



## NEWS ROUNDUP

07 November 2022 [ 08:20 am]

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## BUSINESS MIRROR

### [Still hopeful about COP 27](#)

By: Atty. Jose Ferdinand Rojas II

As you read this column, environmental activists, scientists, and government officials in the thousands are gathered at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change being held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. This event is happening from November 6 to 18, 2022.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Malampaya could have been used to temper gas prices — think tank](#)**

By: Ashley Erika O. Jose

The government could have used the remaining gas from the Malampaya field as a stabilizing source of supply to temper price volatility in the gas market, instead of allowing control of the field to change hands, according to an alternative-energy think tank.

## **CARE ORG**

### **[Four Countries Caught in the Climate Crisis Right Now](#)**

By: Travis Nichols

Since last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, the world has seen hundreds of extreme weather events, from historic heat waves in Europe to drought in the Horn of Africa to another super-charged hurricane season in the United States.

## **CNN PHILIPPINES**

### **[Filipino advocates to pressure global leaders for serious climate action as COP27 begins](#)**

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 6) — Filipino advocates from youth, environment groups, and the private sector will be observing the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference to let leaders know they want serious action against the effects of climate change.

## **JOURNAL ONLINE**

### **[Alternative Energy for a Climate Challenged Philippines](#)**

Renewable energy (RE) sources like wind, solar, hydro, and nuclear power are all very important resources for the Philippines. But why stop at reducing carbon footprint, when you can have an energy source that can change lives, reduce the cost of electricity, and produce high value green products? BIOMASS is that key energy source.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Aboitiz Group sees strong Q3 results amid its Great Transformation](#)**

The end of the third quarter is such an exciting period. There is much to look back on and yet still several months of potential before the close of the year. Nine months into the Aboitiz Group's year of Great Transformation and there are countless stories and accomplishments to share. With innovation and a renewed entrepreneurial mindset driving development, Aboitiz is truly on its way to becoming the Philippines' first Techglomerate.

## **MANILA METRO**

### **[COP27: Getting back to Net Zero: IMF lists 3 key priorities for climate mitigation](#)**

New Delhi [India], November 5 (ANI): The 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC or COP 27 will be held at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt from November 6 to 18 in an effort to build on previous successes and pave the way for effectively tackling global climate change.

### **[WHO: Rise in Ebola Outbreaks in Africa Linked to Climate Change](#)**

Geneva - World health officials are linking a significant rise in African Ebola outbreaks in this century to climate change.

## **MINDA NEWS**

### **[200 Davao City bikers join Pedal for People and Planet](#)**

By: Antonio Colina IV

Davao City (MindaNews / 06 November) — Some 200 cyclists in Davao City on Sunday joined the last leg of the "Pedal for People and Planet" simultaneously held in 10 cities and provinces in the country to call on global economies to pay their climate debt in time for the opening of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt from November 6 to 18.

## **NIKKEI ASIA**

### **[\[OPINION\] Young Asian social entrepreneurs offer hope through climate action](#)**

By: Kanni Wignaraja and Peter Babej

The destruction and loss of life caused by Typhoon Noru, which recently tore through the Philippines before making its way into Vietnam, amplified the reality of the increasing frequency and ferocity of tropical storms as a result of climate change.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Living on water](#)**

By: Ar. Joel Luna

This week, representatives of various governments and organizations—consisting of environment advocates and pro-fossil fuel lobbyists—will meet for the United Nation’s COP 27 in Egypt.

### **BIZ BUZZ: Pricey power**

By: Jordeene B. Lagare

Big consumers of electricity in Metro Manila and nearby provinces such as manufacturing companies are up in arms over the sudden and significant increase in their monthly electricity bills, brought about by attempts of their retail electricity suppliers (RES) to pass on the surge in production costs caused by more expensive fuel and a weaker currency.

### **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **DBM eyes collab with UK envoy for PH sustainable dev’t**

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila – Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Saturday expressed intent in fostering collaboration with United Kingdom (UK) Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufilet to attain the country’s sustainable development goals.

### **PRESSENZA**

### **Recognition of the Rights of Nature a Must**

The Philippines Tightens Bond to the Growing Number of Countries Pushing for the Recognition of the Rights of Nature. “Typhoons Paeng and Karding are cries of warning by mother earth. The devastation inflicted to our mountains, forests, and seas is too much for these ecosystems to bear. Mother nature is losing its control over the system it efficiently manages and balances since its beginning, to protect us from greater harm and catastrophe,” Yolanda Esguerra Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI) National Coordinator said, highlighting the devastation brought about by the series of typhoons that visited the country.

### **RAPPLER**

### **Advocates worry about ‘closing civic space’ at COP meetings**

By: Jee Y. Geronimo

Manila, Philippines – At such a crucial time for the global climate talks, civil society organizations are seeing “closing civic space” at the annual Conference of Parties (COP) meetings of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## [COP27 a test for Marcos administration to walk the talk on climate change](#)

By: Jhesset O. Enano

MANILA, Philippines – The United Nations (UN) climate summit in Egypt will be a litmus test for the Marcos administration's oft-repeated commitment to address climate change, according to experts.

## **SUNSTAR**

### [Ombion: Climate justice is the way forward](#)

By: Karl G. Ombion

As I earlier stressed, the climate crisis, that is, the worsening impact of climate change caused by the unabated destruction of our natural resources and ecosystems, is an issue that has raised global concern and one that is also connected with the crusade of greed and power by the northern countries or the big industrial capitalist powers and their semi-colonial states.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### [Lights for everyone in Magcorao-Bukidnon](#)

Members of the Magcorao-Bukidnon Indigenous Community were presented with solar-powered flashlights recently during a day to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Month. This aims to support and raise awareness of indigenous cultural communities.

### ['Govt to enhance disaster response'](#)

The government will continue to prioritize efforts to enhance disaster preparedness and response, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Sunday. In his weekly vlog, Marcos underscored the need to improve local preparedness and response capacity to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters on communities.

### [\[Opinion\] The doom of climate change](#)

By: Marit Sitnus-Cabugon

One could speculate as to the ecological footprint and greenhouse gas emissions generated by the 40,000 or more who are gathered at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt this week. How many airplanes did these 40,000 persons fill? How many of the participants in the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) and its side events chose less polluting

modes of transportation such as ship or train? Ajit Rajagopal, maybe the only person who walked to Sharm El-Sheikh, was arrested!

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### [\[Opinion\] Climate change: still the world's biggest crisis](#)

By: Elfren S. Cruz

The world today is facing several crises. There is raging inflation in all the economies of the world and it is becoming more apparent that next year, there will be a global recession. Beyond that, there is the threat of the deglobalization and a new period of stagflation. In terms of geopolitics, there is the ongoing Ukrainian invasion by Russia, the threat of an invasion of Taiwan by Xi Jinping, the reelection of an extremely rightist government in Israel which could re-ignite another violent confrontation in the Middle East. Recently, there has been increasing tension in the Korean Peninsula as North Korea increases the number of its missile tests.

### [SMC Global keen on battery storage](#)

By: Richmond Mercurio

Manila, Philippines — SMC Global Power Holdings Corp., the power subsidiary of conglomerate San Miguel Corp., is prioritizing putting up battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities to enable the use of more renewable capacities in the grid.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### [PH seeks 'bolder' climate commitment from developed nations](#)

By: Jane Bautista

The Philippines will assert its call for “bolder” climate action from developed nations and also urge them to make good on their commitment to climate finance and assistance during the annual United Nations climate negotiations being held in Egypt from Sunday until Nov. 18.

## **RAPPLER**

### [Everything you need to know about COP27](#)

By Lorenz Pasion

COP27 is hoped to become the 'turning point where the world came together and demonstrated the requisite political will to take on the climate challenge through concerted, collaborative and impactful action.'

## Information and Knowledge Management Division

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [Still hopeful about COP 27](#)

By: Atty. Jose Ferdinand Rojas II

As you read this column, environmental activists, scientists, and government officials in the thousands are gathered at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change being held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. This event is happening from November 6 to 18, 2022.

The Philippines has a delegation in the conference, many of whom were part of the preparations held in October. A consultation meeting was participated in by the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and 23 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that are actively working on climate change-related initiatives.

The rest of the country is keeping its fingers crossed that our COP 27 delegation will, indeed, achieve the desired results from the meeting. There are many groups and individuals worldwide who have expressed hopelessness about the COP meetings, saying that after such a long time and numerous conferences, we have achieved very little and are still far from hitting our targets. This is despite the global climate's emergency situation.

