



NEWS ROUNDUP

03 November 2022 [08:20 am]

- Climate change and rising seas threaten Egypt's breadbasket
- Pagbaha, posibleng dumalas dahil sa climate change: environmental group
- Philippines Seeks Investment Boost From Europe, Trade Chief Says
- International Finance Corp. invests in green bonds of CapitaLand Ascott Trust
- House climate change committee to tap public, private sector experts for bills on green economy
- UNDP zeroes in on human development to-do's for PHL
- Philippines 10th among 18 Asian countries in terms of vulnerability and preparedness to climate change — Oxfam
- Dingdong Dantes educates followers on climate change
- Mayor Binay recognized as one of Asia's Most Influential personalities in 2022
- Davao envi groups hope for more inclusive discussion on climate crisis during COP27 in Egypt
- Groups urge Marcos to do more than plant trees
- [Opinion] The logic of organic
- DA: Cooperate for food security
- Global cooperation crucial to PH devt – Go
- PAL set to attain Net Zero Emissions by 2050
- Pitmasters Foundation continues tree planting spree
- DOE prepares for 2nd green energy auction
- Groups push mangrove reforestation as coastal defense
- Where's the money?

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- [Opinion] Devastating

ABC NEWS

[Climate change and rising seas threaten Egypt's breadbasket](#)

By: Samy Magdy

Rosetta, Egypt -- Sayed Abuel-Ezz has seen his crops wither from seawater before. As the Nile Delta farmer walks among his mango trees on his land not far from the Mediterranean Sea, he worries it will happen again despite spending the equivalent of tens of thousands of dollars to prevent it.

ABS CBN

[Pagbaha, posibleng dumalas dahil sa climate change: environmental group](#)

Maynila — Posibleng dumalas ang pagkakaroon ng matitinding baha sa Pilipinas dahil sa climate change, babala ng environmental group na World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines ngayong Miyerkoles.

BLOOMBERG

[Philippines Seeks Investment Boost From Europe, Trade Chief Says](#)

By: Lyubov Pronina

The Philippines is identifying companies, including those in Europe, as the nation seeks investment in export-oriented industries and renewable energy, according to Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[International Finance Corp. invests in green bonds of CapitaLand Ascott Trust](#)

By: Cai Ordinario

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has invested in a sustainability-linked bond in the hospitality sector globally for CapitaLand Ascott Trust (CLAS).

BUSINESS WORLD

[House climate change committee to tap public, private sector experts for bills on green economy](#)

By: Kyanna Angela Bulan

The HOUSE Committee on Climate Change will tap public and private sector experts to help enhance proposed laws aimed at creating a more green Philippine economy and protect sectors most vulnerable to climate change.

[UNDP zeroes in on human development to-do's for PHL](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta Jocson

The Philippines should focus on critical areas of human development such as climate-resilient infrastructure and education to help boost its recovery from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) official said.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Philippines 10th among 18 Asian countries in terms of vulnerability and preparedness to climate change — Oxfam](#)

By: Lou Albano

Following Severe Tropical Storm Paeng that left 121 people reported dead and 33 missing, Oxfam released its "Climate Finance in Asia" report, which said that of 18 Asian countries studied, the Philippines ranked 10th in terms of vulnerability and preparedness to climate change.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Dingdong Dantes educates followers on climate change](#)

By: Stephanie Bernardino

Dingdong Dantes recently called for more vigilance and action relating to climate change. On Twitter, he shared Renee Karunungan Edwards' posts discussing the impacts of climate change. Dingdong said Renee shared many "important insights."

[Mayor Binay recognized as one of Asia's Most Influential personalities in 2022](#)

By: Patrick Garcia

Makati City Mayor Abby Binay was again recognized as one of Asia's most influential personalities in 2022 by media entity Tatler for her commendable public service and initiatives at further improving the country's business hub and the lives of its residents.

MINDA NEWS

[Davao envi groups hope for more inclusive discussion on climate crisis during COP27 in Egypt](#)

By: Antonio Colina IV

Davao City (MindaNews / 2 Nov) – Environmental groups in Davao City hope that the gathering of world leaders in the upcoming 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (dubbed as COP27) in Egypt will have "more inclusive" discussions on the climate crisis, including a well-defined plan for the phaseout of coal-fired power plants.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Groups urge Marcos to do more than plant trees](#)

By: Dempsey Reyes and Mariejo S. Ramos

Planting trees on denuded mountains is a good move that can help prevent deadly landslides and flash floods, but President Marcos should do more to stop large-scale

mining, illegal logging, quarrying and “destructive” projects that kill forests and gouge the land, progressive groups said on Wednesday.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[\[Opinion\] The logic of organic](#)

By: Atty. Gilberto Lauengco, J.D.

Abandon Normal Instruments – there are times when we must change the way we do things when they do not help us achieve our goals. If these supposed tried and tested methods harm us as well , this change must be done immediately. In life we must sometimes discover the recipes we use and change them to produce better results.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DA: Cooperate for food security](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) has cited the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the various issues related to attaining food security.

[Global cooperation crucial to PH devt – Go](#)

By: Javier Joe Ismael

Sen. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go on Wednesday called for strengthening local and global cooperation to assist in the country's development, especially amid the many crises facing the Philippines and the world.

[PAL set to attain Net Zero Emissions by 2050](#)

Philippine Airlines (PAL) is poised to attain net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in support of international agreements for climate action, including the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact.

[Pitmasters Foundation continues tree planting spree](#)

Pitmasters Foundation continues its mangrove and tree planting activities last October 21 and October 14 in Albay as part of its #PitmasterGoesGreen initiatives which aim to forward climate change mitigation efforts.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DOE prepares for 2nd green energy auction](#)

By: Richmond Mercurio

Manila, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing for the conduct of a second green energy auction by June next year following the success of the first one this year.

[Groups push mangrove reforestation as coastal defense](#)

By: Danessa Rivera and Elizabeth Marcelo

Manila, Philippines — Several groups are pushing for mangrove reforestation for coastal defense while urging government to stop land-use conversion, destructive mining and infrastructure projects to address flooding, especially during typhoons.

[Where's the money?](#)

By: Rey Gamboa

The more riveting drama to watch with COP27 just days before it actually opens involves who will go and who will not. Celebrated Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg will not, same with King Charles II upon advice of former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss. Another former UK prime minister, Boris Johnson will attend, triggered supposedly a rethink by current UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak who earlier said he was not attending.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[\[Opinion\] Devastating](#)

By: Alex Magno

If our archipelago was a ship, it would have sunk long ago. It has long surpassed its carrying capacity.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABC NEWS

Climate change and rising seas threaten Egypt's breadbasket

By: Samy Magdy

Rosetta, Egypt -- Sayed Abuel-Ezz has seen his crops wither from seawater before. As the Nile Delta farmer walks among his mango trees on his land not far from the Mediterranean Sea, he worries it will happen again despite spending the equivalent of tens of thousands of dollars to prevent it.

"If it gets higher, the trees will die," Abuel-Ezz said, looking towards the sea.

Here, the impact of climate change has long been obvious to farmers, in the creeping salt that eats away roots and cakes their fields, turning them barren. They pay a fortune to bring in truckloads of earth to try to raise their crops above the salt pushed into the soil by rising sea levels. But they say it is getting worse.

Bus drivers can see the changes too, how the sea more and more easily spills over onto the land. Now every winter, parts of the vital international highway running the length of Egypt's coast are flooded, say drivers on the route.

Situated on Egypt's northern coast on the Mediterranean, the Nile River Delta is one of the world's three most vulnerable hot-spots to climate change impacts, including rising sea levels, according to a 2007 report by the United Nations-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

As Egypt hosts the U.N.'s global climate summit COP27 this month, the country's leaders have said the predicament of the Delta, known for millennia for its fertile soil, is foremost among their concerns. Residents are hoping for help to deal with the consequences of a warming planet.

The Delta covers roughly 240 square kilometers (93 square miles), starting just north of the capital of Cairo where the Nile River fans out. The rivers' branches created the rich, fertile land by depositing silt as they made their way to the sea. Since ancient times, the area has been the food basket of empires.

It's heavily populated, home to some 40% of Egypt's 104 million people and accounts for half of the country's economy, according to the U.N. food agency. Farms and fisheries along the two Nile branches, Rosetta in the west and Damietta in the east, help feed the country and provide products for export.

