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By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

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CNN

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

The MARCOS administration should allocate more funds to climate change mitigation to reduce the damage wrought by disasters, environmental groups said on Wednesday.

“We are concerned that the government is not paying enough attention or allocating enough resources to dealing with typhoons even before they start as low pressure areas,” Gerry Arances, executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED) said in a Viber message.

“Disasters are inevitable... meeting the challenge of disasters is limited to preparing infrastructure and responses for natural calamities,” he said.

“Whether it’s transitioning to renewable energy, painting our roofs white to reflect sunlight or planting new mangrove forests to barricade our coasts from more intense storms, investing in ‘prevention’ is smarter than trying to put out more and more fires,” Gregg Yan, founder and executive director of environmental group Best Alternatives, said in an e-mail.

Echoing the sentiment, Mr. Arances said that the impact of disasters will not be avoided by simply building typhoon-resistant infrastructure.

“We need to change the mindset that disasters are inevitable, and that meeting the challenge of disasters is limited to preparing infrastructure and responses for natural calamities,” he said, adding that the intensity and frequency of typhoons “will only get worse with time if we continue to burn fossil fuels and refuse an immediate transition to renewable energy.”

“Without a meaningful transition compliant with climate science, all the current mindsets will produce is an arms race between more powerful typhoons and even more infrastructure trying to meet them,” Mr. Arances said.

The government seeks P543.45 billion for climate change-related spending, but a huge bulk of it (P294.46 billion) will be allocated for “water sufficiency projects,” while P180.7 billion will be for sustainable energy projects, Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman said in August.

Research group IBON Foundation had criticized that “the biggest expense item is not straightforward about what they’re really about.”

Meanwhile, P2.5 billion will be for the rehabilitation of 31,992 hectares of forests, P181 million for the Clean Air Program and P198 million for the Clean Water Program.

Under the 2024 National Expenditure Plan (NEP), the proposed calamity fund is at P31 billion.

Climate change could cut the Philippines’ economic output by 13.6% by 2040, the World Bank said in a report last year.

CNN

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Coffee, to the average Filipino, can mean many things. For others, it could be something as passing as a trendy beverage or a souvenir when traveling to different regions. But many would agree that coffee can also be a basic necessity. Whether stocking up for daily consumption or splurging on a carefully brewed cup of joe, caffeine has become a staple for mornings, afternoons, and evenings. However, for our local farmers, coffee is more than a beverage — it's their livelihood and future.

Despite this, local harvests only meet 27% of the growing demand, with the remaining gap balanced out by imported supply. Some 46,000 Filipino coffee farmers registered with the Department of Agriculture, most of whom are smallholders that till 1- to 2-hectare farms and live in poverty. These numbers could be a result of many factors and struggles our local farmers face, from environmental concerns brought about by climate change to inadequate technology and knowledge, and the lack of access to quality materials and financial resources. But when given the chance and full support, farmers can achieve a sustainable livelihood with a high-value crop such as coffee.

As the country's biggest local manufacturer that sources green coffee beans (GCBs) from Filipino farmers, Nestlé Philippines has continuously engaged with local farmers to cultivate their crops and promote coffee farming as a sustainable livelihood. Its consolidated coffee sustainability program, the NESCAFÉ Plan, was launched in 2010. Under this stands Project Coffee+, NESCAFÉ's agripreneurship training program, launched in 2018 with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Back then, NESCAFÉ provided 1,500 Robusta coffee farmers from Bukidnon and Sultan Kudarat — where 83% of our local coffee is grown — with training and technical assistance, introducing them to regenerative agriculture practices to increase their outputs. The Farmer Business School (FBS) also educated farmers in business and marketing to grow their income. Participating farmers discovered that on average, their yields and income tripled in 2021.

NESCAFÉ Plan Coffee Ambassador Leo Zambrano worked as a farmer for over 37 years before he first engaged with Project Coffee+ back in 2018. The improvements in his yields and earnings that resulted from his participation in Project Coffee+ have proven that coffee farming is profitable. Zambrano's farming expertise and experience pushed him to extend the training to his fellow farmers in Barangay Kaatuan, Lantapan, Bukidnon, to evolve into full-blown businesses. After growing his livelihood, he

established the Zambrano Integrated Farm, a certified Learning Site in Region 10 for the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) under the Department of Agriculture. His four sons, who finished schooling, also followed their father in continuing their legacy of coffee farming.