There are important reasons for the Philippine representatives to work extra hard this year. We all know the country is one of the most affected places as far as climate change is concerned. The rise of sea level and severe weather events affect our people and property greatly. Livelihood, agriculture, and biodiversity all suffer.

According to experts, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more intense. For example, typhoons will be stronger and droughts will last longer. It will either be extremely hot, or extremely flooded/cold. If it's any indication, the recent typhoons—Paeng, Agaton, Odette—have wreaked great havoc on our people and their livelihood, not to mention on various infrastructure and other assets.

COP 27 is crucial in that a critical matter will be (has to be) discussed —climate finance. The issue is not about raising targets, but rather a matter of raising money so poor countries can move away from coal, so developing nations can do their part. Targets are meaningless if some nations do not have the capacity at all to deal with the impacts of a

heating planet. Ironically, these nations that are making the tiniest contributions to global warming are the same ones that feel its consequences more acutely.

Part of climate justice is the creation of a loss and damage finance facility. It's also about fairly sharing the remaining carbon budget. Simply put, the poorer nations are saying that developed countries that have burned fossil fuels in the past in order to develop their economy have already taken more than their fair share of the carbon budget. They are, therefore, responsible for financial damages and losses from extreme weather events caused by climate change resulting from past emissions.

It definitely looks like there will be hot debates over this.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Malampaya could have been used to temper gas prices — think tank](#)**

By: Ashley Erika O. Jose

The government could have used the remaining gas from the Malampaya field as a stabilizing source of supply to temper price volatility in the gas market, instead of allowing control of the field to change hands, according to an alternative-energy think tank.

“In the interim and while securing genuinely long-term and affordable solutions in the form of renewables, handling Malampaya could have been a means for the government to temper price blows,” Gerry C. Arances, executive director of Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, said in a message to BusinessWorld on Saturday.

Mr. Arances said the government missed an opportunity by allowing the ownership transfer, which “makes no difference for consumers who still have to pay high electricity prices.”

“The elephant in the room is the fact that the government merely acted like a spectator as these deals pushed through,” he added.

Last month, Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc. acquired the 45% stake of Shell Philippines Exploration BV (SPEX) in Service Contract 38, covering the Malampaya field. The DoE found Prime Infra technically, financially, and legally qualified to succeed Shell as the Malampaya operator.

The government’s strategy of dealing with Malampaya’s depletion — relying on liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports — has also been called not economically viable.

Alberto R. Dalusung III, an adviser on the energy transition to the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, said in a Viber message to BusinessWorld on Saturday: “LNG does not appear to be an economic energy source currently and up to the medium term. Therefore, the only practical source of gas for the Philippines will be indigenous gas.”

Mr. Dalusung said the government must intensify its focus on developing indigenous sources, and supported the Department of Justice (DoJ) legal opinion allowing full foreign investment in renewable energy projects.

“I have always taken a contrary position on the interpretation of some constitutional provisions that treat renewable energy sources such as solar and wind as if they were mineral resources, subject to state-defined limits on foreign participation. Renewable energy resources are not exhaustible and their proper use will not deprive future generations of the same resources. Thus, I welcome the DoJ opinion and support the Department of Energy (DoE) plan to open up renewable energy investments to 100% foreign participation.”

The DoE has said imports of LNG will stabilize the natural gas supply and ensure the continued operation of five power plants with combined capacity of 3,453 megawatts which currently run on Malampaya gas.

The department has approved six proposed LNG terminal projects. Of the approved projects, First Gen Corp. and Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Co. have said they expect to start taking delivery of gas in 2023.

About 20% of the country's total power requirements, and 27% of the Luzon grid, is serviced by Malampaya, which is approaching commercial depletion.

## **CARE ORG**

### **[Four Countries Caught in the Climate Crisis Right Now](#)**

By: Travis Nichols

Since last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, the world has seen hundreds of extreme weather events, from historic heat waves in Europe to drought in the Horn of Africa to another super-charged hurricane season in the United States.

The 2022 conference, known as COP27, officially begins next week in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and climate experts are warning the leaders there that if they don't take urgent action, we may pass the point of no return.

CARE staff around the world have seen first-hand that the communities contributing the least to the root causes of the crisis continue to bear the brunt of its impacts.

In Somalia, which has contributed less than 1% of historic global greenhouse gas emissions, unprecedented drought has displaced more than 1 million people in search of food and water, while in Pakistan, which has contributed roughly .03% of global emissions since 1750, floods have left wide swaths of the country under water and more than 1700 people dead.

Many of the leaders of G20 countries and corporations responsible for the majority of the historic emissions causing this crisis will be in Egypt next week. CARE is also sending a delegation to demand the people in positions of power take responsibility for their role in the crisis by, in part, supporting the vulnerable communities suffering the daily reality of the crisis right now – countries like Nigeria, Mali, Chad, and the Philippines.

### **Nigeria**

Nigeria has suffered an unprecedented rainy season this year, and many climate experts predict these heavy, sudden rains could become the new normal.

This year's rains caused the Lagdo Dam in nearby Cameroon to shed excess water, causing the Niger and Benue rivers to flood, submerging hundreds of communities

under water and damaging houses, farmland, schools, and health care centers around the country.

There have been over 600 deaths reported so far from the crisis, while the Nigerian government and United Nations estimate that 95 million people will eventually be impacted by the climate-fueled flooding, with over two million people already displaced, and 19.4 million facing food insecurity.

A group of international relief organizations, including CARE, has said that if this is, in fact, the new normal, Nigeria will need urgent help.

“A repeat of this in 2023 when households, farmers and states would still be in the recovery process could be catastrophic.”

“It would heighten pre-existing food insecurity, poverty and increase the number of out of school children, especially girls who in such circumstances suffer early and forced marriage and other forms of gender-based violence,” the groups said in a statement.

“Addressing Nigeria’s perennial flooding is important for the country to make progress. The human-induced causes of flooding must be purposely addressed without further delay.”

## **Mali**

In Mali, sudden intense rainfall has caused destructive flooding throughout the Mopti region. More than 3,600 homes have been destroyed, and more than 1,350 households have already been affected.

Ely Keita, CARE Mali’s Country Director, recently visited the village of Syn in the Mopti region to help in the recovery work.

“This year, the flooding of this village was beyond what people could think of. In fact, the villagers told me that they have never seen something like this in 60 years. And this is of course the impact of climate change.

“Sometimes, when we talk about climate change, we don’t really live the reality of its impacts, but the people of Syn are living the reality.”

“Look at this, the entire village is destroyed by the floods. Imagine yourself where you are, where you are sitting, you have no home and no place to stay just because of flood. What would you do?”

## **Chad**

A recent CARE report found that, because of its unique geographic circumstances, North Africa’s vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change increases every year, with disproportionate impacts on women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and Indigenous groups.

This year, heavy rainfall in Chad has caused catastrophic floods in 18 of the country's 23 provinces, displacing over 200,000 households and destroying health facilities, roads, bridges, crops, and water systems.

In October, the Government of Chad declared a state of emergency and called for national and international solidarity to help the more than one million people affected by the floods.

The climate-fueled disaster comes as Chad is already suffering from an unprecedented food crisis, with more than half a million people already suffering from food insecurity.

"We are particularly concerned about the impact of the floods on vulnerable groups including female-headed households, the elderly and those with disabilities," Dr. Amadou Bocoum, CARE Chad's Country Director says. "We express our solidarity to the regional crisis committees, the inhabitants, and all those affected by the floods."

"We urgently need more support from donors, national and international, to scale-up our response. The situation is critical and the time to act is now to avert the threat posed by waterborne diseases, save lives, and restore livelihoods."

## **The Philippines**

The Philippines has historically been one of the most vulnerable countries to extreme weather events in the Pacific. According to World Bank data, some 20 tropical cyclones cross the country every year, killing more than 1,000 people annually.

From 2000 to 2019, the Philippines experienced a total of 317 climate-fueled weather-related events, the highest among the most-affected countries, according to the Global Climate Risk Index. These events cost an average of US\$ 3.2 billion per year during the period, ranking the country 4th in terms of economic loss and fatalities.

CARE's work in the Philippines has focused largely on disaster response, aiding local allies with emergency preparedness, livelihoods recovery, and integrated risk management programs. After Typhoon Haiyan struck in 2013, CARE quickly scaled up its relief efforts to quickly deliver lifesaving aid to those affected by the Category-5 cyclone. But even nearly twenty years after that one particularly devastating climate-fueled weather event, the country is still dealing with the loss and damage.