All of that is increasingly threatened by climate change and rising seas. A quarter of the Delta sits at or below sea level. An increase between 0.5 and 1 meter (1.6 to 3.2 feet) — which could happen by 2100 in one of the U.N.-backed panel's worst case scenarios — will shift the coastline inward by several kilometers, submerging large areas and rendering more barren with salt. That's according to a recent report by an international

group of scientists overseen by the Cyprus Institute's Climate and Atmosphere Research Center and the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry.

"This would imply severe challenges for coastal infrastructure and agriculture, and can lead to the salinization of coastal aquifers, including the densely populated and cultivated Nile Delta," said George Zittis, who co-authored the report.

The scenario judged to be more likely by the panel is that the sea will rise by 0.3-0.6 meters by 2100. That will still render thousands of acres unfit for farming or habitation.

The Associated Press spoke with more than three dozen farmers, fishermen and other residents in several villages and cities along the Mediterranean coast, the breadth of the Delta.

Spanning several generations, they said they have sensed climate change's effects for years, particularly in rising sea levels. They have seen greater shore erosion and groundwater contaminated by salt. The saltwater intrudes as pressure grows from rising sea water, and the counter-pressure from fresh water has lessened.

Saltwater intrusion is the most challenging threat to the Delta, said Mohamed Abdel Monem, a senior adviser on land and climate change with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

"This means less productivity and in many cases crops' death and therefore food insecurity," he said.

Hamdy Salah, a 26-year-old farmer outside the town of Rosetta in the western Delta, says planting practices have changed drastically. They once grew a variety: tomatoes, eggplants, pumpkins, and other vegetables. Now they grow mostly mango and citrus, which are less vulnerable to salt.

"We tried other crops like apple, but saltwater also killed its roots," he said.

Abuel-Ezz's family have farmed in Rosetta for generations, and he and his two brothers cultivate two farms of mango and citrus, five acres each.

A decade ago, they elevated their farmlands, one field by 1 meter (3.3 feet) and the second by 2 meters (6.6 feet), to combat rising saline water in the body of their farms. It cost them around 2 million pounds (\$101,700) by today's prices, said Sayed's brother, Saber Abuel-Ezz.

The elevation, along with a government-built runoff system meant to reduce salt in the soil, bought them some time.

"It was costly but there was no alternative," said Sayed, a 36-year-old father of two.

Besides bringing in tons of earth, many cultivate plants in raised beds and use whatever natural or chemical fertilizers they can afford to counteract the saline.

Without these measures, the land quickly turns desolate. On the other side of the river from Rosetta town, sheets of dried salt cover former farmland outside the town of Mutubas.

On one September afternoon, a half-dozen farmers sat near a machine pumping water from an irrigation canal onto raised beds in a mango farm in Mutubas. The trees have just started to blossom, next year could be their first harvest.

Ouf el-Zoughby, one of the farmers, said this is his third time trying to grow mangos. Past attempts have been thwarted by salt.

“You see the tree dying before your eyes,” the 47-year-old farmer said, remembering how he had to pull the husks out one-by-one. His fields are within 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) of the Mediterranean.

This time, he’s hoping the newly elevated farmlands and a government-built runoff system will help them survive, in addition to expensive chemical fertilizers. He’s not sure what he will do if the crop fails again. He worries that without more government help, thousands could desert their farms.

The area has always been exposed to the nearby sea, but farmers say salinity was kept in check by supplies of fresh water and silt from the Nile. Even after the construction of the Aswan High Dam in over 50 years ago ended seasonal flooding, fresh water still reached the fields through canals. But even that has lessened, as the government has rationed agricultural water use, to account for the country’s growing population. There’s no longer enough to wash away the salt.

Further down the coast on the eastern side of the Delta, concrete barriers have been put down just outside the city of Port Said, aiming to keep the rising waves back.

Abdel-Wahab Ramadan, a 61-year-old retired engineer, remembers spending summer vacations on white sand beaches here 30 years ago. Now, his grandchildren play next to the massive wave breakers in the muddy shallows.

“We are aware that this is necessary, but there are protection methods better than this ugly one,” he said.

They are still just a half measure. They were not enough to stop waves from flooding beach-side restaurants and cafes in the town of Ras el-Bar in recent winters. Many now close during the winter months.

“Last year, we spent a week to repair the place, but unfortunately water flooded it again,” said Abd Allah Gareib, who manages a café by the beach. It sustained water

damage the past two years. This year, the sea already crossed the first two lines of wave breakers in October.

The barriers and runoff systems are part of government efforts to protect the Delta from climate change's effects.

Egypt's former Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Mohamed Abdel-Atty, said in January the government had installed concrete barriers on 120 kilometers (74 miles) along the Mediterranean coast, meant to shelter 17 million people. That is equivalent to about half the coastline of the Delta and the city of Alexandria. Egypt's entire Mediterranean coast stretches 990 kilometers (615 miles). Abdel-Atty said they were also working to build a warning system to alert any climatic changes like rises in sea levels.

At the same time, authorities are trying to put a stop to high-polluting practices, like brick-making and an old farming custom, the burning of rice straw, which shrouds the Delta's skies with smoke every year after the harvest.

But there's understanding from Egyptians that this is a small step in tackling a global problem.

"Though Egypt contributes 0.6% of the global carbon dioxide emissions, it is one of the most vulnerable (countries) to the impacts of climate change, and the agriculture sector and food production are the most affected," said Abdel Monem, the FAO's expert.

ABS CBN

Pagbaha, posibleng dumalas dahil sa climate change: environmental group

Maynila — Posibleng dumalas ang pagkakaroon ng matitinding baha sa Pilipinas dahil sa climate change, babala ng environmental group na World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines ngayong Miyerkoles.

Sa panayam sa TeleRadyo, sinabi ni WWF climate change and energy program head Atty. Angela Consuelo Ibay na ang mga extreme weather event gaya ng bagyo at pagbaha ay dulot ng pagbabago ng klima.

“Pinag-aaralan nga ng mga siyentista at base sa mga latest po na mga reports nila, eh talagang yung dahilan ng pagbabago ng klima ay hindi lang dahil sa natural na pagbago ng mundo ‘no...pero ngayon ang nangyayari kaya siya nababago eh dahil nga umiinit na ang ating planeta,” aniya.

“Ang karagatan natin umiinit na rin. So yung pag-init ng ating mga karagatan, 'pag dumadaan po diyan yung bagyo, nagiging kumbaga pagkain siya para lalong lumakas yung bagyo.”

Dagdag pa ni Ibay, “New normal na ‘to, itong pagbabago ng klima at unfortunately, it might get even worse kung hindi natin mababawasan po yung pag-init ng mundo natin.”

Ani Ibay, kailangang maipatupad nang maayos ng pamahalaan ang mga batas na naglalayong proteksyunan ang kalikasan.

Makakatulong naman ang publiko sa pamamagitan ng pagtitipid ng kuryente at wastong pagtatapon ng basura, aniya.

“Yung pagtitipid ng kuryente, nakakatulong yan kasi ang ating kuryente ngayon e kadalasan nanggagaling yan sa pagbu-burn po ng fossil fuel tulad ng oil, coal and gas. Ang pag-burn niyan o pagsunog po ng fossil fuel nakakadulot po yan ng pag-init, dagdag na init sa ating kalikasan,” paliwanag niya.

“Tapos ang second eh yung usual natin na solid waste, wag tayong magtapon kung saan-saan , mag-segregate po tayo,” dagdag ni Ibay. “In fact nga yung plastic pollution eh malaki po yan na problem ana hinaharap ng ating bansa, na kayang-kaya naman sana ng ating mga ibang bahay na i-segregate nang maayos o kaya magbawas po tayo ng ating mga basura.”

Nitong nakaraang weekend, nakaranas ng pagbaha ang maraming bahagi ng bansa dahil sa bagyong Paeng. Hindi bababa sa 121 ang namatay dahil sa naturang kalamidad, ayon sa opisyal na tala.

BLOOMBERG

[Philippines Seeks Investment Boost From Europe, Trade Chief Says](#)

By: Lyubov Pronina

The Philippines is identifying companies, including those in Europe, as the nation seeks investment in export-oriented industries and renewable energy, according to Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual.

“We just had the framework done now and we are identifying some specific companies to target,” Pascual said in an interview Oct. 28 in Brussels, where he attended the EU Sustainable Investment Summit.

“It’s always best to deal with old friends, old investors,” he said, adding that the government is also eyeing companies already in the Philippines such as Siemens AG and Dyson Ltd for potential expansion.