“Ipinagmamalaki ko na ako ay magsasakang Pilipino na nangangalaga ng kapeng Pilipino para sa kapwa ko Pilipino (I’m proud that I’m a Filipino farmer who grows Filipino coffee for my fellow Filipinos),” he shared in a statement to Nestlé.

In a feature with Caleb Quinley for National Geographic, Bukidnon farmer and Project Coffee+ participant Arnold Cagas Abear shared that he continues farming to provide for his family. He admitted a concern many of his fellow farmers often think about, which is training the next generation amid a declining interest in the livelihood. But after learning sustainable methods that yielded improvements in harvests and income, Abear isn’t easily swayed by the fear.

“We are expanding and building a training center to help other coffee lovers,” he said. “We can now provide for our children’s daily needs and send our children to school.”

NESCAFÉ continues its commitment to be an advocate for local coffee farmers by educating their children and equipping them with the skills that will help them establish profitable agri-ventures in the future. In celebration of International Coffee Day, NESCAFÉ launched the Kape’t Bisig sa Pagbangon campaign to motivate the youth to become the next generation of coffee farmers.

Through the Kape’t Bisig music challenge, NESCAFÉ gives avid coffee drinkers the opportunity to honor the farmers who produce their favorite drink, and the chance to support their children’s ambitions and dreams for a better life, with each song or dance to the brand’s Bangon song. For NESCAFÉ, Kape’t Bisig is another way of securing local farmers’ continued success by providing a ₱10 million-peso educational assistance fund. The fund will help their children, the new generation of Filipino coffee farmers, finish their agricultural studies in state universities that partnered with Kape’t Bisig.

ECO BUSINESS

[‘We’re losing money to climate change’: Corporates push for fossil fuels phase-out ahead of COP28](#)

By: Robin Hicks

A mixture of major multinational brands and smaller businesses has signed an open letter to world leaders in the run-up to the COP28 climate talks, calling for a full phase-out of fossil fuels.

“Our businesses are feeling the impacts and cost of increasing extreme weather events resulting from climate change,” the group said in the open letter, stressing the need to cut emissions by adopting clean solutions and reducing fossil fuel use to cap global heating at 1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement.

The group of 131 firms, worth US\$987 billion in combined annual revenue, is made up of mainly Western firms operating in territories less dependent on fossil fuels, but includes a handful of Asian businesses, including Indian conglomerates Mahindra Group and Godrej, and some African businesses.

Brands worth at least US\$1 billion, including consumer goods giants Unilever, Danone and Nestlé, chemicals firm Bayer, brewer Heineken, tech company Hewlett-Packard, automaker Volvo and furniture retailer IKEA, are among the signatories.

The group called on COP28 negotiators to agree on a full phase-out of unabated fossil fuels to halve emissions this decade, which it said could boost global gross domestic product (GDP) by 4 per cent.

It is also pushing for governments to support fossil fuel phase-out with plans to ensure a just transition for affected workers, and for rich countries to support emerging economies in setting 1.5°C-aligned economic pathways. However, it noted that financial assistance for the Global South must not exacerbate unsustainable sovereign debt.

The business collective also called for a “meaningful” price on carbon that reflects the full costs of climate change and a reform of fossil fuels subsidies so that clean energy growth could be “turbocharged”.

The group wants renewable electricity capacity to be tripled and the rate of deployment of energy efficiency measures to be doubled by 2030, so that energy systems can be completely decarbonised in the Global North by 2035 and by 2040 in the Global South.

The letter was coordinated by We Mean Business Coalition, a collective of non-profits including CDP, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and Climate Group, through the Fossil to Clean campaign.

Some energy companies signed the letter, including Danish firm Ørsted, which pivoted from oil and gas to renewables in 2017, Finnish state-owned electricity utility Fortum Corporation, and Portugal-based utility EDP, the owner of Singaporean solar firm Sunseap.