Meanwhile, the typhoons keep coming year after year.

"There are still a lot of uncertainties about the scale of the loss and damage costs across so-called developing countries," Marlene Achoki, CARE Climate Justice Global Policy Co-lead says. "However, there is no doubt that the scale is massive. This will significantly hamper the countries' possibilities not only to pursue sustainable

development goals, but also to invest in the necessary adaptation and resilience as well as mitigation measures.”

Against this backdrop of rapidly accelerating climate catastrophe around the world, CARE is calling on the G20 leaders at COP27 to meet the demands of vulnerable, developing countries like these through financing for climate damages.

“More than ever before, 2022 marks the era of loss and damage,” Achoki continues. “COP27 must kick off an era of solidarity and living up to responsibility. This means for rich and polluting countries establishing and providing dedicated loss and damage funding alongside and in addition to greater adaptation finance to assist countries affected by climate change in dealing with its costs.”

## **CNN PHILIPPINES**

### **[Filipino advocates to pressure global leaders for serious climate action as COP27 begins](#)**

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 6) — Filipino advocates from youth, environment groups, and the private sector will be observing the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference to let leaders know they want serious action against the effects of climate change.

“We are here in COP (Conference of the Parties) to put pressure on the world leaders to listen to our calls,” said Alab Ayroso, convener and national coordinator of the Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP).

The climate summit, commonly referred to as the COP of the UNFCCC, or COP27, will continue the talks pursued by the global community in Glasgow in 2021, especially on the reparations from the Global North to the Global South and the methods needed to accomplish this.

“What we need to see here is putting action to these goals and promises,” Ayroso said. “There have been 27 COPs already and we have yet to see these promises and goals come to fruition and see the improvement in the daily lives of the people, especially the most affected communities.”

Ayroso flew to Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt on Saturday, along with YACAP international spokesperson Mitzi Jonelle Tan.

Environmental policy expert Tony La Viña will also attend the conference as part of the 12-person team of the non-profit research organization Manila Observatory.

Filipinos from other non-government organizations and think tanks are also slated to speak in different panel discussions and side events throughout the two-week summit.

“You can expect that the youth will be part of spaces and side events to bring the issues of their community and be part of actions during the conference,” Ayroso said.

Meanwhile, some 2,500 cyclists in various cities in the country marked the beginning of COP27 with a coordinated bike ride early Sunday morning led by Pedal for People and Planet.

“As our state officials prepare to represent all Filipinos at the climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt (COP27), the impacts of ‘Paeng’ should remind them of exactly what is at stake,” said civil society climate network Aksyon Klima Pilipinas (AKP) in a statement.

“Resilience is not enough to respond to the climate crisis, especially the way it is being romanticized in the Philippine context,” AKP added.

Filipino advocates urged the Philippine delegation to also call to establish the loss and damage financing facility and pressure developed countries to deliver on their promises of double adaptation finance to meet the needs and demands of the most vulnerable.

“Parties must establish well-defined implementation plans and strategies for the phaseout of coal-fired power plants and hasten a just transition towards renewable energy resources, aligned with the goals of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 45% by 2030 and achieving net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050,” AKP said.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga will head the country’s delegation, joined by representatives from Congress, the Climate Change Commission, the Departments of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, and Energy, as well as advisers from science and civil society organizations.

## **JOURNAL ONLINE**

### **[Alternative Energy for a Climate Challenged Philippines](#)**

Renewable energy (RE) sources like wind, solar, hydro, and nuclear power are all very important resources for the Philippines. But why stop at reducing carbon footprint, when you can have an energy source that can change lives, reduce the cost of electricity, and produce high value green products? BIOMASS is that key energy source.

RE shouldn't stop at reducing the cost of power as well as reducing the Philippine's carbon footprint. It needs to ensure that it can significantly impact and change the lives of people. To say that bringing power to the millions of people who live off the grid is one thing, but how are they expected to pay for that power, or for the products that require power?

Why produce only one product, when you can produce multiple of it? Products for both the local and international market! And, more than that, ensure stable employment through extending a factory's lifetime to more than 25 years? To top it all off, reduce carbon footprint and benefit from carbon credits.

All of this can be achieved using high lignin Bana grass.

Mackay Variety Bana Grass or MVBG has been tested in many countries and can produce the following green products: biomass, Bana green coal, charcoal Bana Pellets, and other Biofuels.

MVBG products can compete one-on-one with fossil fuel in cost of production as well as cost of investment.

To fight climate change, the future has to be about energy security – but more than that, there also needs to be a focus on job security and security ensured during external

events like pandemics and wars. This can only be achieved by having a wide range of different energy sources and paying fair wages.

The key to the success of a factory or power plant is having a secure feed. MVBG is the answer – it can not only provide security of stable feed, but ensure the security of jobs and the reduction of carbon footprints. As a renewable energy source, it can be used to claim carbon credits, ensuring investment per region and thus enhancing the lives of all.

Planting Bana grass is the solution to producing fast and secure electricity off-the-grid. Through the gasification process, which converts biomass into gases, Bana grass can be used to generate power for the whole region. And alongside that, it will come with the insurance of a stable livelihood for the people, as well as useful byproducts like wood vinegar, bio-oil, as well as bio char.

Through MVBG, the Philippines can establish itself as an RE (Renewable Energy) investment safe country. RE products can be produced locally at a competitive price, and be shipped back to the country of investment.

For example, a neighbouring country like Japan may need green coal – they can then invest here in the PH and lease lands either directly or through PPP (Private, Public Partnership). The coal that was produced here in the PH can then be shipped back to Japan, providing them with high value coal at a competitive price, as well as ensure eligibility for carbon credits.

Energy security, Job security, Investment Security, and Carbon Reduction – combined, these factors can put the Philippines as a key leader in the fight against climate change and saving the planet.

The key to the PH being a world leader in RE is based on whether it has an advanced high value biomass crop that does not negatively affect the food chain but ENHANCE it.

Technology is advancing unstoppably, and having a crop that is flexible enough to generate a wide range of RE products can give the Philippines an advantage over other countries.

Only through a tried and tested proven feed source can factories achieve their maximum potential and perform at a cost that allows for growth and one-on-one competitiveness with Fossil Fuel.

Mackay Variety Bana Grass (MVBG) is exactly that high value biomass.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Aboitiz Group sees strong Q3 results amid its Great Transformation](#)**

The end of the third quarter is such an exciting period. There is much to look back on and yet still several months of potential before the close of the year. Nine months into the Aboitiz Group's year of Great Transformation and there are countless stories and accomplishments to share. With innovation and a renewed entrepreneurial mindset driving development, Aboitiz is truly on its way to becoming the Philippines' first Techglomerate.

"As we move closer toward wrapping up a transformative year for the Aboitiz Group, our transition into the Philippines' first techglomerate has much to show for, not just in the latest figures of our financial performance, but more importantly in the significant cultural transformation currently taking place among our team members and the ways they work together. We will continue to invest substantially and strategically in innovation, but it has always been our investment in people that have yielded the most returns," said Aboitiz Group President and CEO Sabin M. Aboitiz.

During the Q3 media briefing, Aboitiz Group executives will highlight stories of transformation and community achievements. They will also hint towards what the public can expect to see as the Group continues to shape the future of industry.

The briefing will feature the following panelists: AboitizPower President and CEO Manny Rubio, UnionBank Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Toto Hilado, Pilmico and Gold Coin Group President and CEO Tristan Aboitiz, AboitizLand President and CEO Dave Rafael, Aboitiz InfraCapital President and CEO Cosette Canilao, Republic Cement CEO Roman Menz and Aboitiz Equity Ventures CFO Dmi Lozano.

### **AboitizPower**

For AboitizPower, their Great Transformation journey coincides with their purpose of Transforming Energy for a Better World by powering progress and sustainability nationwide.

By 2030, AboitizPower is working to have a 50:50 balance between thermal and renewable energy (RE) for a total generation capacity of 9,200 MW. At present, Cleanergy, the firm's RE solutions brand, advances businesses and communities by supplying them with energy derived from run-of-river, large hydro, solar and geothermal sources.

In addition to these indigenous energy resources, AboitizPower will soon add wind power to its renewable portfolio. Recently, the company signed a joint venture agreement with Mainstream Renewable Power to build a 90-MW onshore wind project in Libmanan, Camarines Sur. The partnership harnesses the company's local expertise in RE and Mainstream's specialty in RE development.