Foreign investment is key to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s goal of creating more jobs and bringing a stubbornly high poverty rate down to single digits. A recent law that eased what was among the world’s most-restrictive foreign ownership laws is seen to help draw in funds to grow the economy.

The trade department has tagged growth areas such as electric vehicles, outsourcing and health care, Pascual said. It is also looking for investors in solar and wind energy, he said.

In the coming months, the Philippines will tap foreign investors for a 1,300-megawatt solar project valued at \$1.2 billion, Pascual said. The government is also planning to build wind mills in coastal areas, he said.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[International Finance Corp. invests in green bonds of CapitaLand Ascott Trust](#)

By: Cai Ordinario

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has invested in a sustainability-linked bond in the hospitality sector globally for CapitaLand Ascott Trust (CLAS).

IFC is the sole subscriber for the JPY16.5 billion or about S\$157.4 million sustainability-linked bond. The seven-year bond will mature in November 2029.

The sustainability-linked bond is being issued as part of CLAS' S\$2-billion Multicurrency Debt Issuance Program with a fixed coupon rate of 1.05 percent per annum and is paid semi-annually in arrears.

"We are delighted to support CapitaLand Ascott Trust, Asia-Pacific's largest lodging trust, in its efforts to help address the climate crisis in the region through IFC's first sustainability-linked bond in the hospitality sector," Kim-See Lim, IFC's Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific, said.

"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," Lim added.

IFC said the proceeds from the bond will be used to refinance CLAS' existing borrowings and to further decarbonize three of CLAS' serviced residences in Southeast Asia, namely Ascott Jakarta in Indonesia as well as Ascott Makati and Somerset Millennium Makati in the Philippines.

The three serviced residences are expected to achieve a 40.5-percent reduction in electricity consumption by December 31, 2028. The projects must also obtain IFC's Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) certification within the same timeframe.

IFC said the electricity consumption reduction target is aligned with the targets set out under the CapitaLand 2030 Sustainability Master Plan.

The Master Plan outlines the Group's efforts to accelerate its transition to a low-carbon business, improve water conservation and resilience, and to enable a circular economy.

"To date, CLAS has raised about S\$450 million through sustainable financing. CLAS continues to collaborate with like-minded stakeholders in the financing and investment community to fight climate change through our collective efforts," CapitaLand Ascott Trust Management Limited and CapitaLand Ascott Business Trust Management Pte. Ltd. (the Managers of CLAS) CEO Serena Teo said.

“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 added.

IFC said CLAS issued its first sustainability-linked bond of S\$200 million under its newly established Sustainability-Linked Finance Framework in April 2022.

CLAS is the first hospitality trust globally to issue a sustainability-linked bond and is also the first listed real estate trust in Singapore to issue a sustainability-linked bond.

The bond was well-received by investors and was about 2.2 times oversubscribed. CLAS has achieved several firsts as part of its global sustainability drive, further consolidating its reputation as a leader in sustainability in the hospitality sector.

In 2018, CLAS’ sponsor, The Ascott Limited (Ascott) partnered with IFC to pioneer a green certification for serviced residences, as part of IFC’s EDGE framework.

The new international green benchmark for serviced residences paves the way for more serviced residences to achieve an accredited and well-recognized green certification.

Ascott’s partnership with IFC also includes an exchange of knowledge and research on sustainable design of serviced residences in developing regions such as Asia-Pacific, Indochina, and Africa.

An innovation of IFC, the EDGE certification empowers emerging markets to scale up resource-efficient buildings in a fast, easy, and affordable way.

It enables developers and builders to quickly identify the most cost-effective strategies to reduce energy use, water use and embodied energy in materials.

BUSINESS WORLD

[House climate change committee to tap public, private sector experts for bills on green economy](#)

By: Kyanna Angela Bulan

The HOUSE Committee on Climate Change will tap public and private sector experts to help enhance proposed laws aimed at creating a more green Philippine economy and protect sectors most vulnerable to climate change.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, vice chair of the committee, said via e-mail that there are pending measures in Congress that can help address the impact of climate change.

One of these is the Sustainable Forest Management Act that seeks “to delineate the boundary limits of forest lands and protect them from further denudation,” Ms. Limkaichong said.

Another pending measure seeks to strengthen the existing Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act “to expand the coverage of prohibited activities and impose stiffer penalties for violations,” she said.

Ms. Limkaichong also cited a bill that will establish carbon trade and credits that will encourage the private sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions using economic rewards and incentives.

Another pending bill proposes a National Coastal Greenbelt Program “to promote beach forest protection, mangrove rehabilitation, and sustainable management.”

She also cited a bill that will declare the Philippine Rise, previously referred to as Benham Rise as a protected area, home to millions of hectares of coral reefs and fish stocks. “(This) is long overdue with rising cases of overfishing and pollution.”

“ While the Department of Finance and the Commission on Climate Change have done a lot of initiatives in terms of climate financing, there’s still so much to be done,” the solon said.

Ms. Limkaichong said that Congress has a large role to play in terms of creating the policy framework to protect marine and coastal systems, reducing carbon footprint, and promoting both green and blue economies through regulation, financing, and incentives.

Since the Philippines is an archipelago and an agricultural country when typhoons come, “there’s a lot of impact on our economy,” she added.

The World Bank last week said the impact of climate change would likely slash the Philippines' gross domestic product by as much as 13.6% by 2040 if no action is done by the government and private sector.

In 2021, hazards brought by climate change caused P506.1 billion in losses and damages, according to the Finance department.

Every year, the Philippines is visited by around 20 tropical cyclones, some of which have become stronger in recent years and affecting areas that were historically considered as typhoon-free.

Bohol Rep. Edgar M. Chatto, the committee chair on Climate Change, said the bills in place must be assessed "in close coordination with the executive department especially with agencies such as the National Economic and Development Authority" and "private sector experts" to ensure that the policies are "science-based".

"This tact acknowledges not only the whole of government approach but more inclusively, it recognizes the importance of the private sector — most especially the experts — in providing the science in policy proposals," he said.

Mr. Chatto said the private sector has experts who can help the government in terms of managing the risks and impact of climate change.

UNDP zeroes in on human development to-do's for PHL

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta Jocson

The Philippines should focus on critical areas of human development such as climate-resilient infrastructure and education to help boost its recovery from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) official said.

“The Philippines has been hit by COVID-19 and has pushed back some of the development indicators that the country had invested in, so we did see a drop in the human development indicators. This was not unexpected, the question is how we can recover and move back to this track,” Kanni Wignaraja, United Nations assistant secretary-general and UNDP regional director, told BusinessWorld in an interview on Oct. 28.

She visited the Philippines last week on an official mission, meeting with senior government officials to discuss ways to accelerate recovery.

The Philippines ranked 116th out of 191 countries in the latest UNDP Human Development Index, down three places from 113th.

The index ranks countries based on three dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.

With a score of 0.699 out of 1, the Philippines was below the East Asia and the Pacific's average of 0.749 and the global average of 0.732.

“In the process of recovery, how does one move very quickly to generating jobs and new livelihoods for young people? That was a big focus of the conversation and this has to be done from the barangay level onwards, so you look at community livelihoods and incomes and how to protect and promote these,” Ms. Wignaraja said.

The Philippine economy grew by 7.8% in the first half, still above the government's 6.5-7.5% full-year target. The unemployment rate eased to 5.3% in August from 8.1% a year ago.

Ms. Wignaraja said the Philippines should look at investing in climate-resilient, green infrastructure at the local level, especially since an average of 20 typhoons hit the country every year.

“This country is hit over and over again by climate shocks that are not by its own doing. Investing more in these areas will put this country in a better human development track moving forward,” she added.

Climate-related hazards have resulted in P506.1 billion in losses and damage to the Philippines in the past decade, according to the Department of Finance.

The Philippines should also invest more in education, especially as students suffered significant learning losses due to prolonged school closures.

“I would say the biggest area when I look at the Philippines vis à vis its neighbors is that we see underinvestment in education. At the end of the day, people are the wealth of a nation. Reinvesting or investing more in learning and education is really going to propel this country forward,” Ms. Wignaraja said.

In the latest State of Global Learning Poverty report by the World Bank, the Philippines’ learning poverty was at 90.9%, the highest among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

“The government should develop an education system that generates the new skills and capabilities of the young generation,” she added.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Philippines 10th among 18 Asian countries in terms of vulnerability and preparedness to climate change — Oxfam](#)

By: Lou Albano

Following Severe Tropical Storm Paeng that left 121 people reported dead and 33 missing, Oxfam released its "Climate Finance in Asia" report, which said that of 18 Asian countries studied, the Philippines ranked 10th in terms of vulnerability and preparedness to climate change.