Mahindra Group, which operates in a country heavily dependent on fossil fuels, told Eco-Business in a statement that India has set a “bold” target to achieve 50 per cent energy from renewable sources by 2030, and its portfolio companies in the renewable space, including clean tech firm Mahindra Susten, “look to play a role in this mission.”

The US\$19 billion-valued Mahindra Group has committed to cutting its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions – that is, the company’s direct and indirect emissions – to net zero by 2040 and use only renewable energy by 2030.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Climate proofing merged in new building code bill 'necessary'

By: Filane Mikee Cervantes

A lawmaker on Tuesday said an environment-friendly measure that seeks to replace the 46-year-old Building Code will make the country's structures more resilient against natural calamities and disasters.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. said the climate-proofing plan under House Bill 8500 or the proposed New Philippine Building Act would still preserve the power of local government units to issue statutes or regulations relating to buildings in their respective localities as long as these are consistent with the proposed new building law.

"Climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters that hit the country make it necessary for us lawmakers to update our building and construction laws. Improvements in building regulations and standards are necessary to help us respond to our vulnerabilities to such disasters as earthquakes, typhoons and volcanic eruptions, given that the Philippines is situated along the Pacific 'Ring of Fire,'" Villafuerte said.

The bill aims to create the Office of the National Building Officer (NBO), which is tasked to ensure that the buildings or structures are stronger or more tenacious in the face of earthquakes, storms, floods, fires, landslides and other natural hazards of increasing frequency and intensity.

He said one requirement of the proposed new building code under HB 8500 is for all buildings and structures to be designed to "minimize their negative environmental impact throughout their life cycle, through efficient energy, water and waste management methods, use of sustainable materials and landscaping that considers a site's biodiversity and existing natural features, and climate change mitigating features, among other measures."

Another requirement, he said, is the strict use of building materials and components that are safe for the health of occupants.

He said the building materials must not cause any substantive negative impact on the environment including air, water and soil, and follow "a set of criteria, including strength, fire resistivity, moisture resistance, durability, and sustainability".

The bill shall authorize the NBO to recommend funding support for LGUs and communities that have endorsed disaster risk reduction and management activities for buildings and structures.

In August, a total of 266 lawmakers voted to approve HB 8500, which contains the country's proposed new National Building Code or law. No lawmaker voted against the bill or abstained from voting.

RAPPLER

[Climate adaptation funding gap 50% higher than estimated, UN says](#)

Rich country promises of help for poorer ones to adapt to climate change have slowed despite more frequent extreme weather, with a shortfall now 50% bigger than previously estimated, a UN agency said in a report said on Thursday, November 2.

Developed countries pledged in 2009 to provide \$100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer nations, and mobilizing funds will be a key talking point in COP28 negotiations in Dubai at the end of November.

The \$100-billion pledge, which has not been fully secured, was aimed at helping poorer countries not only mitigate climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions, but also to adapt to rising temperatures and sea levels.

However, the annual financing shortfall for adaptation alone now stands at \$194 billion to \$366 billion, with existing financial flows reaching just \$25 billion during the 2017-2021 period, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) said.

‘Action to protect people and nature is more pressing than ever,’ UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. “Yet as needs rise, action is stalling.”

The 2017-2021 financing amounted to about \$3 a person, and annual flows dropped 15% in 2021, said Georgia Savvidou, a researcher at Chalmers University of Technology and a co-author of the UNEP report.

“We really need ambitious adaptation action this decade, and if not, we will increase losses and damage,” she said.

Every \$1 billion spent on tackling coastal flooding, for example, would help avoid \$14 billion in economic damage, the UNEP said.

Guterres called on developed nations to meet pledges made at climate talks in 2021 to double adaptation funds, adding that a windfall tax should be levied on fossil fuel companies to compensate for climate losses.

While financing for mitigation projects like renewable energy has increased, mobilizing adaptation funds has proven difficult, said Pieter Pauw of the Eindhoven University of Technology, another UNEP co-author.

“Mitigation is often more interesting for donors because the atmosphere is a global public good and also because investments in mitigation often pay off,” he said.