As a leader in renewable energy generation, AboitizPower has become the partner of choice for businesses who also advocate for a sustainable future. Last month, the company was tapped by outsourcing firm Teleperformance, to power the latter's Bacolod and Sucat offices with renewable energy.

These partnerships show how AboitizPower contributes to the development of a progressive and sustainable nation. Growing from its core business of generation and distribution, AboitizPower will soon be realizing the future of a smart ecosystem with like-minded partners. Down the line, the company intends to explore projects involving smart homes and businesses, networks and infrastructure, and even sustainable transport systems.

## **UnionBank**

The Aboitiz-led Union Bank of the Philippines (UnionBank) is well on its way to its aspiration of becoming a Great Retail Bank. The recent acquisition of Citi's consumer business in the country, completed last August 1, 2022, has accelerated UnionBank's aspirations to grow its retail segment.

The acquired consumer business from Citi has brought in Php 98 billion in assets, including Php 65 billion in credit card receivables and personal loans. It also included Php 67 billion in deposits with a CASA ratio of 89%. The Citi consumer business has approximately 1 million customers across its different products. Since the announcement of the deal, customer engagement has remained high with

A total of 1,500 former employees of Citi, including 100% of the leadership team of the consumer business, joined UnionBank. With integration activities running smoothly and on schedule, UnionBank has started to see the contributions of the Citi consumer business acquisition in Q3 2022.

Net Income for the quarter rose 17% to Php 4.0 billion bringing year-to-date performance to Php 10.1 billion. Net revenues excluding trading gains increased by 37% year-on-year to Php 36 billion. Net interest margin also increased to 4.9% from 4.6% in the same period last year coming from the expansion of earning assets and higher CASA ratio.

### **Aboitiz InfraCapital**

In line with the Great Transformation of the Group, Aboitiz InfraCapital (AIC) has continued its development of smart and sustainable industrial anchored cities while also recently diversifying into a new business in the digital infrastructure space.

AIC's Economic Estates have been widely recognized and awarded here and abroad for their leadership in industrial anchored mixed-use development as well as sustainable industrial development. Located in Luzon and Visayas, these Economic Estates are being continuously transformed by AIC through the introduction of new product lines, sustainability initiatives and soon, through smart city features aligned with the Aboitiz Group's transformation efforts.

LIMA Estates in Batangas is setting the standard as the country's best-selling and largest privately owned industrial-anchored estate with a 5-star BERDE-District Certification. At the recently concluded PropertyGuru Philippines Property Awards, LIMA received several distinctions: Best Industrial Development, Best Green Development, and Best CBD Development. At the same ceremony, AIC was awarded the top plum as Best Industrial Developer, with a Special Recognition in Sustainable Design and Construction. Lima Estate was also recently named as a finalist in the World Green Building Council's Asia Pacific Leadership in Green Building Awards. Meanwhile, at the West Cebu Estate in Balamban, Cebu, plans for its own commercial business district are underway, with the first phase set to start construction by 2023. AIC is hoping to expand its footprint in other parts of the country and be able to replicate the success of its thriving Estates business in Batangas and Cebu.

To help boost the country's digital ecosystem, AIC has diversified into data centers with their recent partnership with EdgeConneX, the pioneer in global hyperlocal to hyperscale data center solutions, based in the United States. The joint venture will address the rising data usage in the Philippines by developing an advanced data center platform to house cloud service providers' information technology equipment, enabling them to better support the Philippine market. The first two data centers focus on the Metro Manila area, with a connectivity-focused facility adjacent to the local internet exchange and a secondary hyperscale campus facility also located in the greater Manila area. This marks AIC's second pillar in digital infrastructure after Unity, which already operates 500 macro towers and small cell poles across the Philippines. In addition, it has 200 macro towers that are already in various stages of development.

### **Aboitiz Construction**

As the construction arm of the Aboitiz Group, Aboitiz Construction has been growing its presence in heavy and light industries, infrastructures and maintenance services to ultimately stimulate economic growth for the communities they operate in and beyond.

Aboitiz Construction completed construction of a 6,000 sq. meter storage warehouse for La Filipina Uy Gongco Corp. in Iloilo City. Through the project, the company did its part to contribute to improving the logistics of world-class agricultural products traded within the Philippines and throughout Southeast Asia. Additionally, it also completed the steel structure, mechanical, piping, insulation, painting and fireproofing works for a petrochemical plant in Batangas City owned by JG Summit.

Recently, Aboitiz Construction made it to the inaugural 2023 list of The Philippines' Best Employers drawn up by the Philippine Daily Inquirer in collaboration with Statista. This is in line with the company's strategy to develop talents and create a future-ready workplace.

Looking towards the sustainable future of the industry and the environment, Aboitiz Construction partnered with Envirotech Waste Recycling Inc. to better manage plastic waste across all its project sites nationwide. This is a step-up initiative in line with prior commitments towards environmental sustainability, with a Policy Against Single-Use Plastics previously implemented.

## **AboitizLand**

AboitizLand continues to innovate ways to lead more Filipinos home as it aligns with the Great Transformation of the Aboitiz Group.

Leveraging property technology has proven to be a key strategy for the property business unit. In construction, AboitizLand has introduced the use of precast panel technology to build homes faster, stronger and more durable at Seafront Residences in San Juan, Batangas and The Villages at Lipa in Batangas. This innovation will ensure that the homes robustly grow in value for the benefit of homeowners and investors.

Since its launch in 2017, Seafront Residences' value has appreciated by 295% and continues to grow as a vibrant community as more and more people are opting for a seaside lifestyle as working from anywhere becomes the new normal.

Additionally, Meadow Village, the most premium phase of The Villages at Lipa, Batangas, was launched this October, following strong market reception for its first two villages, Sierra and Brook. The 12-hectare premium residential lot is expected to generate Php 1.82 billion in sales revenue from over 170 units.

AboitizLand's residential projects have won several major awards during The Outlook: Philippine Real Estate Awards including 'The Developer of the Year for Visayas and Mindanao.' Seafront Residences won 'Best Premium House of the Year in Luzon' and Amoa won 'Best Affordable Housing Development in VisMin' for the second year in a

row. AboitizLand was also highly commended for its Seller Support System that made contactless home buying possible. Pristina North was also highly commended as Best Premium House for Visayas and Mindanao.

Amoa has also won 'Best Housing Development in Visayas' for the second consecutive time at the recent PropertyGuru Philippine Property Awards and was highly commended in two other categories.

With the goal of digitizing the end-to-end customer experience, AboitizLand has invested in innovations such as the Vecino App. The backbone of the digitally-enabled contactless home buying service that AboitizLand is championing, the proprietary app is constantly evolving as systems become more integrated and services more easily accessible for its homeowners. Another innovation is the AboitizLand Vecino Support Hub which provides digitized after-sales services. This features an omnichannel support system that allows AboitizLand to meet their customers in their platform of choice.

## **Pilmico**

The renewed entrepreneurial spirit of the Great Transformation has pushed the food subsidiary of the Aboitiz Group, Pilmico and Gold Coin Group (Pilmico), to reach further than before. Across both business units, namely food and their agribusiness, they are innovating and thriving.

Consumers are becoming more and more familiar with 'The Good Meat' (TGM) brand through its steadfast supermarket and store expansion. There are currently two retail meat stores with more branches across Metro Manila to be opened by year-end. TGM fresh cuts and ready-to-cook products are available in supermarkets in Metro Manila, Pangasinan, La Union, Cavite, Batangas and Laguna, and soon to be available in the Visayas region.

Meanwhile, Pilmico's pet food ventures Maxime, Tommy, and Woofy have found great success on e-commerce platforms in the Philippines as Pilmico took advantage of the digitally-enabled trading landscape. They have commissioned their pet food line in Vietnam, which makes their pet food products available in Vietnam and Malaysia.

Quick to capture demand and opportunities, Pilmico has increased its facilities and capacities across the region. A new breeder and nursery farm in Nueva Ecija was completed this October to support and augment swine production in the country amid threats of harmful diseases. The new facility has a capacity of 2,500 in sow level and can produce up to 4.7 million kilograms of pork meat annually to meet growing demand while maintaining biosecurity measures to battle external threats. For its feeds businesses, Pilmico has increased production capacity in the Philippines while also establishing new feedmills in Yunnan, China and Long An, Vietnam set to be completed by 2023.

## MANILA METRO

### [COP27: Getting back to Net Zero: IMF lists 3 key priorities for climate mitigation](#)

New Delhi [India], November 5 (ANI): The 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC or COP 27 will be held at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt from November 6 to 18 in an effort to build on previous successes and pave the way for effectively tackling global climate change.

