.

How does the Philippines fare as a country in terms of food security?

“Not very well, sad to say. According to the London-based Economist group, we ranked 73rd worldwide among 113 countries in 2020. Among ASEAN countries, we were third to the last, lower than Myanmar, and outranking only Cambodia and Laos,” Montemayor said.

What's the reason for this?

One, Montemayor said, is that the country's capacity to produce food for its growing population has been deteriorating over the years despite the Philippines' tropical climate and vast natural endowments.

Second is the war in Ukraine and third is the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, according to the UN, while progress had been made over the years to improve food security, the pandemic has reversed many of these gains, which were already uneven across countries and regions.

“According to estimates by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, COVID-19 has led to a sharp increase in undernourishment with between 720 million and 811 million people in the world facing hunger in 2020, 118 million more people in 2020 than in 2019,” it said.

The fourth reason is climate change.

Against this backdrop, the country's agricultural authorities need to find solutions fast to address the crisis.

Farmer security

For Montemayor, one way to achieve food security in the country is to help farmers rather than focusing solely on boosting output.

“Unfortunately, this production-oriented approach does not seem to be working. Why? Because it is directed toward the commodity and not the farmer who produces the commodity,” he said.

In 2021, the country's palay output reached a historical high of almost 20 million tons. But in the same year, rice farmers' income declined by an estimated P22 billion, or P4,500 per hectare, compared to 2017. This was due to the drop in farm gate prices mainly brought about by over-importation.

Many farmers probably ended up deeper in debt even as banks lent less than one percent of their total loanable funds to small farmers, opting to pay penalties instead of complying with the 10 percent minimum mandated by the Agri-Agra Law.

“The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that overall poverty, and most likely also rural poverty, increased in 2021 compared to 2018. So, despite the fact that we harvested more palay, our farmers ended up in a worse situation. In other words, maraming ani pero walang kita,” Montemayor said.

Improving post-harvest facilities

Beyond raising production, Montemayor said authorities should also take a close look at the amount of food lost due to the lack of drying, storage and other post-harvest facilities.

It is also important to upgrade distribution and logistics system so that the products from the farm reach consumers at the right place and time where and when they are needed, and are not left to rot in the fields due to the lack of dryers or interim storage facilities.

For food prices, Montemayor said: “The more we allow imports to displace local production, the less incentive for our own farmers to continue producing and becoming more efficient, and the more dependent we become on foreign suppliers for our basic food requirements.”

“This does not mean that we should ban imports and aspire for 100 percent self-sufficiency for all of our food. We should also find ways to lower the cost of production of farmers and improve their productivity so that they can supply food at lower cost. Having said that, we must be careful not to flood our markets with cheap imports just to keep food prices low. The more we allow imports to displace local production, the less incentive for our own farmers to continue producing and becoming more efficient, and

the more dependent we become on foreign suppliers for our basic food requirements,” he said.

Ballooning agricultural trade deficit

Montemayor, in his presentation, also lamented that when the Philippines acceded to the World Trade Organization in 1995, the country’s agricultural imports were basically equal to exports.

“Since then, and after entering many other free trade agreements, our agricultural trade deficit has ballooned to as much as \$9 billion a year. We have lost nearly a million jobs in agriculture during the same period. We now import not only rice, corn, fish and meats, but also mungo, peanuts, black pepper, sugar, and even salt,” he said.

Aging farmers

Another problem affecting food security in the country is aging farmers.

“Unfortunately, our farmers are an aging, if not a dying, breed. They do not see much hope in farming. Nor do their children, whose dreams are to land jobs in the cities or work abroad so that they will not have to farm like their parents. If they all leave their farms, where will they go? And where will we get the food we need?” Montemayor said.

Giving importance to farmers is therefore very important, he said, citing India’s example when it renamed its agriculture department to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quoted as saying that “rural and agricultural development can only be complete when the welfare of the farmer is also ensured.”

Modi could have added that his country’s social, political, economic, and ultimately national, security and progress could not be achieved for as long as millions of small farmers remained poor and insecure, Montemayor said.