UNEP estimated that developing countries required \$215-\$387 billion per year until 2030 to adapt to climate impacts, with the figure set to rise significantly by 2050.

“The numbers are not that big: if you compare the \$100 billion to the money that the United States spends on its military, and that was spent on COVID or to save its banks, this is peanuts,” said Pauw.

“We literally have a world to win here.... It is time for developed countries to step up and provide more.”

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Oil exec and climate champion? The man steering COP28

By: Ivan Couronne

The Emirati oil boss preparing to take the helm of UN climate talks said he is stunned to hear that environmentalists suspect him of duplicity on climate change.

Sultan Al Jaber, the United Arab Emirates climate envoy, minister of industry and advanced technology and CEO of the state-owned oil firm ADNOC, will lead the COP28 talks starting in Dubai in November.

It comes as the world faces increasingly stark warnings about the urgency of transitioning away from fossil fuels to have a hope of keeping climate targets in view.

Jaber's oil and gas links are controversial. Dozens of US and European lawmakers say they should disqualify him from the job, with hundreds of climate campaign groups calling for him to quit either COP or ADNOC.

Jaber has done neither.

The 50-year-old bristles at accusations that he has a conflict of interest.

"I'm someone who spent the majority of his career in sustainability, in sustainable economic development and project management, and renewable energy," he told AFP in July.

Indeed, he founded state-owned renewable energy company Masdar a decade before he took the helm of ADNOC with a mandate to "decarbonise" and "future-proof" the gas and petrol giant.

But his oil industry pedigree has raised a lot of eyebrows and questions over the COP presidency, a role that previously attracted a lot less attention.

Petroleum 'pragmatist'

"COP28 is beset by a dark cloud of -- entirely warranted -- public scepticism," said US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, one of a group of US and European lawmakers who last year called for fossil fuel lobbyists to be kept out of the talks.

Whitehouse told AFP that their open letter was sparked by Jaber's saying oil and gas interests would be "at the table".

Others say his links to the oil industry might be an advantage.

One European negotiator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the COP president needs to help tease out consensus among the world's diverse economies -- including those with stocks of oil, gas and coal.

The stakes are high.

The most ambitious goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement was to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, although UN climate experts warned this year that we are hurtling towards breaching that guardrail in the 2030s.

Jaber has vowed to "help move the needle in terms of our efforts of keeping 1.5C within reach".

"What I can tell you is that I will work with everyone to develop a plan that is achievable, that is actionable, that is realistic and that is pragmatic, and that will deliver real results," he said.

Surprisingly, he has managed to win over some sceptics during nine months of frenetic travel that has seen him crisscross the planet.

Harjeet Singh, of the influential coalition Climate Action Network International, said a turning point came in July, when Jaber wrote that "phasing down demand for, and supply of, all fossil fuels is inevitable and essential".

"He's very straightforward, he's open to listening," Singh told AFP, adding however that the pair "agree to disagree" on several issues.

Those disagreements include the prominence given to fossil fuel lobbyists and Jaber's endorsement of controversial carbon capture technologies -- like those that trap emissions at source and store them permanently.

ADNOC made a commitment in July to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 for its own operations.

But that target does not include emissions produced by the oil and gas burned by its customers, which account for the vast majority of its carbon footprint.

Ambition test

Will Dr Sultan, as he is known to his teams, be able to use his COP position as a largely behind-the-scenes facilitator, to help deliver an ambitious text acceptable to 198 parties?

His predecessor at COP21 in Paris, Laurent Fabius, said he was "a man who knows his files very well".

But the European negotiator who spoke on condition of anonymity said Jaber was "a little behind the curve" when it comes to negotiating the final text and "much less proactive" than the British were two years ago at COP26 in Glasgow.

Some worry Jaber is too focused on secondary decisions within the UN process and encouraging eye-catching commitments by businesses and countries from the sidelines of the climate talks -- slated to be by far the biggest ever held.

Proof of his ability to shepherd the more important UN text through the negotiations will come on December 12, when COP28 talks are supposed to end.