This year's COP27 summit will be even more crucial in the backdrop of several extreme weather events -- typhoons in Bangladesh, unprecedented floods in Pakistan, heatwaves in Europe, wildfires in North America, dry rivers in China, and droughts in Africa.

According to a blog authored by International Monetary Fund's Kristalina Georgieva Managing Director, the extreme events will only get worse if the global community fail to act.

With scientists predicting more adverse events, lives and livelihoods of millions of vulnerables are at stake.

"Mass migration could follow. And, failure to get emissions on the right trajectory by 2030 may lock global warming above 2 degrees Celsius and risk catastrophic tipping points--where climate change becomes self-perpetuating," Georgieva argued in the blog.

"If we act now, not only can we avoid the worst, but we can also choose a better future. Done right, the green transformation will deliver a cleaner planet, with less pollution, more resilient economies, and healthier people."She added getting there requires action

on three fronts -- steadfast policies to reach net zero by 2050, strong measures to adapt to the global warming that's already locked in, and staunch climate finance to help vulnerable countries.

**Net zero by 2050**The good news is that about 140 countries, accounting for 91 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, have already proposed or set net-zero targets for around mid-century.

On the contrary, Georgieva said the bad news is that net-zero rhetoric does not match reality.

On adaptation, it focused on investments in resilience -- early warning systems and climate-smart agriculture.

**Climate finance:**Doing more on climate financing is vital. Advanced economies must meet or exceed the pledge of USD 100 billion in climate finance for developing countries.

Climate finance typically refers to any financing that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change.

Notably, ahead of the annual climate mitigation summit, India said it looks forward to substantial progress on the discussions related to climate finance, particularly for developing countries, and clarity on its definition.

India is expected to raise matters such as climate finance for the developing world where per capita emissions are comparatively quite low against the developed world in order to address carbon mitigation.

**What did India pledge at COP26 held in 2021?**At the COP26 summit in Glasgow in late 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed to an ambitious five-part "Panchamrit" pledge, including reaching 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity, to generate half of all energy requirements from renewables, to reduce emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030.

India also aims to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45 per cent. Finally, India commits to net-zero emissions by 2070.

Walking the talk, India has gone ahead and banned the use of several single-use plastics starting July 2022.

The adverse impacts of littered single-use plastic items plastic on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, including in marine environments are globally recognized.

## **MINDA NEWS**

### **[200 Davao City bikers join Pedal for People and Planet](#)**

By: Antonio Colina IV

Davao City (MindaNews / 06 November) — Some 200 cyclists in Davao City on Sunday joined the last leg of the “Pedal for People and Planet” simultaneously held in 10 cities and provinces in the country to call on global economies to pay their climate debt in time for the opening of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt from November 6 to 18.

Ruel Kenneth Felices, digital campaigner of the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), Inc. told MindaNews on Sunday that the bikers supported global calls to encourage governments of rich and industrialized countries to immediately deliver on their promise to allocate “climate reparations” for developing countries like the Philippines that has been suffering severely from the impact of climate crisis.

Felices said different environment groups also initiated a similar event in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Atimonan, Quezon, Batangas, Butuan City, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu and Tacloban.

Aside from Philippines, the same movement was also organized in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal.

He added that rich countries such as Japan, US, UK, and member states of the European Union, collectively known as the “Global North,” have the greatest contribution to the greenhouse gas emissions that worsen the climate crisis.

“The concept of our call for reparation is that these countries from the Global North are obliged to deliver climate finance to the Global South,” he added.

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.

The UNFCC is a legally binding agreement requiring governments of developed countries to “provide climate finance to developing countries in recognition that developed countries have contributed the most to the problem of climate change.”

At 5 a.m., participants of “Pedal for People and Planet” in the city rode 15 kilometers starting from Roxas Avenue fronting the Ateneo de Davao University, to Azuela Cove in Lanang and back to where it started. The event was organized by the Asian People’s Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) with Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), Sanlakas, Oriang, 350.org Pilipinas, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), The Climate Reality Project Philippines, Oxfam Philippines, Greenpeace Pilipinas, Caritas Philippines, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability, Youth for Climate Justice, Ecoteneo, Sustainable Davao Movement and No Burn Pilipinas.

In a press release, APMDD coordinator Lidy Nacpil said the plight of people of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Philippines after climate change-related calamities dramatically and tragically highlight the gravity and urgency of addressing climate change.

The climate finance will be used “for adaptation, building resilience, and GHG reduction measures in developing countries, which includes the transition to renewable energy away from fossil fuels. It is not aid or assistance but part of reparations for the harm caused.”

Atty. Mark Peñalver, executive director of IDIS, added that “Global North” should “bear the greatest responsibility for the climate crisis to pay their climate debt owed to people and communities who contributed the least, but bear the greatest impacts.”

“With the recent incidents caused by Typhoon Paeng, it is important to provide climate finance to cover loss and damage to lives, infrastructure, ecosystems and economies”.

The COPs are the “biggest and most important annual climate-related conferences. This year marks the 27th annual summit, or COP27.”

According to organizers of the Pedal for People and Planet, countries agreed to deliver stronger commitments this year, including updated national plans with more ambitious targets during COP26 last year.

Out of 193 countries, only 23 have so far submitted their plans to the UN, according to the organizers.

### **WHO: Rise in Ebola Outbreaks in Africa Linked to Climate Change**

Geneva - World health officials are linking a significant rise in African Ebola outbreaks in this century to climate change.

Uganda's September 20 Ebola outbreak is just the latest in a growing number of eruptions of this deadly hemorrhagic disease in Africa. Since 2000, the World Health Organization has reported 32 outbreaks of Ebola, 19 in the last decade compared to 13 in the preceding one.

Ebola is one of a range of zoonotic diseases - infections originating in animals and jumping to humans. A WHO analysis finds Ebola and other viral hemorrhagic fevers constitute nearly 70% of these outbreaks. The remaining 30% include dengue fever, anthrax, plague, and monkeypox.

WHO Africa incident manager for the Ebola outbreak in Uganda, Patrick Otim, says the number of zoonotic diseases occurring in the region in the last decade has increased by more than 63%.

"There have been a couple of researchers that have shown a possible link between the climatic changes that we are seeing and the increase in zoonotic diseases, and for this particular case for Ebola, for instance," he said.

Otim said diseases are caused by several factors. Ebola, he said, is strongly influenced by the human factor. As populations increase and people encroach on wildlife habitats, interaction with animals increases. This, he said, increases the spread of disease to humans.

Otim said temperature and climatic changes also spur migration and movement of some Ebola virus hosts.

"For the Ebola virus, we know that the bats and other animals are hosts of this particular virus," he said. So, when they move from areas where, for instance, there is drought or whether areas that are no longer conducive for them and they move to favorable areas, they may move into an area where the human population is inhabiting and therefore the interaction between the humans increases."

WHO says Ebola now has spread to seven districts in Uganda beyond the original epicenter in the Mubende district. The latest reports put the number of cases at 131, including 48 deaths.

The current Ebola outbreak in Uganda has been triggered by the so-called Sudan strain for which there is no vaccine. WHO said several promising candidate vaccines soon will undergo clinical trials to evaluate their potential against Ebola.

## **NIKKEI ASIA**

### **[\[OPINION\] Young Asian social entrepreneurs offer hope through climate action](#)**

By: Kanni Wignaraja and Peter Babej

The destruction and loss of life caused by Typhoon Noru, which recently tore through the Philippines before making its way into Vietnam, amplified the reality of the increasing frequency and ferocity of tropical storms as a result of climate change.

With its extensive coastlines, low-lying territories and many small island states, the Asia-Pacific region is confronted with the significant implications of climate change. The region's geography makes it highly susceptible to rising sea levels and weather extremes, posing a very real threat to more than 4.7 billion people.

No one wishes to sit around awaiting this doom. There is much that can and must be done, and in a region that is home to over 60% of the global youth population, it is essential that they become engaged in accelerating climate action.

Efforts to direct the potential and power of young people toward climate action are well underway and can be further supported and scaled. Entrepreneurship offers a path for

youth to shape and lead local solutions that strengthen community resilience, turning their climate concerns into climate action.

In Vietnam, the desire to develop industrial home care products that are good for the environment and safe to use brought three young people together to start FUWA Biotech, which makes enzymes for chemical-free cleaning liquids from disposed pineapple peels.