At the same lecture, Rene Cerilla, legal officer and advocacy leader of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahan ng Magsasaka, said farmers are also finding it difficult to cope with the onslaught of climate change.

“Malaking issue talaga ang climate change. Yung mga bagyo, mas malakas na ang tama. (Climate change is really a big issue for us. Storms and typhoons are more intense now),” he said.

Montemayor said unlike manna from heaven, food security is not for free.

“We need to work for it and be willing and ready to pay the price so that food will always be available, affordable, safe and nutritious for everyone. A big part of that bill is taking

care of our farmers so that they can continue feeding us. Farmer security is the key to food security,” he said.

[IFC invests S\\$157 million in sustainability bonds for hospitality sector](#)

By: Louella Desiderio

Manila, Philippines — The private sector arm of the World Bank has invested in its first sustainability-linked bond in the hospitality sector issued by Singapore's CapitaLand Ascott Trust (CLAS) to help decarbonize serviced residences in the Philippines and Indonesia.

In a statement yesterday, CLAS said the International Finance Corp. (IFC) is the sole subscriber for the JPY16.5 billion (about S\$157.4 million) sustainability-linked bond being issued as part of the firm's S\$2 billion multi-currency debt issuance program.

The seven-year bond, which will mature in November 2029, has a fixed coupon rate of 1.05 percent per annum and is paid semi-annually in arrears.

Proceeds will be used to refinance CLAS' existing borrowings.

It will also be used to reduce the carbon output of CLAS' serviced residences in Southeast Asia such as Ascott Makati and Somerset Millennium Makati in the Philippines, and Ascott Jakarta in Indonesia.

These properties are expected to reduce electricity consumption by 40.5 percent by the end of 2028.

Within that same period, the projects must also obtain IFC's Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies certification, which will help identify cost-effective strategies to reduce water and energy consumption, while lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Under its 2030 Sustainability Master Plan, CapitaLand is working on accelerating the reduction of its carbon footprint, improving water conservation and resilience, and promoting a circular economy.

"We place sustainability at the core of everything we do. Dovetailing our financing efforts with our environmental, social and governance efforts further affirms our commitment towards responsible growth," Serena Teo, chief executive officer of CapitaLand Ascott Trust Management Ltd. and CapitaLand Ascott Business Trust Management Pte. Ltd. (the managers of CLAS) said.

CLAS is partnering with stakeholders in the financing and investment community to fight climate change.

To date, CLAS has raised about S\$450 million through sustainable financing.

"Currently, 35 percent of CLAS' portfolio is green-certified and we remain on track to green 50 percent of our portfolio by 2025 and our entire portfolio by 2030," Teo said.

For her part, IFC regional director for East Asia and the Pacific Kim-See Lim said the development institution's investment will help CLAS in its efforts to address the climate crisis in the region.

"Our investment will support the decarbonization of a portfolio of energy-intensive buildings, while also ensuring that the energy reduction is specifically aligned with Net Zero targets," she said.

As of end-June this year, CLAS' international portfolio covers 95 properties, with more than 17,000 units in 44 cities across 15 countries in Asia Pacific, Europe and the US.

[PAL taps climate scientist to lead decarbonization](#)

By: Elijah Felice Rosales

Manila, Philippines — Flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) has hired a scientist to outline the airline's roadmap on decarbonization as it sets out to become a net zero airline by 2050 in compliance with global targets.

According to PAL president and chief operating officer Stanley Ng, the flag carrier has acquired the services of climate scientist Glenn Banaguas to guide the company in crafting its decarbonization plan.

PAL seeks to conduct a comprehensive assessment of its overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and transition toward full decarbonization.

Ng said PAL seeks to develop a roadmap for its own net zero emission program through policy recommendations provided by Banaguas. Likewise, the airline wants to update its GHG emission projections until 2050 using internationally accepted models.