Pope says to attend COP28 climate conference in Dubai

Pope Francis on Wednesday said he would attend the crucial COP28 climate talks starting in Dubai on November 30, weeks after warning that time is running out to act on global warming.

It will be the first time a pope has attended a COP meeting in person since the process began in 1995.

"I will go to Dubai. I think that I will leave on December 1 through the 3rd. I'll spend three days there," the pontiff told Italy's Rai 1 television.

The 86-year-old has made the environment one of the main themes of his papacy since being elected pope by cardinals in 2013.

In early October, Francis published an update on his landmark thesis of the devastation of human-induced climate change that he released eight years ago, warning some damage was "already irreversible".

The new papal text, "Laudate Deum" (Praise to God), was a follow-up to the 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si" ("Praise Be To You").

"Laudato Si" ran to almost 200 pages and was aimed not just at the world's 1.3 billion Catholics, but everyone on the planet, a call to global solidarity to act together to protect "our common home".

With that document, he placed himself -- and the Church -- firmly behind the science on blaming human behaviour for climate change.

In "Laudate Deum", he said the world's responses to global warming "have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point".

But he said the Dubai talks "can represent a change of direction", if participants make binding agreements on moving from fossil fuels to clean energy sources such as wind and solar.

Only a real commitment to change "can enable international politics to recover its credibility", he wrote.

'Suicidal' to abandon hope

The pope met Sultan Al Jaber, the president-designate of the COP28 talks, at the Vatican on October 11.

The appointment of Jaber -- who is head of Emirati energy giant ADNOC -- has drawn criticism from environmentalists, who denounce the role of the hydrocarbon sector in global warming.

In his text last month, Francis referenced concerns about the UN talks being held in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, noting that while it was a "great exporter of fossil fuels" it also made "significant investments" in renewable energy sources.

"To say that there is nothing to hope for would be suicidal, for it would mean exposing all humanity, especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change," wrote Francis.

The trip to Dubai will be the 45th overseas visit by the pope since he was elected -- and the seventh country he has visited this year.

He has said he needs to slow down, however, after suffering a series of health issues in recent years.

The Argentine pontiff underwent a hernia operation under general anaesthetic in June, two years after having surgery on his colon.

He also suffers from knee pain which forces him to use a wheelchair.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC rallies for climate-resilient Phl amid observance of global warming, climate change consciousness week](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission is rallying for the public to help the government in promoting a climate change-resilient Philippines with this year's observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, which is set to begin on 19 November.

This year's observance of the climate consciousness week with the theme "Bayanihan Para sa Klima: Bagong Bansang Matatag" in the country, particularly aims to gather collective actions for climate commitments by encouraging the public to understand climate change and to take part in taking appropriate action.

This event will also serve as a reiteration of the country's dedication to international agreements on climate change adaptation.

The CCC calls for more scaled-up efforts across sectors to achieve the country's ambitious climate goals.

During the soft-launching of the event earlier this week, Secretary Robert E.A Borje, the CCC vice chair and executive director, called on the public to rally behind the government's efforts to provide people with sufficient knowledge and awareness about the impacts of climate change.

Proclamation No. 1667, dated 18 November 2008, designates the annual observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week every 19 to 22 November, which targets "to raise awareness about global warming and climate change" through comprehensive public information and educational campaigns.

Borje said the proclamation also urges all government agencies, offices, and entities to collaborate with the private sector and liaise with the United Nations in conducting relevant activities during this week.

He said climate change "is no longer just a concept but a reality many people are living through."

“Thus it’s important for us to mainstream climate change. It’s one thing to hear about it but it’s another to fully understand the phenomenon but its impacts and most importantly what we need to solve it,” he added.

This year’s observance highlights the CCC’s program to boost climate change and global warming-responsive adaptation in the Philippines.

Marking the commencement of the CCC week, a tree-planting event is set to be conducted at the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed in Paete, Laguna on 19 November under the commission’s Net Zero Challenge.

The NZC targets carbon offsetting through nature-based solutions and serves as the CCC’s pioneering program to turn key policy tools into tangible actions, further aiding in disaster risk reduction by stabilizing slopes and reducing the likelihood of landslides and flash floods.