In Bangladesh, the co-founders of Borac Energia met at a networking event where they exchanged their passion and experience in climate change and clean tech. This led to a startup that makes clean energy affordable by delivering environment-friendly, recycled lithium-ion batteries with double the life span of lead-acid batteries.

In Japan, the company Think sea was born from its founder's desire to combine his passion for fish and leather crafting with his concern for fish waste, resulting in an enterprise that transforms skin discarded in the making of sashimi and sushi into fish leather to make products such as business cardholders, wallets and iPhone cases under the brand name of Tototo.

A new study by Youth Co:Lab "Climate Concern to Climate Action: The Role of Young Social Entrepreneurs," an initiative co-led by the U.N. Development Program and Citi Foundation to accelerate the implementation of U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals, reveals the strong concerns young social entrepreneurs have regarding climate change and provides key insights on how climate change is impacting their organizations.

The research illustrates how young social entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific region are making valuable and innovative contributions to climate action with creative and entrepreneurial mindsets.

Some 84% of those surveyed in the study believe that climate change is a global emergency, and 97% are concerned that it will negatively impact them personally at some point in their lifetime.

Nearly three quarters of participating young social entrepreneurs expect challenges caused by climate change to negatively impact their organizations, particularly in terms of resource costs, supply shortages, depletion of natural resources and health challenges for staff and family.

This has not deterred young people from leading change within their communities, however. Of the survey respondents, two-thirds said their organizations are committed to delivering climate action-focused products and services. And 80% want to take further action through their organizations.

How can the rest of us help these young climate early responders?

Facilitating their engagement and forming of partnerships with government and the private sector to take their efforts to scale is one way. Targeted support can equip them with skills and knowledge to engage with different networking platforms and forums.

Enhancing access to different funding resources, including through philanthropy and impact investing, is another way. This can be done by connecting young social entrepreneurs and financial service stakeholders to address critical barriers they face.

Supporting skill and knowledge exchanges and capacity-building initiatives to deliver sustainable climate solutions also helps. Sharing best practices, financing options and technologies to accelerate climate action can benefit these young entrepreneurs.

Establishing multistakeholder dialogue platforms to foster collaboration between decision-makers and young social entrepreneurs to address challenges impacting the effectiveness of their organizations is another way to show support. So can generating data and research to provide up-to-date evidence that can engage social entrepreneurs in climate action.

These are but a few ways to support young social entrepreneurs to amplify their positive contributions and become current and future champions of climate action.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Living on water](#)**

By: Ar. Joel Luna

This week, representatives of various governments and organizations—consisting of environment advocates and pro-fossil fuel lobbyists—will meet for the United Nation's COP 27 in Egypt.

#### **Adaptation as a recourse**

We have long crossed the point where climate change could be averted as it is already upon us. Adaptation would now be the recourse of vulnerable cities while the world ponders how to decarbonize society to avoid global catastrophic climate disaster.

With 60 percent of our population living in coastal areas and with sea level rise in the Philippines being higher than the global average, our vulnerability is not difficult to imagine. And yet, more people are moving to coastal cities, putting even more settlements and livelihoods at risk.

Reducing human and economic costs of sea level rise would suggest settling farther from coastal areas. However, the opposite is occurring worldwide.

Some approaches to adapt to rising sea levels involve structural mitigation using engineered interventions such as sea walls, levees or reclamation. These approaches are capital- and material-intensive and tend to go against the more restorative, nature-based solutions to climate adaptation.

Methods such as coastal reclamation also tend to isolate shoreline communities from their livelihoods, creating a form of ecological gentrification wherein original settlements are displaced by the affluent. It can thus be argued that structural mitigation is a form of resilience that favors the wealthy.

There are, however, some examples of more light-handed and community-based adaptive measures wherein many vulnerable ecological communities persist or even thrive without the heavy-handed, “global design best practice” methodologies that are used elsewhere.

### **Local resilience**

Bangladesh is one such example. Also highly vulnerable to climate change, some experts predict that by 2050 about 20 percent of the available land in the country will be permanently submerged under water. During the monsoon season, farmlands in southern Bangladesh become flooded and remain inundated for several months, affecting agricultural production and livelihood.

Local resilience and the zeal to adapt to changing climate have led some farming communities to revive a tradition of building “floating farms”. It is an age-old technique of hydroponics in which vegetables are planted on rafts made of aquatic weeds that rise and fall with the floodwaters.

This has enabled communities to survive and have enough food throughout the year despite the loss of land. Some experts claim that the productivity of this farming system is 10 times higher than traditional land-based agricultural production in the southern Bangladesh.

This soil-free method of cultivation is being used even in Mexico City, where some communities have revived the ancient Aztec farming technique using man-made, island-farms.

### **Living on water**

Living on water has also been adapted by some communities and promoted by some designers as a way to cope with gradually rising sea levels.

Some low-lying areas of Europe, for instance, have adopted a climate-adaptive strategy that uses floating structures that are resistant to storms. An example is Schoonschip, a floating village of 46 houseboats designed by Space & Matter. The system of building “land on water” developed by MAST utilizes reinforced upcycled plastic arranged in modules to form the floating foundation for the structures on top.

Apart from climate adaptiveness, these communities have to be energy and water autonomous by necessity due to the absence of pipe connections to the mainland. Thus, they generate their own power from sun, wind or waves and source their water from harvested rainwater, solar desalination or captured humidity. Modern as these designs may be, they are anchored on older typologies of coastal living.

While many, even among the climate-anxious, may be skeptical about living on water, the above are examples of community-based, adaptive measures by those who are already feeling the impacts of sea-level rise.

They point to an alternative model for resilience that draws from traditional knowledge and local experience. It is a way to reconcile the conflict between addressing coastal precarity and creating real estate for coastal development.

Floating villages, if combined with floating agriculture, can be circular micro-environments that are net zero energy, net zero water, net zero waste and net zero carbon while concurrently avoiding the gentrification of our shores. They have the potential to connect built systems with the natural systems and our social systems, enabling the feedback loops necessary for adaptation.

But perhaps their biggest impact will be terrestrial—once we have learned as a society to live lightly on water, then perhaps would also have learned how to let the land heal.

### **BIZ BUZZ: Pricey power**

By: Jordeen B. Lagare

Big consumers of electricity in Metro Manila and nearby provinces such as manufacturing companies are up in arms over the sudden and significant increase in their monthly electricity bills, brought about by attempts of their retail electricity suppliers (RES) to pass on the surge in production costs caused by more expensive fuel and a weaker currency.

Sources told Biz Buzz that they had entered into fixed price contracts with their suppliers precisely to lock in their costs. But their suppliers are now telling them that they had the right to recover the added costs, not just starting May or June this year for some customers, but retroactive to January this year, citing the rapid and unforeseen escalation in the cost of fuel, particularly coal.

A number of these power users have already filed complaints with the Energy Regulatory Commission, but a lot more grumbling companies are mulling over more drastic measures such as taking their retail electricity suppliers to the regular courts. One had already gone ahead and even secured a temporary restraining order.

Sources said that some of these consumers had seen their power costs go up by over P200 million since the start of the year, for example, which will also be ultimately passed on to ordinary Filipinos already burdened by high inflation.

Not all RES, however, have suddenly been sending hefty power bills with threats of disconnection that these companies cannot afford, thus some are jumping ship to the rival companies in the small circle of providers. But since they cannot transfer without notice and some certificate of good behavior, they have to pay their bills before leaving, albeit under protest.

It remains to be seen how this will be resolved by both the government and the private sector, but what's sure is that there is bad blood between some suppliers and their customers, who are eager to cut ties and bring their business elsewhere. Perhaps for good.

### **San Miguel's goal: '747'**

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is expanding its forestation and carbon capture program as the listed conglomerate continues to scale up its climate action initiatives.

SMC, through power subsidiary SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. (SMCGP), plans to reforest areas around its battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities, which are already installed or being constructed.

These areas include Albay, Bohol, Cagayan, Cebu, Davao del Norte, Davao de Oro, Isabela, Laguna, Leyte, Misamis Oriental, Pampanga, Pangasinan and Tarlac. SMC president and CEO Ramon Ang said planting trees around the new BESS project sites makes sense as it marks a major step toward strengthening the entry of renewable energy capacities in the future.

Currently, SMCGP is building 31 BESS facilities with a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW), touted as the first and largest such network in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

So far, it completed 500 megawatt-hours (MWh) of BESS facilities nationwide.