The ranking, based on the Notre-Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index, also shows the Philippines at 113 out of 182 countries for 2020.

"The Philippines, like many other Asian countries, ranks really high in terms of climate vulnerability and really low when it comes to climate readiness," Oxfam Pilipinas Country Director Lot Felizco said in a statement.

"Even though we are working on measures to improve our preparedness, every time we are hit by extreme weather events such as 'Paeng,' we have to deal with further loss, making it even harder to be ready for the climate crisis,"

According to Felizco, the Philippines and other climate-vulnerable countries in Asia continue to grapple with the problem of having to face the effects of a climate emergency that more developed countries have caused and benefited from.

"This is why we are calling for better and sufficient climate finance that would allow countries like the Philippines to adequately face the effects of climate change," he said.

According to the study, the 18 Asian countries included in the study are collectively responsible for only 42% of global emissions, "dropping to just 15% when Chinese emissions are excluded," it said.

But they are among the most affected by climate change.

In 2009, developed countries that have largely contributed to global emissions promised \$100B in climate finance to developing countries every year from 2020 to 2025.

Unfortunately, "This promise has not been met," The Climate Finance in Asia report read. In 2020 for instance, only \$83B was committed.

"Climate finance and support from players who contribute the most to climate change are important in correcting injustice and saving the lives of millions of people, especially those in the poorest communities and in marginalized groups," Felizco said.

The report, which is first to analyze climate finance flows worth \$113B from 2013-2020 in the 18 Asian countries, finds that Asian countries only receive 25% of the reported global financial flows each year.

Majority of these flows into Asia came as loans. Only 17% of bilateral climate finance and 6% of multilateral climate finance to Asia came in the form of grants, Oxfam said.

"Asia is being devastated by climate-driven disaster after disaster, taking lives and costing billions. Pakistan underwater. China and India baked by 50-degree heatwaves. Bangladeshis leaving farmland made unusable by saltwater. Philippines hit by worsening typhoons," said Sunil Acharya, Oxfam's Asia Regional Policy and Campaigns Coordinator.

"[Climate change] is becoming an irreversible humanitarian crisis across Asia where half the population already live below the poverty-line. People are nearing the limits of what they can do to cope," Acharya said. "They need more help, not debt, and more say in how it happens."

Climate finance as well as loss and damage are seen as among the key issues that will be tackled in the upcoming Cop 27 in Egypt this month.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Dingdong Dantes educates followers on climate change](#)

By: Stephanie Bernardino

Dingdong Dantes recently called for more vigilance and action relating to climate change. On Twitter, he shared Renee Karunungan Edwards' posts discussing the impacts of climate change. Dingdong said Renee shared many "important insights."

"At this point, it should be clear to everyone that addressing climate change should also be a priority for the country. Dadaan at dadaan ang marami pang bagyo sa bansa. There should be no excuse for us not to be prepared anymore," he said.

"While our government is strengthening its efforts and policies in making sure that the right systems are in place to help secure the safety of every Filipino family, we also need to streamline public participation & have a more sustainable mechanism already for volunteers," he added. "Kaya't saludo ako sa ating mga rescuers at volunteers...both in Gov't and Civil Society. Mabuhay kayo!"

Dingdong then thanked Renee whom he worked together in 2015 for a campaign on climate change.

"Salamat, Renee, sa reminder na ito."

Renee, on the other hand, thanked Dingdong for sharing the message.

"Worked with Dingdong on a climate campaign in 2015 for COP21 and when he was still a commissioner with the National Youth Commission. I really miss the times when people in government were genuine advocates."

Anyway, in the thread, Renee noted how "stronger typhoons is a product of climate change."

There, she advised the government to invest in "proper disaster risk management and climate change adaptation."

Mayor Binay recognized as one of Asia's Most Influential personalities in 2022

By: Patrick Garcia

Makati City Mayor Abby Binay was again recognized as one of Asia's most influential personalities in 2022 by media entity Tatler for her commendable public service and initiatives at further improving the country's business hub and the lives of its residents.

In Tatler's list of Asia's Most Influential 2022, Binay was lauded for her programs which transformed Makati into a smart city as well as her climate change awareness efforts.

Under Binay's leadership, the city was proclaimed as the first-ever Resilience Hub in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia by the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

She was also cited for being the Disaster Cluster leader of CityNet, the largest association of urban stakeholders aiming to promote sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

During her speech at the Daring Cities 2022 global forum, she presented the city's initiatives to address climate emergency and its investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

"She initiated a digital economy through cashless payments, and connected Makati citizens via free Wi-Fi. In 2020, Binay gained worldwide recognition for her efforts as the sole finalist in that year's World Smart Cities Award. Plans up ahead include projects to make Makati a green city powered by renewable energy, and retrofitted with efficient and sustainable transportation systems," Tatler noted.

"I want my legacy to be one of positive change and transformation—not just for Makati but for the Philippines," Binay said.

"This keeps me going: the thought that my efforts today will make a difference not just for the present generation but also for future generations," she added.

The mayor was also included in Tatler's list of 32 Women of Impact 2022, which handpicked 32 women who have made great strides in changing the cultural spectrum—from business and finance to arts, public service, sports, education, technology and philanthropy.

It added that "these women are shining examples of women achievers who are serving with purpose and passion."

Tatler commended Binay's service to the estimated 629,616 Makatizens for six years now. It also enumerated some of her administration's pioneering projects aimed at effectively addressing the needs of the masses.

These include the “All-in-One Citizen ID” which Binay rolled out in 2017 to accelerate the city’s digital transformation into becoming a Smart City.

Makati is the first city in the country to implement the automated distribution of cash aid during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other projects that her administration pioneered also include the Bakuna Makati Covid-19 response program; priority infrastructure projects such as hospitals, sports complexes, and schools; distribution of school supplies and scholarships to its students; and various cash grants to the city’s senior citizens.

“When women succeed, it is often viewed as something so unexpected. But history will attest to the many times and countless ways women broke through stereotypes to do the impossible. The issue, therefore, is acceptance beyond mere recognition. A woman’s success must be treated as the norm and not the exception,” Binay said.

“Society needs to put women on equal footing with men because our success is no less significant than theirs. We have earned our stripes. We have paid our dues. Recognize, honor, and pay tribute to women not because we were ‘the first ever’ or ‘the only’ but because you recognize that we have the power to succeed,” she added.

MINDA NEWS

[Davao envi groups hope for more inclusive discussion on climate crisis during COP27 in Egypt](#)

By: Antonio Colina IV

Davao City (MindaNews / 2 Nov) – Environmental groups in Davao City hope that the gathering of world leaders in the upcoming 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (dubbed as COP27) in Egypt will have “more inclusive” discussions on the climate crisis, including a well-defined plan for the phaseout of coal-fired power plants.

Dr. Jean Lindo, environmental activist who co-chairs “Panalipdan! Mindanao,” told MindaNews on Wednesday that she hopes to see more leaders who are “authentic issue bearers” participating in the COP27 scheduled for November 6 to 18 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

She added that countries must send representatives “who can assert the real essence of sustainable development and inclusive development.”

COP27 will gather world leaders to take action towards achieving the world’s collective climate goals as agreed under the Paris Agreement of 2015 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1992.

“Enough of incrementalist type of development which is a slippery slope. We do not have the luxury of time,” Lindo said.

While the issues related to climate injustices and their adverse impact on vulnerable communities take centerstage during the conference, she said these are normally tempered with the interests of “corporations and politicians who have stake in the businesses.”

“By this time, I hope that discussions will be more inclusive, and then they must send representatives who are authentic issue bearers who can articulate, and not those decision-makers who may not be able to tell the difference between food security and food sovereignty and be able to authoritatively assert that food sovereignty should be the path to be followed by the Philippine government,” she said.

Mylai Santos, director of Ecoteneo, added that the Philippines must present itself with clean hands as it participates in the conference.

“Let us do our homework and present ourselves there with clean hands. When we negotiate yet we do not ourselves take care of our own backyard, we allow priorities of national government to destroy our remaining carbon sinks – forests, coral reef ecosystem. We end up demanding much for the little we cannot give to our own citizenry and country,” she said.

As part of Aktyon Klimy, Santos said she supports calls for the enhancement of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with targets and timelines for emission reduction of greenhouse gasses, including short-lived climate pollutants, and a well-defined action plan for the phaseout of coal-fired powerplants and transition to renewable energy.