With these, PAL hopes to become net zero by 2050 in line with international treaties on climate action, including the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact. Ng also called on aviation players to work on reducing their carbon wastes to mitigate the industry's GHG emissions.

"Our net zero initiative comes at a crucial time for the international aviation industry seeking to further lessen environmental impact in response to the global scientific community's clarion call against irreversible climate change," Ng said.

"Being the country's flag carrier and Asia's first airline, PAL recognizes that its essential role in bridging our country and the rest of the world goes hand in hand with the need for climate action across international borders," he said.

For one, PAL has started shifting to the use of renewable energy as a power supply for some of its offices, studying as well the potential of sustainable aviation fuel in electrifying its fleet.

The airline also improves its operational efficiency by carrying out fuel saving measures like the single engine taxi in, where an aircraft uses only half of its installed number engines for most of its taxi duration to cut fuel consumption. Further, PAL initiates reduced acceleration altitude in its flights wherein the pilot speeds up an aircraft at a lower altitude to save on fuel.

Based on records, the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization said that airlines account for two percent of GHG emissions worldwide: 1.3 percent for international, 0.7 percent for domestic. The UN body projects aviation emissions to increase by up to four times by 2050 if industry players choose to release the same volume of carbon wastes.

Banaguas founded and spearheads the Environmental and Climate Change Research Institute, a group which studies renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and circular economy.

In May Banaguas won the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction, besting more than 200 nominations across the world.

Project NOAH or Noah's ark

By: Cito Beltran

In the face of real climate change, Filipino leaders, from the national down to local executives, now have to make a choice: go with Project NOAH and its menu of programs for disaster mitigation and avoidance or live and let live on different versions of Noah's ark.

While doing some research on typhoons that have struck the Philippines, I listed all the major or destructive typhoons that hit the country. For those of you who were around on Nov. 14, 1970 to be exact, I'm certain that you will never forget the rainmaker called Typhoon Yoling that ripped through the Greater Manila area. We were all unprepared for the never before experienced "super typhoon" which dumped so much rain that many kilometers of the only existing "National Highway" went underwater and only amphibious vehicles and US Army 6x6 surplus trucks were usable going north.

Since then the Philippines has been victimized by numerous typhoons and, beginning from 2009, things have gone progressively worse as typhoons went from average to super storms. In 2009, Typhoon Ondoy sunk the eastern part of Metro Manila where flood waters reached up to the second floor of many homes, washed away hundreds of cars and destroyed business establishments. In 2011 Typhoon Sendong arrived just before the Christmas holidays hitting Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, etc. It was mud everywhere, pitch black at night and for weeks people were still trying to find loved ones after the great mudslide. In December 2012 Typhoon Pablo struck with super typhoon strength, with most of the damage caused by strong winds. On Nov. 8, 2013 the unforgettable mother of typhoons Yolanda hit the Visayas and killed thousands upon thousands of Filipinos by way of a storm surge that many now call a tsunami.

On July 14, 2014 Typhoon Glenda registered as only one of the three super typhoons on record in the South China Sea and hit the eastern seaboard of the Philippines and crossed over all the way through the Calabarzon region and Palawan. Then came Lando in 2015, followed by Ramil in 2017, Ompong in 2018, Rolly in 2020 which was so destructive they retired the name from the roster of typhoons. Last year, 2021, at the height of COVID we experienced Typhoon Odette, and just last weekend we all got soaked, flooded and muddied or buried by Typhoon Paeng! The typhoons I listed here are only those that left high death tolls or physical destruction.

Typhoons are a part of life in the tropics but unlike 40 years ago, today's typhoons feel like they come out of the Marvel Galaxy. Oftentimes their impact is incomprehensible. But the thing is, if we only learned to prioritize science and technology over political fiction and conflict, we could spare ourselves so much misery.

Yesterday, I got to interview Dr. Mahar Lagmay, executive director of Project Noah and the UP Resilience Institute to find out if they have anything that could help President Bongbong Marcos in addressing the challenge brought about by apparent climate change and the super disasters that come with them. Yes, they do, and it has long been available, except politics sidelined the project's value and usefulness.