The commission will also hold a Climate Investment Forum 2023 with the theme “Amplifying Action through Sustained Collaboration.”

CCC explained that the forum aims to inform stakeholders about the country’s climate change investment strategies aligned with national policies addressing climate change risks.

It will also showcase the government-led investments across vital sectors, combined with private sector initiatives, to foster a united approach for achieving an upper-middle income, low-carbon, climate-smart Philippines.

This will be followed by the conduct of “Accelerating Climate Action and Transformation for Local Communities Forum” which will as the best platform for the local government units to exchange information and best practices, as well as collaboratively develop climate change action plans.

To further boost climate change and global warming awareness, the CCC will hold a Business Climate Ambition Roundtable Discussion, involving pioneering business leaders who advocate for “corporate net zero” and “business unusual” frameworks—emphasizing ambitious climate action, business resilience, and stakeholder prosperity.

These leaders are expected to present their trailblazing efforts towards the country’s climate goals as well as to highlight transparency, accountability, and the essential synergy between government and private sector in forming supportive climate policies.

The CCC also tapped renowned artists and sustainability experts to discuss the interplay of art, nature, and climate change. This aims to emphasize the art's essence as a catalyst for climate awareness.

This will be accompanied by a photo exhibit to promote “the harmony of art and environmental consciousness” and spotlight the urgent need for climate action through a diverse collection of artworks and accompanying narratives.

A panel of technical experts will also launch the five policy briefs addressing sea level rise, flooding, water and human security, and climate change impacts on health. In a forum, these experts will highlight climate projections for the Philippines, share best practices and technological advances, and facilitate discussions among the government, scientists, and the public to pinpoint and act on climate change challenges.

The CCC likewise aims to highlight the essential role of faith in climate solutions, the event will reflect on religious teachings and their impact on environmental stewardship through an interfaith dialogue.

This year's CCC week will serve as a platform to discuss policy solutions for addressing climate change and highlight both local and global mitigation strategies.

MANILA STANDARD

[Opinion] Moment of truth

It's zero hour for the 13-day climate talks in Dubai starting Nov. 30, the 28th such gathering of world leaders under the auspices of the United Nations known as Conference of the Parties or COP.

In this high-level summit of an expected 70,000 delegates, where the Philippines is ready to present its experience, countries will aim to resolve a new agreement as accelerating climate change threatens the world with costly results.

COP, which also exist for other UN conventions and treaties on issues including desertification and biodiversity, refers to the 198 parties including the European Union that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, originally adopted in Brazil in 1992.

COP has been held every year in different cities since 1995, with the exception of COP26 in Glasgow, which was delayed by a year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Emirati presidency of the COP 28 has stated it wishes to focus on solidarity between the countries of the North and the South, the energy transition, and will ensure the world responds to the Global Stocktake with a clear action plan.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is expected to attend the summit, according to the Climate Change Commission, where the typhoon-prone country of 114 million is ready to deliver its message.

Earlier in June, the President said he was keen to attend the conference, adding climate change is "a primordial issue."

In a press briefing, CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje underlined the importance of conveying the experiences and efforts of developing countries like the Philippines.

He highlighted the message from the Philippines will revolve around the impact of climate change on lives, livelihoods, and the shared future of vulnerable nations and stressed the need for responsible action from the international community to address this life-and-death issue.

It is indeed significant to formulate solutions at the community and personal level by deepening understanding of its impacts as well as identifying possible measures to address it.

As host, the UAE is focused on providing practical and positive solutions that drive progress for climate and the economy, as well as relief and support to vulnerable communities.

Borje told the media: “The messages the Philippines wants to convey will really center on what developing countries, like the Philippines, continue to experience, what we are doing to make sure we are responsible members of the international community.”

The Philippines will also inform the international community what it needs to continue doing “because for countries, like the Philippines and other vulnerable nations, it is a question of lives, livelihood and our shared future.”

We hope the Dubai participants will not just hear or listen to the problems.

More importantly, we hope they will try to understand not just the paradox of climate change but its impact and what the world can do to address it.

=END=