"The battery facilities, which will minimize power wastage and redirect otherwise unused capacity to remote areas, are regarded as the best and most sustainable technical solution to the country's power quality and reliability issues. They are seen to balance and improve access to power nationwide," the firm said.

"More importantly, it will make viable use of intermittent renewable sources such as solar and wind by efficiently storing the energy for electricity when the sun is not shining or the wind is not blowing," it added.

Since SMCGP launched its Project 747 in 2019, it has yielded a total of 5.01 million upland and mangrove trees spanning some 1,500 hectares of land.

It is targeting to plant seven million trees on about 4,000 ha of land in at least seven provinces.

To date, SMCGP has planted in eight: Albay, Bataan, Bulacan, Davao Occidental, Negros Occidental, Pangasinan, Quezon and Zambales.

“Reforestation is one of the major sustainability priorities of the entire San Miguel Group. While we have had many similar efforts initiated by our various subsidiaries in the past, SMCGP has taken it to another level, planting a record 5 million trees in just under three years, with consistently high survival rates,” Ang said.

Ang expressed his gratitude to their partner communities and people’s organizations, local government units and employee volunteers for making this project a success.

“With our continued partnership with communities and local stakeholders, we are confident that not only will we reach our targets, but the trees we are planting today will grow to full maturity and benefit their surrounding environment for generations to come,” added Ang.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[DBM eyes collab with UK envoy for PH sustainable dev’t](#)**

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila – Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Saturday expressed intent in fostering collaboration with United Kingdom (UK) Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufils to attain the country’s sustainable development goals.

This, after Pangandaman shared in a Facebook post the courtesy call made by Beaufils at the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) office in San Miguel, Manila.

Pangandaman said she is also optimistic about her next meeting with the UK ambassador to discuss ways to improve access to climate finance and bring progress to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

“Thank you Ambassador Laure Beaufils for visiting DBM. I look forward to our collaborations for sustainable development, continuing our conversation on access to climate finance, and to forging pathways, as Mindanao develops, to uplift the lives of the people in BARMM,” she said.

In September this year, Beaufils announced that the British International Investment will pour in 500 million British pounds in Southeast Asia for the next five years, with the Philippines as “one of the three focus countries.”

Beaufils said economic development, maritime cooperation, climate change adaptation, and technology would serve as pillars of the Philippine-UK relationship under the Marcos administration.

She added that the UK will continue to work with the Philippines on maintaining peace and stability in the region, including on maritime law and maritime domain awareness.

### **Meet with New Zealand envoy**

Meanwhile, Pangandaman also met with New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell on Thursday to explore possible cooperation in various areas.

“I am specifically interested in how to forge collaboration with New Zealand’s G2G (government-to-government) facility to move forward with our public sector and governance reforms,” Pangandaman said in another Facebook post.

Pangandaman also shared with Kell the Marcos administration’s eight-point socioeconomic agenda and priorities, including the implementation of full devolution of basic services and facilities from the national government to local government units, the DBM said in a statement posted on its official Facebook page.

Kell, the DBM said, also relayed New Zealand’s keen interest in supporting the ongoing peace process in BARMM by providing livelihood and helping the indigenous communities.

“We look forward to more years of friendship and diplomatic relations with New Zealand,” said Pangandaman, as quoted by the DBM.

## **PRESSENZA**

### **[Recognition of the Rights of Nature a Must](#)**

The Philippines Tightens Bond to the Growing Number of Countries. Pushing for the Recognition of the Rights of Nature. “Typhoons Paeng and Karding are cries of warning by mother earth. The devastation inflicted to our mountains, forests, and seas is too much for these ecosystems to bear. Mother nature is losing its control over the system it efficiently manages and balances since its beginning, to protect us from greater harm and catastrophe,” Yolanda Esguerra Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPPI) National Coordinator said, highlighting the devastation brought about by the series of typhoons that visited the country.

We need to heed the cry of mother earth and give it greater protection than what the current system is providing to it now if we want to thrive. This is also a key concern of the Global Alliance of the Rights of Nature.

Esguerra and Candy L. Hidalgo, PMPPI Deputy Coordinator, participated in the recently concluded Global Alliance on the Rights of Nature Forum and Assembly held in Siena, Italy last October 15-18, 2022. The event brought together various individuals —

lawyers, educators, development workers, climate activists, and youth — who are fighting for the protection of nature and recognizing its inherent rights. It showcased Rights of Nature cases from all over the world and celebrated the wins and bravery of communities speaking for nature. The Philippine representatives were invited to present the history and the developments of the rights of nature campaign in the country. The Philippine presentation was met with much appreciation and for many served as an inspiration given the short period since it started the campaign.

“What is helpful and unique about the Right of Nature (RoN) campaign in the Philippines is the strong support of the Catholic church. Two pastoral letters focused on the environment have been released by our bishops embracing the perspective and urging support for the passage of the RoN bill filed in Congress,” said Esguerra, during her report to the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) Forum on Global Update on the RoN Movement.

“We hear and understand the lingering concern of our indigenous people’s elders in GARN with the institutional church, because of the long history of subjugation of their people’s culture during the long colonization period that started during the 15th century. But we are happy that the GARN has considered engaging a broader perspective of the group including the church to push the movement,” added Hidalgo.

During the General Assembly, the GARN constitution was approved, the 3-year plan and 10-year direction of the movement was crafted and a common statement, the “Seed of Siena Declaration” was agreed upon.

Another major output was the establishment of the Asia and the Pacific Hub where the Philippines, India, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia are building alliances to strengthen the RoN campaign in the region.

The Rights of Nature movement in the Philippines is pushing for systems change – from a legal system that treats nature only as an object and property to one that recognizes the legal rights of nature, from a highly extractive economics to an eco-centric circular economy. From overly human-centric politics to the inclusion of the voices of nature in its governance. From a culture that is consumerist and materialist to a more sustainable and sufficient lifestyle.

We ask our lawmakers to pass the Rights of Nature Bill. For the President to make the Rights of Nature and climate change a priority in the legislative and executive agenda. We ask the government to declare a climate emergency now. PMPPI stresses the crucial role of leaders to take the lead in protecting nature, while the people need to do their share.

We enjoin all private institutions to recognize that this is a climate emergency and to act for mother earth by promoting eco-friendly institutional policies and behavior. We call on all individuals to examine one’s lifestyles – minimize their individual and familial carbon footprints. There is still time if we can all take action.

**RAPPLER**

**[Advocates worry about 'closing civic space' at COP meetings](#)**

By: Jee Y. Geronimo

Manila, Philippines – At such a crucial time for the global climate talks, civil society organizations are seeing “closing civic space” at the annual Conference of Parties (COP) meetings of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In an episode of Rappler’s The Green Report podcast, Ivan Enrile, the climate justice program manager of development organization IBON International, said there has been some frustration as this has been happening “at least for the last two years.”

“At least for the last two years, we have seen closing space in the UNFCCC, closing civic space at the COP meetings. Many developing countries, many organizations from the Global South were not able to come to Glasgow, because it was really very expensive for them to go to COP,” Enrile said.

He echoed Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, who said that with this year's COP27 happening in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, "the space for civil society is going to be extremely limited."

For instance, Enrile said there won't be a parallel People's Summit at COP27.

"Wala tayong ganoon this year. Tapos, 'yung political climate sa Egypt ay hindi conducive para sa ganoong tipo ng independent civil society mobilization and action," he told Rappler.

(We don't have that this year. And then the political climate in Egypt is not conducive for that type of independent civil society mobilization and action.)

Public demonstration is banned in Egypt and limits on accreditation and attendance badges for activists have been a point of contention at previous UN climate summits.

Thunberg, who summarized the 2021 COP as "Blah, blah, blah," said she won't attend this year's climate conference.

Still, Enrile will be there, with his organization set to participate in an official side event that will discuss the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement, which is a periodic review mechanism for climate mitigation and adaptation.

"It's very important for civil society and developing country parties to be there at the table because they are the ones who are in the frontlines of the climate crisis, sila 'yung pinakaapektado (they are the ones most affected), and they have a very important agenda to push and promote sa loob ng (inside the) Conference of Parties," Enrile said.

He added: "We cannot just let big polluters and developed countries set the agenda. Actually... COP27 is being sponsored by Coca-Cola. So, importante sa atin 'yun na hindi natin hahayaan lang na malaya silang mag-set ng agenda (it's important for us that we don't let them just freely set the agenda), although it's going to be very challenging for civil society. Importante (It's important) that we put up a fight."