As the story goes, after the massive destruction caused by Typhoon Sendong in 2011, president Noynoy Aquino called for the government and scientists to come up with a disaster prevention and mitigation system in the Philippines. Various departments and agencies and members of the Philippine scientific community got together and formed a program that not only studied weather disturbances but also studied locations, geography, geology, population, environment, etc. By combining different inputs, the program could simulate different scenarios and impacts. By 2012, the program was launched and put through its initial phases and presumably would undergo further improvements over time and as more events and data are recorded.

Aside from having weather related functions, the program was capable of evaluating certain locations, its stability in the face of increasing human traffic, development and environmental impact, threats or hazards. More importantly, the program can evaluate scenarios based on different threat levels or data below or greater than observed or recorded historical information. This way, decision makers don't rely merely on the past, because climate change has made much of it obsolete if not irrelevant.

I recall that just before COVID came about, one of the biggest concerns was the geological instability of mountainous areas in the Cordilleras. It gained national attention when miners seeking shelter were buried alive after heavy rains and from then on, public attention was drawn to how unstable the highland areas up north were due to mining, vegetable farming and residential growth. Even the governor of a province below the Cordillera area complained that the flooding in their province was not locally generated but due to the loss of forest cover, farming and logging in provinces above them. Since then we have all heard about areas declared as Red Zones or highly unstable and subject to landslides.

After so many people were buried in the landslide or mudslide in Maguindanao, no less than President Bongbong Marcos wants answers about climate change, mudslides, etc., and rightly so because all the flooding and mudslides won't be solved or managed in a few years but by using the Program Noah for starters, PBBM can at least separate science from fiction, politics from solutions.

According to Dr. Lagmay, an updated version could be developed in six months if all the

ingredients are on the table, as well as funding. I hope PBBM also looks into the impact of new roads and highways that end up becoming unforeseen canals for flood waters due to poor planning and research as well as establishment of safer townships. The President can now be the unifying force that will call together the best and brightest minds in the Philippines to address disaster prevention and management.

TIME TURK

[Senior Filipino journalist for innovation in news dissemination on climate change](#)

Lilybet G. Ison, Philippines, News Agency's climate news director, says climate change connected to food sustainability

ISTANBUL - Backing the practice of "smart agriculture" in a country like the Philippines, a senior journalist from the Southeast Asian nation on Thursday vouched for innovation in news dissemination on the issue of environment and climate change.

"We should upgrade our knowledge, especially on social media," said Lilybet G. Ison, director of Climate News of the Philippines News Agency (PNA).

Ison told Anadolu Agency on the sidelines of the Environment Forum in Istanbul, which was hosted by Türkiye's global news wire agency, that governments and media organizations should "reach out to the youth in protecting our environment because they are the ones who will benefit from it."

"In producing news," she said, "we should tell the youth how to be environment protectors ... do not litter, do not use plastics."

On possible collaboration and cooperation with the Turkish news agency on "reshaping narrative" on climate, the PNA editor said: "Yes, especially with the Anadolu Agency, we (already) have an agreement on the exchange of news."

"So, through that, we can reach out to more people; we can report the devastation of how climate change affects our country, but more so on how to mitigate it or how to protect it or how to prevent it."

"It's more on prevention. I think that's more important than reporting the devastation," she asserted.

Ison said the PNA has increased its use of social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

"We also have hourly news now; earlier, we didn't have the video, hourly news," she said, adding that the PNA is now releasing regular-hourly bulletins.

'Rice a political issue'

Noting that the Southeast Asian nation is an agricultural country, the senior editor said: "Geographically, we (Philippines) are the third-worst country in terms of climate change affected area."

“It affects our food sustainability,” she said, recalling how recent climate change impacts had resulted in a sugar shortage.

“It's a very important issue and it has affected our businesses, such as the soft drinks and other confectionaries and our staple food, which is to rice or grain,” Ison added.

Rice, according to the journalist, is a "political issue" in the Philippines.