NDCs are “where countries set targets for mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and for adapting to climate impacts. The plans define how to reach the targets, and elaborate systems to monitor and verify progress so it stays on track.”

Santos added that she hopes nations deliver on their pledge to set aside \$100 billion for developing nations on or before 2025, and establish a “Loss and Damage financing” that is readily accessible to people.

“Where financing must not sacrifice the rights of vulnerable groups and integrity of ecosystems,” she stressed.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Groups urge Marcos to do more than plant trees](#)

By: Dempsey Reyes and Mariejo S. Ramos

Planting trees on denuded mountains is a good move that can help prevent deadly landslides and flash floods, but President Marcos should do more to stop large-scale mining, illegal logging, quarrying and “destructive” projects that kill forests and gouge the land, progressive groups said on Wednesday.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates-Youth (Narra-Youth) and Pamalakaya were reacting to the President’s statement on Tuesday after he saw the “bald” mountains where landslides had rumbled down onto Barangay Kusiong in Datu Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao del Norte days earlier.

At least 22 people died in the Kusiong landslide and dozens more were feared still buried in the tons of mud, rocks and boulders that swamped the village.

Mr. Marcos said long-term flood control projects should include planting trees on those denuded mountains where Severe Tropical Storm “Paeng” (international name: Nalgae) dumped heavy rains last week.

According to KMP chair emeritus Rafael Mariano, the President should not simply state the pressing need to address climate change and initiate flood control projects “while freely allowing foreign and local big businesses to plunder our land and natural resources.”

“Climate change has been here for a long time. It even evolved into a climate crisis. Now, we are calling for climate justice. We should hold those behind this environmental destruction responsible,” the peasant leader pointed out.

He said the disappearance of the country’s forest cover “accelerated” during the 20-year rule of the President’s father, who granted logging licenses to his cronies.

Stop land conversion

Mariano urged the President to show his willingness to address the climate crisis by ordering an immediate “effective moratorium” on land-use conversion.

Mr. Marcos should also rescind former President Rodrigo Duterte’s Executive Order No. 130, which lifted the ban on new mining agreements, Mariano said.

He said that 35 mining exploration permits were recently approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which also approved the environmental compliance certificates of four other mining projects in the Caraga Region and the Zamboanga peninsula.

In a statement on Wednesday, Narra-Youth said the President's family was allegedly responsible for "wiping out half of the Philippine forests" during his father's administration.

"It is hypocritical of the President to suggest tree planting as a flood control measure when it is his father who allowed the destructive logging operations of his cronies," said Narra-Youth chair Zoe Caballero in a statement.

As big as Mindanao

Citing an article from the Martial Law Museum, Caballero said these logging operations "wiped out" 8 million hectares of the country's forests, an area about as big as Mindanao Island. Of this number, 2 million hectares were "severely damaged," according to the article. The group said the late dictator Marcos granted over 200 timber licensing agreements (TLAs) covering hundreds of thousands of hectares to his cronies and allies, including retired generals, allegedly to secure their "continued loyalty" from the 1970s to the 1980s.

One TLA given to Marcos crony Alfonso Lim covered 500,000 ha, and another 200,000 ha was allegedly granted to a family member.

Narra-Youth quoted a GMA News report in 2012 on deforestation that cited a study by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Caballero said that 50 years after the Marcos dictatorship, "our forests are still recovering from the massive deforestation."

According to a 2013 Dutch-funded study by Filipino forestry experts, the country's forest cover decreased from 17.8 million ha, or about 60 percent of the land area in 1934, to about 7.17 million ha, or 24 percent in 2011.

The study also found that deforestation "further worsened during the Marcos regime."

"From 1965 to 1986, the Philippines lost 7 million ha of forests. This came as a result of so many people given access to previously inaccessible areas due to logging roads and lure of employment in the logging companies," the study said.

Caballero said the "destructive logging companies owned by Marcos cronies displaced millions of farmers and indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands."

"Those who opposed and stood up for their rights were vilified and murdered," she said.

Skeptical

Even the fishers' group Pamalakaya was skeptical that the President would pursue tree planting.

It said that the fishpond lease agreement provision of his father's Presidential Decree No. 704 led to the massive destruction of mangrove forests.

"In the 1920s, mangrove forests used to cover almost 450,000 hectares. But just two years after the PD 704 was enacted, mangrove forests drastically shrunk to 220,243 hectares due to rapid conversion of coastal areas into fishponds owned by big-fishing and exporting firms," Ronnel Arambulo, national spokesperson of Pamalakaya, said in a statement.

Arambulo was citing findings on the country's mangroves from the 2013 book "Mangrove Ecosystems of Asia."

The group urged the administration to pursue mangrove reforestation as a means to prevent intense flooding caused by sea-level rise and extreme weather events related to climate change.

Lip service

"Unless Marcos Jr. recognizes that it was during his late dictator father's term when vast tracts of mangroves and forest covers were wiped out, his statement for tree planting is nothing but pure lip service," said Arambulo.

According to Froilyn Mendoza, a member of parliament of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), in addition to the 22 Teduray indigenous people who died in the Kusiong landslide, there were an estimated 100 who remained missing.

She said they were among those who had evacuated to a church that was buried in the landslide near the foot of a mountain.

Mendoza, who represents the Teduray-Lambangian indigenous communities in the BTA, said the number of confirmed fatalities might be higher than 22 as they were the only ones traced at funeral homes.

Some were immediately buried by their families after their bodies were recovered from the rubble, she said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[\[Opinion\] The logic of organic](#)

By: Atty. Gilberto Lauengco, J.D.

Abandon Normal Instruments – there are times when we must change the way we do things when they do not help us achieve our goals. If these supposed tried and tested methods harm us as well, this change must be done immediately. In life we must sometimes discover the recipes we use and change them to produce better results.

One of our government's key program for boosting agricultural programs this year is its farm input subsidy. Farmers will be given the means to purchase farm inputs like fertilizers to help them increase food production. Predictably, the usual sellers of fertilizers containing inorganic or chemical elements have again approached the farmers peddling their goods and enticing the farmers with promises of bountiful harvests and magical results.

These fertilizers containing inorganic or chemical ingredients such as anhydrous ammonia, urea, urea-ammonium nitrate solutions, triple superphosphate, ammonium phosphates, and muriate of potash (potassium chloride) have been used by our farmers for decades. Unfortunately, there have been several studies which show that inorganic fertilizers have caused soil, air, and water pollutions through nutrient leaching, destruction of soil physical characteristics, accumulation of toxic chemicals in water bodies, and so on.

These inorganic fertilizers harm the very soil needed for sustainable farming. They put harmful chemicals which harm the helpful microbes present in our soils. They reduce soil fertility. They change the nature of soil, making it either too acidic or too alkaline. Land degradation has reduced the productivity of 23 percent of the global land surface.

They help release greenhouse gases to the atmosphere which in turn contribute to environmental consequences. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report showed that our food systems are estimated to cause up to 29 percent of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

Inorganic fertilizers are also impractical. It gets washed away by water easily. It only provides short term benefits. Plus, it is now expensive because of the highly priced imported ingredients needed to make them.

Most important of all, think of all those chemicals seeping into the food we grow. There are many studies which indicate that the food we eat right now may have long term health risks because of chemicals. The challenge I always give to inorganic fertilizer advocates when I meet them is, "can they eat their fertilizers?" If they cannot eat these chemicals, why do they insist we put them in the soil where our food is grown?

Clearly, the use of inorganic fertilizers with these chemicals, not only affect our agriculture and environment but our health as well. It is evident that we must now make radical changes in our normal farming systems.

In the Philippines, two key pieces of legislature were enacted to promote organic farming. Republic Act 10068 declares that the policy of the State shall be to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines in order to enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment and prevent the depletion of natural resources. RA 11511 amends the first law by giving more teeth to government support for organic farming and inputs.

Despite the clear need for organic farming, there are several challenges which face the efforts to promote this shift. Small landowner farmers often lack the financial and technical capacity to make the shift. Inorganic fertilizer is still big business and sometimes they even claim that their products are organic with creative labelling. Organic fertilizer producers need financial and capital assistance to compete with the established inorganic fertilizer producers. Inorganic fertilizers also have the advantage of having relatively faster results than organic fertilizers.

There is a need for the organic fertilizer industry to organize themselves to achieve common goals. The market and demand are large enough to accommodate many players in the organic farming industry. The producers also have to ensure quality and standards to compete. Lastly, they have to interact more with farmers and farmer cooperatives to inform them of the dangers of inorganic farming. By organizing themselves, the organic farming industry can coordinate properly with government agencies and avail of the programs and benefits (tax and otherwise) created to support the organic farming industry.

Lastly, we the consumers, must take heed of the need to support organic farming. We must make efforts to seek out organic products and shun products that are produced by inorganic farming. Businessmen must find cooperative ventures with both local and national government agencies and invest in organic farming endeavors. If there is one advantage we have over our ASEAN neighbors, it is the ability of many sectors of our society to mobilize for cooperative efforts. Perhaps, this time, we can take the lead in a multi- sectoral effort to promote organic farming and help our farmers make the shift from the normal inorganic modes of farming.

This is my oblique observation.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DA: Cooperate for food security](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) has cited the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the various issues related to attaining food security.

Agriculture Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban stressed the importance of cooperation when he represented Agriculture Secretary and President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. in the 44th Meeting of the Asean Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), the 22nd AMAF Plus Three (China, Japan and Korea) meeting and the 7th Asean-India Ministerial Meeting in Agriculture and Forestry.

Asean is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Panganiban emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, robust coordination and stated goals to continue thriving in the face of pandemic, climate change and natural disaster risks.

The meetings held on Oct. 26, 2022 focused on the pandemic recovery measures; policy frameworks related to Asean cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry; food security and nutrition; food safety, handling and product quality; and sustainable development of the food, agriculture and forestry sector.

"The Philippines notes the achievements of the high-level meetings and recognizes the role they play in strengthening the ways forward of the AMAF and its working groups," Panganiban said.

He added that the country remains robust in implementing various recovery efforts amid different threats and it puts great importance to public-private and multistakeholder partnerships, and collaboration for the agriculture and fisheries sector.

During the AMAF Plus Three meeting, the officials discussed priority areas for cooperation and the implementation progress of the Asean Plus Three Cooperation Strategy, Asean Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement and the Asean Plus Three Food Security Information System.

The Asean ministers also expressed their appreciation to China, Japan and South Korea for their continued support and commitment to enhancing the Asean Plus Three Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry.

"We are expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Plus Three countries for diligently sharing resources and expertise to the region toward the attainment of a shared goal under the Asean Plus Three cooperation," Panganiban added.

He added that such collaborations are critical in ensuring that no one will be left behind.

Global cooperation crucial to PH devt – Go

By: Javier Joe Ismael

Sen. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go on Wednesday called for strengthening local and global cooperation to assist in the country's development, especially amid the many crises facing the Philippines and the world.

"Against this backdrop, it is imperative that we strengthen our ties with other countries to identify areas in which we could work together to fulfill our respective national goals," he said.

From October 24 to 26, Go and his fellow senators traveled to France on a three-day parliamentary visit. Led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, the visit was in celebration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and France. It was also aimed to facilitate exchanges between the two countries' legislatures.

Other senators composing the Philippine delegation include Senate Majority Leader Emmanuel Joel Villanueva, Senate Deputy Majority Leader Joseph Victor Ejercito, and Senators Manuel Lapid, Maria Lourdes Nancy Binay and Mary Grace Poe.

"I am optimistic that the visit would pave the way for a more profound relationship between the Philippines and France, especially as it had opened up new opportunities for collaboration between the two nations in sustainable energy, climate change, economic growth, and food security," Go said.

Go also represented the Philippine Senate in the unveiling of the ceremonial plaque commemorating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Spain at the Jose Rizal Monument, Avenida de las Islas Filipinas in Madrid, Spain, after the parliamentary visit in France.

The senator said the ceremony was an appropriate tribute to the rich history shared by the Philippines and Spain, as well as to Filipino hero Dr. Jose Rizal whose beliefs and advocacies "continue to inspire a nation even after more than 100 years since he died."

As head of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, Go took the opportunity to personally thank the French and Spanish governments for their Covid-19 vaccine donations to the Philippines at the height of the pandemic.

"The donations went a long way toward ensuring the success of our vaccination program and the safety of our citizens against the threat of the virus," he said.

[PAL set to attain Net Zero Emissions by 2050](#)

Philippine Airlines (PAL) is poised to attain net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in support of international agreements for climate action, including the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact.

The Philippine flag carrier is investing in an all-out carbon reduction program as part of a multi-year commitment to combat the worldwide scourge of climate change.

According to United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), GHG emissions from aviation could increase by a factor of two to four times 2015 levels by 2050.

"Our Net Zero initiative comes at a crucial time for the international aviation industry, which is seeking to further lessen its environmental impact in response to the global scientific community's clarion call against irreversible climate change," PAL President and COO Capt. Stanley Ng said.

PAL's Net Zero goal will be holistic and comprehensive, covering both flight and ground operations. PAL began this process by shifting to renewable energy for the electricity supply of its major offices and working on the potential use of sustainable aviation fuel to power its fleet of high-technology aircraft.

To underscore PAL's commitment to improve its carbon footprint, the country's premier airline has tapped the services of UN-acclaimed climate scientist and science diplomat Glenn Banaguas to help guide the company's efforts.

Sci. Dpl. Banaguas is the president and founder of the Environmental and Climate Change Research Institute (ECCRI). In 2010, he spearheaded the institute's flagship program, Climate Smart Philippines: Science for Service, which brings scientific experts and stakeholders together in addressing disasters and preventing losses from climate change and other hazards.

For these initiatives, Banaguas received the prestigious global UN Sasakawa Award, the first individual Filipino recipient in the award's 35-year history.

With Banaguas providing expert guidance, PAL aims to conduct comprehensive assessments of its overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and move toward full decarbonization.

Pitmasters Foundation continues tree planting spree

Pitmasters Foundation continues its mangrove and tree planting activities last October 21 and October 14 in Albay as part of its #PitmasterGoesGreen initiatives which aim to forward climate change mitigation efforts.

In partnership with 2D Albay and DENR Regional Office V, Pitmaster Foundation Executive Director Atty. Caroline Cruz spearheaded a unified action for a mangrove outplanting at Barangay Cawit, Manito, Albay, last October 21.

Cruz said this set of actions aims to help "reduce shoreline erosion and preventive measure against coastal flooding, strong winds, and high waves during typhoons."

This is in addition to the 1,000 more trees planted in Legaspi City, Albay, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility to give back to the community and take care of the environment last October 14.

The number of trees is in addition to the more than 7,000 trees that it planted across 250 hectares in Laguna last month.

"The tree planting activities are part of the foundation's efforts to extend its hand to different environmental conservation efforts to help eliminate carbon emissions. With this, we aim to help create an eco-friendly Philippines that use green technologies," Cruz said in a phone interview.

Cruz said that she hopes these kinds of activities would mainstream climate change mitigation efforts.

"More activities like this could help raise awareness about conservation efforts which can be led by the foundation alongside partnerships with different organizations from different sectors of society," she added.

The foundation led different charity activities over the years including assisting dialysis patients and giving relief goods to calamity-stricken areas.

Last month, the foundation also organized a Climate Change forum dubbed "Disaster and Climate Emergency in the Philippines: Urgency of the 2023-2028 PBBM agenda and the Philippine contribution to achieving the global goal of net zero 2030 and 2050 targets," wherein different stakeholders from government and private entities mitigation efforts that could be implemented under the administration of President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DOE prepares for 2nd green energy auction](#)

By: Richmond Mercurio

Manila, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing for the conduct of a second green energy auction by June next year following the success of the first one this year.

“Based on our internal discussion within the green energy auction technical working group, we’re targeting to have the same period as the Green Energy Auction 1, which is June of 2023, but it will have more leeway,” DOE Assistant Secretary Mylene Capongcol said.

“In terms of timing, it’s not that tight as what we had done under the Green Energy Auction 1,” she said.

The Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP) was undertaken to support and facilitate immediate and timely investments in new or additional renewable energy capacities to ensure provision of adequate supply and competitive rates of electricity in the country.

Its aims to ensure transparent and competitive selection of renewable energy facilities to achieve reasonable rates and encourage, as far as practicable, the renewable energy entrants in the system.

The DOE awarded 19 contracts to various renewable energy developers after conducting the first round of the GEAP last June.

The first round of auction was considered a success, after having successfully generated almost 2,000 megawatts (MW) of capacities that were committed to deliver energy from 2023 to 2025 at a competitive price lower than or equal to the Green Energy Auction Reserve (GEAR) prices set by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

Capongcol said current preparations for the second auction include an ongoing assessment of the Green Energy Auction 1, such as lessons learned, as well as identifying the things that are needed to be strengthened and clarified.