If there is a rice shortage, "they will blame the government," she said, adding: “So, rice is a very important issue after the climate change.”

On how to mitigate the climate change impact, Ison said it is connected to food sustainability.

“(The Philippines) Department of Agriculture has implemented a smart agriculture project, such as the development of crop variety, which is resilient to climate change,” she said, referring to a rice variety produced as part of such a project by the Rice Research Institute.

It is flood-resistant, but it has reduced productivity, she added.

The director said the Philippines researchers are working on a project to “increase” production of the new rice variety.

Filipino people have begun to practice “urban agriculture” due to the shortage of spaces, planting vegetables along the pathways, she added.

Environment Forum

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addressed the opening of the forum via video message.

Anadolu Agency's Deputy Director General and Editor-in-Chief Yusuf Ozhan moderated the session, Media Responsibility on Climate Change.

Besides Ison, the panel was also attended by General Director of Italy-based ANSA Stefano De Alessandri, Director-General of Somali National News Agency Ismail Mukhtar Omar, and CEO of Zimbabwe-based agency New Ziana Rangarirai Shoko.

Representatives of many local and foreign NGOs and international organizations, politicians, academics, and journalists participated in the event, which featured sessions on Clean Energy for Sustainable Development, The Media's Approach to Natural Disasters, and Climate Crisis and Responsibility Sharing, as well as issues such as climate change, energy, the media's view of climate change and environmental education.

Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay also spoke at the event.

The day-long event aimed to address issues such as the need to develop a new media language on environmental and climate issues, international news agencies raising global awareness, the duties of traditional and new media outlets, and the pursuit of environmental awareness in new news areas.

“We aim to redefine the relationship between media and environment by creating a medium for environmental experts to voice their opinions and discuss solutions,” according to the forum's website.

Among the forum's international participants were Portugal's former Minister of Europe Bruno Macaes, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Ovais Sarmad, global climate and environment news editor at Associated Press (AP) Peter Prengaman, and climate director of Spain's EFE Agency Arturo Larena.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[Adaptation and mitigation will shield economy from climate change risks](#)

A World Bank economist has signaled the urgency of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in order to shield the Philippine economy from slower growth that could bring about higher economic and human costs to the needy and marginalized sectors.

Souleymane Coulibaly, World Bank lead economist, said climate shocks would erode natural and physical capital, as well as reduce labor productivity, thereby adversely affecting the country's economic growth. He cautioned, too, that the government's financial capability would be strained, and that domestic and external competitiveness could be impaired.

World Bank estimates on the economic costs of climate change were derived from typhoon information. As a climate-vulnerable country, the Philippines bears the brunt of an average of 20 typhoons a year, with losses and damages in the past decade amounting to a 0.5 percent loss in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert E. A. Borje of the Climate Change Commission — a body chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. — has pointed out the need for climate equity and climate justice to climate vulnerable countries. According to Germanwatch, world-recognized publisher of the Global Climate Risk Index, the Philippines is ranked fourth most vulnerable country to climate change.

This explains the country's preeminent position as an authoritative and influential voice among Climate Vulnerable Countries (CVC). During COP 21, the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change, the Philippines headed this group. Thus, then President Benigno S. Aquino III chaired a special forum at which the CVCs weighed in on their proposals that facilitated the crafting of the historic Paris Agreement of 2015. After decades of stalemate, the countries of the world finally agreed to limit the emission of greenhouse gases in order to mitigate global warming and reduce the frequency and strength of typhoons and floods in the CVCs.

Climate shocks would drag down the government's poverty reduction effort, whose metrics mainly depend on economic growth and income distribution, according to the World Bank. The average output losses of the Philippines due to climate change will be at 3.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030 and could further rise to 5.7 percent by 2040.

Under the much worse scenario, the World Bank estimated that the costs of climate shocks could amount to 7.6 percent by 2030 and 13.6 percent by 2040. “As illustrated by this figure, you can see the poor would suffer the most. The poorer the households, the more negatively the consumption is estimated to be affected by climate change,” Mr. Coulibaly said.