“We’re starting the review right now so that we can already prepare for the initial task and activities in preparation for the Green Energy Auction 2,” Capongcol said.

“Essentially, it’s the enhancement that we’re looking for and to be adopted in the Green Energy Auction 2 program,” she said.

Capongcol said the DOE is also hoping for the ERC to come up with a Green Energy Auction 2 GEAR prices, which may include different tariffs for different technologies.

“So, for example, floating solar, ground mounted solar, and roof mounted solar. For the wind, we have onshore and offshore. So, those are the things that we are looking at, having differentiated tariffs for various RE technologies that will be part of the green energy,” she said.

Groups push mangrove reforestation as coastal defense

By: Danessa Rivera and Elizabeth Marcelo

Manila, Philippines — Several groups are pushing for mangrove reforestation for coastal defense while urging government to stop land-use conversion, destructive mining and infrastructure projects to address flooding, especially during typhoons.

In a statement yesterday, militant fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) urged the Marcos administration to pursue reforestation of mangroves as a measure to prevent intense flooding caused by sea-level rise, devastating storm surges and other threats of climate change.

"The destruction of mangrove forests exposes fishing families to damaging floods and storm surges. Mangroves are vital to marine ecosystem and biodiversity as they serve as fish sanctuaries, pollution filters and defense for coastal communities," Pamalakaya national spokesman Ronnel Arambulo said.

The group said it was under President Marcos' late father's regime when mangrove forests were wiped out in favor of massive conversion of coasts into fishpond areas, which culture aquatic species for export.

Enacted in 1975, Marcos Sr.'s Presidential Decree 704 allowed massive destruction of mangrove forests through its Fishpond Lease Agreement provision.

"In the 1920s, mangrove forests used to cover almost 450,000 hectares. But just two years after the PD 704 was enacted, mangrove forests drastically shrunk to 220,243 hectares due to rapid conversion of coastal areas into fishponds owned by big-fishing and exporting firms. Unless Marcos Jr. recognizes that it was during his late dictator father's term when vast tracts of mangroves and forest covers were wiped out, his statement for tree planting is nothing but pure lip service," Arambulo said.

But more than tree planting, government should stop environmentally destructive projects such as large-scale mining, quarrying and land reclamation activities to restore the environment.

"Environmental protection is more than just tree planting and recognizing the climate crisis; it is taking concrete steps to protect our natural resources against destructive and profit-driven activities such as reclamation and land-use conversion," Arambulo said.

"For starters, the Marcos administration can openly reject reclamation projects in Manila Bay and instead restore its mangrove forests and seagrasses that were cleared for reclamation and conversion over the years," he added.

In the same vein, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) also said the "administration must rein in and decisively stop large-scale mining operations, illegal logging, quarrying and other destructive projects."

KMP chairman emeritus Rafael Mariano said preservation of forests should start with an effective moratorium on land-use conversion projects and the rescinding of former president Rodrigo Duterte's Executive Order 130 that lifted the ban on new mining agreements.

The group said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is said to be fast-tracking the approval process of mining projects in Caraga and Zamboanga peninsula involving Earth Tools and Development Corp., Holcim Resources and Development Corp., CEKAS Development Corp. and the TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc.

The agency also recently approved at least 35 mining explorations permits.

KMP also called for significant relief and rehabilitation efforts for flood victims – farmers from hard-hit provinces of Quezon, Panay, Negros Occidental and Cagayan Valley and fisherfolk from Aklan and Cavite.

The group likewise called on the national and local governments to be thoroughly transparent on the utilization of calamity funds and quick response funds.

Based on annual Commission on Audit (COA) reports, the annual utilization rate of available calamity funds is below 60 percent.

The farmers' group said it will ask Congress to exercise its oversight function to probe if the calamity funds are conscientiously disbursed.

Compensation

Ahead of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of Parties (COP27) next week, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said the Philippines should ask for calamity fund resulting from climate-related disasters.

Salceda, House committee on ways and means chairman, said countries like the Philippines should ask for "more direct compensation mechanisms and funds that can be activated as soon as climate-related disasters take place."

"If the world won't achieve consensus on loss and damage, we at least need a global 'quick response fund' similar to our calamity fund but funded by countries according to their pollution contributions and accessed by countries as soon as climate-related disasters affect them," he said.

Salceda said the fund can be administered by a committee where both developed and developing countries are represented.

“Mitigation and adaptation measures are not enough. They’re good, but 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,” he said.

Earlier, Salceda said the country should continue to push for acknowledgment and compensation for “loss and damage” from climate change-related calamities.

“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,” he added.

Salceda, who used to be co-chair of the United Nations Green Climate Fund, will be part of the Philippine delegation to COP27 to be held from Nov. 6 to 18 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Land use law

Without a national land use law that will prohibit communities from locating in disaster hazard zones and an honest-to-goodness disaster preparedness drills done in the barangay down to the sitio level, the country will continue to suffer disasters with a big number of casualties.

Science Secretary Renato Solidum said there was already a good database in the country of hazard maps identifying so-called danger or “red zones” prone to landslides and severe flash floods where houses should not be built.

“I think the issue is there is no land use act yet that must be followed,” Solidum said in a virtual interview with “The Chiefs” on Signal TV’s One News Tuesday night.

While such land use regulations can be done at the local level, a national regulation that can be enforced by the national government is needed.

“But we can have it at the national level and then strictly enforced. But if there is no law prohibiting people to stay within certain areas, then it cannot be implemented,” Solidum said.

“Now, the other thing that must be done is to really have a landslide and flash flood evacuation,” he said. “We must have a procedure. Even if there is warning but if the people don’t understand what the procedure will be, then there will be casualties.”

This two-pronged effort, Solidum said, could bring about the institutionalization of efforts in terms of preparedness, especially for landslides and flash floods.

“Unless we have an institutionalized disaster risk reduction and management system, and this would trickle down to the local level and (get the community to) participate in drills, we will see this as a problem,” he said.

Get act together

Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Aurelio Gonzales Jr., a civil engineer by profession, said the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) should be coordinated in their efforts to take pro-active measures to prevent the loss of lives during calamities.

Gonzales highlighted the need for such an arrangement between the two departments, particularly because areas near Mt. Arayat in the town of Arayat, Pampanga have complained of debris cascading down the mountain.

The House official who hails from the 3rd District of Pampanga also appealed to the local government of Arayat as well as the provincial government of Pampanga to help the DPWH and the DENR prevent such occurrences in the future.

The DPWH proposed the installation of debris flow barriers along Sapang Maeyagas creek. These barriers are composed of interlinked rings able to stop larger debris flow and absorb energy.

Water and other small materials may pass through the system.

Other recommendations are the construction of slope protection structures, delineation and avoidance of risk areas, installation of effective early warning devices and evacuation, dredging and maintenance of original drainage and water flow and clearing creeks.

'Evacuation better than rescue'

Salceda added that timely evacuations should be the goal as it is better than later resorting to search and rescue operations that could have been avoided.

"I would argue that evacuation would be more important than rescue. Rescue missions risk the lives of first responders, as we just experienced a few weeks ago in Bulacan. And, if things go really bad, rescue is often too late," he said.

Along with early evacuation, the congressman underscored the importance of an organized and systematic preparation and pre-positioning of relief goods, particularly in low-lying areas that have always been prone to flooding.

For Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr., efforts to repair and reconstruct damaged roads and bridges must be expedited by government as they badly affect people's livelihood.

The chairman of the Senate committee on public works wrote the DPWH to ask for the hastening of efforts to the repair and reconstruction all road and bridge infrastructure damaged by Paeng.

In his letter to Secretary Manuel Bonoan, he mentioned the Bantilan Bridge linking Sariaya, Quezon and San Juan, Batangas; the Paliwan Bridge connecting the Antique towns of Laua-an and Bugasong; the Nituan Bridge in Parang, Maguindanao and the collapsed Romulo Bridge in Bayambang, Pangasinan. – Sheila Crisostomo, Rainier Allan Ronda, Delon Porcalla, Cecille Suerte Felipe

Where's the money?

By: Rey Gamboa

The more riveting drama to watch with COP27 just days before it actually opens involves who will go and who will not. Celebrated Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg will not, same with King Charles II upon advice of former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss. Another former UK prime minister, Boris Johnson will attend, triggered supposedly a rethink by current UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak who earlier said he was not attending.

Lost in these people dramas is the real issue behind the urgent reason for the 27th Climate Change Conference (official name for Conference of Parties or COP): the slow progress to the 2015 Paris agreement.

The urgency, in the words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during a pre-COP meeting, has become more apparent: "A third of Pakistan is flooded. Europe's hottest summer in 500 years. The Philippines hammered. The whole of Cuba in black-out."

In the latest report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued last April, the world is inching more dangerously to the 1.5C threshold of global warming, and the concerted effort by everyone on planet Earth is far from preventing this to happen. In fact, the planet is getting closer to being warmer by 3.2C.

Since COP21 in 2015 when the Paris Agreement was signed legally binding its 196 members to commit to keeping global warming under 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, not enough is being done. In fact, the Climate Action Tracker still sees Earth steadily moving towards 2.4C.

Loss and damage fund

Meanwhile, the last couple of years has seen more climate disasters, of increasing magnitude and scope, and consequently, loss and damage. The cry for climate justice has grown louder, especially by countries like the Philippines that have become more vulnerable.

Every year, Filipinos are truly experiencing typhoons of greater intensity that costs lives and damage to homes, crops, and livelihoods. Many of those affected are pushed back into poverty, making it more difficult for them to regain their momentum to a better life.

Climate justice is aptly described by Denmark's development minister Fleming Møller Mortensen: "It is grossly unfair that the world's poorest should suffer the most from the consequences of climate change to which they have contributed the least."

Denmark is the first country to have actually come up with "loss and damage" compensation for developing countries devastated by climate change. Its contribution of €13.4 million will go directly to chosen beneficiaries.

Member countries of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) as well as The V20 Group of Finance Ministers representing 55 of the world's most climate-vulnerable economies have called for the establishment of a separate and dedicated international funding in line with pledges by wealthy nations during the Paris meeting.

The Philippines is a member of the CVF and the V20 (Vulnerable 20 consisting of the top 20 nations in the world most affected by catastrophes resulting from climate change).

Compounding socio-economic losses

The urgent need for an organized system of compensation is highlighted by the "Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report" issued in June, which listed the economic losses of members of the V20 and the CVF from 2000 to 2019.

It showed how climate change had already eliminated one-fifth of the wealth of these countries, estimated at \$525 billion, during the two decades. "In other words, without climate change, our people would be 20 percent wealthier today," according to the incoming V20 chair Kenneth Nana Yaw Ofori-Atta, Ghana's Minister for Finance and Economic Planning.

For the most at-risk countries, economic losses due to extreme climate changes have been estimated to exceed 51 percent of all growth since 2000. The report notes that, "The world's most at-risk countries would be twice as wealth today were it not for climate change."

Further, economic losses have reduced GDP growth in the V20 by one full percent yearly, and the year-to-year reduction in GDP per capita growth attributable to climate change represents 25 percent of the actual average annual economic growth of the V20 economies in 2019.

More importantly, with global temperatures projected to exceed the 1.5C limits in the coming decades, economic losses are expected to further increase. Thus, adaptation measures will need to be accelerated at a "phenomenal rate" to offset a further rise in economic losses.

Debt distress

The compensation funding issue forms the basis for all adaptation measures that CVF nations must put in place, especially now that many of them are facing debt default possibilities after two years wrought by a pandemic and a world economic slowdown, as well as the effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine early this year.

In a new policy brief issued in September, the V20 group's total debt stock of \$686.3 billion in external public debt is one-fifth of all developing country debt, both public and publicly guaranteed. Private creditors comprise the largest share of the debt stocks, at

36 percent, followed by the World Bank at 20 percent and other multilateral development banks at 20 percent.

The brief notes that external debt service payments payable to various creditors by V20 countries from 2022 to 2028 will reach almost \$435.8 billion, with the 2024 payment schedule of \$68.9 billion particularly most acute.

Countries with the highest outstanding dues are Columbia (\$51 billion), Vietnam (\$32.6 billion), Sri Lanka (\$31 billion), Bangladesh (\$30 billion), and the Philippines (\$29.7 billion).

A comprehensive debt restructuring call is now gaining momentum again, a repudiation of case-by-case bilateral negotiations. Such moves reflect the direness of the situation. Unfortunately, this does not guarantee that COP27 will deliver the needed positive results.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[\[Opinion\] Devastating](#)

By: Alex Magno

If our archipelago was a ship, it would have sunk long ago. It has long surpassed its carrying capacity.

By fate, we inhabit an archipelago of over 1,700 islands. We have very little arable land in the cultivable slivers between mountains and the sea. Long before our population hit 111 million, we should have planned our land use. It is our scarcest good. But we never had the strong institutions to accomplish that task.

Our settlements simply evolved unplanned. That explains the congestion.

Our agricultural policy evolved in the most mysterious ways. Instead of planning our farm systems to achieve economies of scale, we subdivided our limited fertile land until we achieved the most inefficient farm sizes. A large number of farms were simply abandoned because they could not sustain life. Consequently, we have shortages of every agricultural product imaginable: forcing our food cost regime up and recreating poverty in volume.

To compound things, our population grew fast over generations. This forced settlements to blossom in the most hazardous areas close to the sea or along steep inclines. That was an open door to calamity.

Then we deforested as fast as we could, bringing down our forest cover from 90 percent to only 15 percent. This has been a formula for soil erosion and landslides.

We banned logging in many areas. That raised the price of wood products and made illegal logging (and corrupt enforcement) all the more lucrative. We never had an effective program for commercial forestry. The only way to encourage tree planting on a sustained basis was to incentivize forest cultivation rather than simply penalize extraction.

Penalizing illegal logging never encouraged reforestation. It simply kept denuded areas permanently bare.

Denuded areas were attractive areas for landless communities searching for a place to settle. The communities in Maguindanao devastated by landslides were precisely in resettlement zones.

Our chronic inability to plan land use expose many of our communities to devastation. More severe weather on account of climate change will cause more devastation in the coming period.

The past few years, it has become fashionable to speak of “building resiliency.” That will mean very little unless we are able to move whole communities and millions of people out of vulnerable zones. The task is simply too large for our means.

The effects of climate change will only worsen. Previous international agreements to limit emissions have accomplished exactly nothing. The UN secretary-general had just warned that the Paris Agreement has accomplished exactly nothing in arresting global warming.

The Philippines committed big to the global effort to curb global warming. We promised to reduce our emissions by 70 percent until 2030. That is a tough goal. We have made little progress towards accomplishing this nationally determined reduction target.

Global warming magnifies all our vulnerabilities. Rising sea levels threaten our settlements that are squeezed between mountain slopes and the coast. Lower oxygen levels in our seas diminish our fish catch and the diminution of our coral reefs reduce spawning grounds. On top of all these, large foreign trawler fleets muscle their way into our fishing grounds.

It is not only our agriculture that is losing its ability to keep our large population fed. Our fisheries are unable to feed our people as well.

We do have a Climate Change Commission. We are among the first countries to organize a multi-agency council like this one, headed in principle by the President. During the Duterte administration, chairing the Commission was assigned to the Secretary of Finance.

Whatever it might seem like on paper, the Climate Change Commission is actually underpowered in actuality. It is supposed to be the epicenter of an all-of-government response to the challenges posed by global warming.

It might do well for President Bongbong Marcos to give up the Agriculture portfolio and be hands-on chair of the Climate Change Commission. That could finally make the multi-agency commission a real epicenter of all our efforts to mitigate the devastation global warming brings.

The past few months indicate President Marcos has very little value-added to give by heading up the Agriculture Department. This agency is a complex maze sheltering vested interests and corrupt syndicates. Cleaning up this agency is more than a full-time task.

In his stead, President Marcos must find a real revolutionary to head up the Agriculture Department. We need someone with a rare skills set to head up this agency: an ability to reimagine our agriculture into the long term and an aptitude for effective implementation of policy in the near term. We need someone with combined visionary qualities and political savvy of Bong Tangco during the Marcos I presidency.

Such a person is hard to find, to be sure. It has always been a tough challenge to recruit good CEOs to serve in government. This is the reason why previous administrations relied on retired military officers for the most challenging jobs, including managing the pandemic. Our senior military officers have been trained well in management at public expense and then forced to retire too early. More important, they are used to subsisting on meager government pay scales.

It is urgent to get good men to the frontlines of governance. Typhoon Paeng tells us that the perils of global warming are not on the far horizon. These perils are now at our doorstep.

Over the next few months, the food crisis threatening our people will be more severely felt. We need someone who could lead a comprehensive response.

=END=