While the cost of climate adaptation could be substantial, this is easily outweighed by the more significant economic benefits. To illustrate, the cost of making vulnerable new infrastructure in the Philippines climate resilience is estimated to be about 0.6 percent of GDP annually, at level with the cost of improving climate resilience in the agricultural sector.

The clarion call to the citizenry from the Climate Change Commission should be heeded: “Today is an opportunity to get things right: to secure climate equity and justice for all.”

CCC needs to act amid PH ranking as ‘most-disaster prone’–Villafuerte

By: Ellson Quismoro

The Philippines’ climate action agenda is more important than ever following the country’s ranking as the most disaster-prone in the world because of its vulnerability to natural calamities and disasters.

Thus, said Camarines Sur 2nd district Rep. LRay Villafuerte in reaction to the Philippines’ unsavory no.1 ranking in a “world risk report”.

“I believe it is now up to the CCC to spell out for our people, especially to those living in low-lying or coastal villages that are of highest risk to human-induced climate change, what mitigation and adaptation steps it intends to carry out from hereon to prepare for and respond to perilous situations related to planet heating, even as the government aims to increase our domestic economic output,” he said.

The CCC stands for the Climate Change Commission, attached to the Office of the President (OP).

“We welcome President Marcos’s signing avowed commitment to give top priority to mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change in our country that is among the developing economies most vulnerable to the backlash from global warming,” added Villafuerte, who is the president of the National Unity Party (NUP).

The Germany-based Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict at Ruhr University Bochum (IFHV) has bared that the Philippines—in their World Risk Report 2022—rose in rank from no.3 in 2018 to the no.1 spot, with a risk index score of 46.82.

India was no.2 with an index score of 42.31; followed by Indonesia, 41.46; Colombia, 38.37; and Mexico, 37.55.

The same report also listed the Philippines as among the top 10 countries with the highest exposure to disasters, landing at no.4 with 39.99 exposure score. It only trailed China, Japan, and Mexico in that category.

“We want to know if the current CCC leadership is moving ahead or is tweaking the lofty—and brave—goal of the previous administration to reduce the country’s carbon emissions by 75 percent by 2030 despite the continued failure of wealthy nations to deliver on their pledge way back in 2009 to provide a combined \$100 billion in annual financial aid by 2020 to countries like the Philippines that are the most vulnerable to climate change,” the Bicol solon said.

Villafuerte, who is majority leader of the Commission on Appointments (CA) in the House of Representatives, also wants the CCC to explain to the public how the government plans to accelerate the country’s transition from coal to clean energy.

This transition plan involves upgrading the national power mix by weaning away the country from its traditional dependence on fossil fuel in favor of “green” or clean sources of renewable energy (RE).

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH holds consultation meetings ahead of UN climate change conference in Egypt](#)

By: Kristina Maralit

Weeks before the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP27) to be held in Egypt, the Climate Change Commission PH (CCC), in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), recently conducted the Pre-COP27 Consultation Meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Quezon City.

Held last October 25, the gathering was led by DENR Secretary and Official Representative of the President in the CCC, Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, CCC Vice Chair and Executive Director Robert EA. Borje, CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera, DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Mr. Albert Magalang.

The event was likewise attended by 23 CSOs working on climate change-related advocacies and initiatives as pushed by the Marcos administration.

Prior to this, the Philippines was co-facilitator in the lead discussion on global agenda for climate finance, where Borje helped lay down ideas and strategies were laid down for the implementation of the agenda on climate finance before Angola, Argentina, Chad, Denmark, Germany, Ghana, Japan, the Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the United States of America and Zambia, as well as the European Union Commission.

These include the fulfillment of the \$100 billion financial commitment by developed countries under the Paris Agreement, and the need to set a higher climate finance target through the New Collective Quantified Goal of the Glasgow Climate Pact – all expected to "expeditiously mobilize climate finance".

COP27 will be held from Nov. 6 to 18, 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

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