In September, the COP27 presidency announced Coca-Cola as its "supporter sponsor." Environmental campaigners have branded the sponsorship deal with a "top plastic polluter" as "greenwashing."

COP27, happening from November 6 to 18, also marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UNFCCC, to which the Philippines is a party. Follow Rappler's COP27 coverage [here](#).

## **COP27 a test for Marcos administration to walk the talk on climate change**

By: Jheset O. Enano

MANILA, Philippines – The United Nations (UN) climate summit in Egypt will be a litmus test for the Marcos administration's oft-repeated commitment to address climate change, according to experts.

The 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change begins Sunday, November 6. World leaders and climate negotiators are expected to converge in the resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh in the next two weeks to decide on critical measures needed to address climate change.

This year, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga is leading the Philippine delegation at COP27. With her are representatives and negotiators from the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the House of Representatives, the departments of environment, energy, finance, foreign affairs, and agriculture, as well as advisers from civil society organizations.

Loyzaga was appointed by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. as chairperson-designate of the CCC, concurrent to her post at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. By law, the Philippine president serves as the chairperson of the commission, the government’s sole policy-making body on matters relating to climate change.

Marcos’ move follows that of his predecessor, former president Rodrigo Duterte, who appointed then-finance secretary Carlos Dominguez to represent him in the commission towards the end of his term. Dominguez led the country’s delegation at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, edging out then-CCC vice chairperson Emmanuel de Guzman, who had in previous years led Philippine negotiators in the climate talks.

Marcos was initially invited to attend COP27 but is not expected to join. He is set to fly to Cambodia to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN summit on November 10 to 13, and then to Thailand for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings on November 14 to 19.

In a statement, Loyzaga said the Philippines will press for climate finance and assistance from rich nations to help developing countries adapt to the worsening impacts of climate change.

“The Philippine delegation will assert the country’s call for bolder climate action and demand the delivery of what is due for the developing countries, which hardly produce any greenhouse gas emissions yet suffer the most,” she said.

Since his inauguration in June, Marcos has frequently mentioned the need to address climate change in his speeches and interviews. At the UN General Assembly last September, he called climate change the “greatest threat” faced by different nations and highlighted its disproportionate impact on the least emitters.

Following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (Nalgae) in October, the President once again acknowledged climate change as a real peril, and ordered tree-planting activities to prevent future floods.

“It’s gotten pretty clear at this point that while he has a passable speechwriter, Marcos Jr. isn’t walking the talk when it comes to the necessary action around climate,” said Jon Bonifacio, national coordinator of the Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment.

“Nevertheless, this is a moment for Secretary Loyzaga’s expertise in climate change and disaster resilience to shine through, but this can only be done if she listens to the people’s demands,” he added.

Tony La Viña, a former lead climate negotiator for the Philippines and a veteran adviser of previous delegations, said he has moderate expectations of this year’s delegation since most of its members are fairly new to the process.

“I expect they will not just deliver speeches but actively help craft text that can be adopted at the end of the COP,” said the environmental lawyer, who is in Egypt as an observer from the Manila Observatory, where he is the associate director of climate policy and international relations.

Loyzaga previously served as executive director of the observatory, a scientific research institution studying atmospheric and Earth science.

“I hope that the delegation makes use of the talent and experience of the many of us who are in Sharm from the academic and civil society sectors.... There are many climate negotiations veterans who are official observers that could help the delegation if they reached out to them,” he said.

In previous COPs, the cooperation between Philippine negotiators and the civil society was effective in leading the discussions on climate finance and forests, he added.

“The Duterte government stopped that, and we have weakened our negotiating position because of that,” La Viña said. “COP27 is a first test of the [Marcos] administration, and I believe they will pass the test of effectiveness and relevance – but they need civil society to make that happen.”

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[Ombion: Climate justice is the way forward](#)**

By: Karl G. Ombion

As I earlier stressed, the climate crisis, that is, the worsening impact of climate change caused by the unabated destruction of our natural resources and ecosystems, is an issue that has raised global concern and one that is also connected with the crusade of greed and power by the northern countries or the big industrial capitalist powers and their semi-colonial states.

In the Philippines, despite the initiatives and billions of funds channeled to climate change mitigation and disaster risk reduction, we are not anywhere close to our goal of contributing to the global target of reducing carbon emissions.

In COP26, the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or UNFCCC in 2021, participating country-parties committed to reducing global carbon emissions to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Outcomes of government initiatives, including a number of non-government environmentalist organizations and civil society organizations, remain very weak in terms of confused narratives and much-needed actions and cooperations that are supposed to lessen the rate of national carbon emissions and mitigate the damages and cost of lives due to disasters after disasters.

But I blame most of the government for its gross failure as the main influencer given its enormous authority and powers.

The fatal weakness of its climate change mitigation systems and responses. Its compromises and concessions to big corporate interests, like mining companies, big developers, big transport moguls, continuing their extractive and destructive plunder of our resources, and use of pollutant technologies.

Its continuing tolerance and support of fossils, coal fuel industry, and allowing the same corporate interests to monopolize renewable energy projects to rake in more profit.

Its failure to enforce environmental standards compliance and exact penalties to a number of erring and abusive big corporate businesses, some of whom are either dummies or business partners of crooked politicians and legislators.

All this points to the problem of the government's climate change narratives that tend to oversimplify the problem to some natural phenomena and citizens' negligence, while excusing multinational and local big corporate interests from their main accountabilities in the destruction of our natural resources, ecosystems and the dispossession and displacement of our marginalized sectors and communities.

The root problem is deliberately ignored by the state, the multinational corporations (MNCs) and the local corporate sector -- climate change is the outcome of the insatiable greed of big industrial countries led by G7 and the MNCs pursuing and imposing on smaller and backward countries their neoliberal policies of liberalization, deregulation, privatization and denationalization of economies for their ravenous and unrestricted plunder of natural resources and insatiable desire for super profits.

The case of the Philippine environment is clear -- destroyed ecosystems and lost resources due to massive deforestation, disappearing river and water basins, mining operations, massive extraction of marine resources, land use conversions and reclassification to leisure centers and high-end subdivisions and housing settlements, rampant use of agro-chemical farming systems, unhealthy and destructive disposal of wastewater, garbage and other pollutants.

Results are nothing but worsening food security, scarcity of water for consumption and farm use, landlessness and widespread inequality.

Thus our country is not only vulnerable to global climate change impact like extreme weather patterns, but also vulnerable to internal hazards and disasters like coastal

surges, floods, fires, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and no less than the usually sub-standardized government projects like roads, bridges, buildings, and aging power and water utilities.

We need systemic solutions -- not cosmetic solutions, not only increased climate funds, not just changing lifestyles and consumption patterns.

To fight the climate crisis is to strengthen our state and its fundamental paradigm, policies and programs.

To ease the impact of the climate crisis is to free our ruling system of flawed narratives, controlled by political dynasties, historical distortion and revisionism, organized greed and corruption, and elitism or exclusiveness of its programs and projects.

On the other hand, to advance climate justice is to democratize resources and wealth, ensure food security-sovereignty, institute true mechanisms of good governance, and empower the basic sectors and other key stakeholders in governance.

It must scrap neoliberal policies, and pursue the development of an economy that is healthy, fair, environmentally resilient and sustainable, and pandemic-adaptive.

The government must also legislate climate justice agreements and policies, demand and enforce commitments from all stakeholders, especially from multinational corporations and local big corporate interests.

The government must strengthen as well the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) and social movements in putting up a climate justice fund to address loss and damages of climate change, and the need for sustained recovery work. For this, multinational corporations and local big corporate interests in the country must be made to pay for their climate debt and deliver their fair share of climate justice actions.

Most importantly, the only way to hold the government and the corporate interests accountable for climate justice is to build real people's power both within the legislative and negotiation halls and on the streets and communities.

They must take an aggressive, significant and concerted role in enforcing and advancing climate justice policies, programs and projects, and develop models of resilient and sustainable communities, both in rural and urban areas.

For this, the CSOs and social movements must likewise take responsibility in educating and organizing various public interest groups on how the ruling system works, the right and false narratives on climate change, and in mobilizing actions to win more national, international and local gains in climate justice advocacy campaigns.

Not the least, they should also take active part in the development of the international solidarity movement of all climate justice advocates and frontliners because climate

justice is a global concern that can only be resolved through globally solidarity coordinated actions.

I wish and pray that in the COP27 set this month in Shal El-Sheikh, Egypt, the solidarity voices of CSOs and social movements fighting for climate justice will take prominent and significant space, and further solidify the agenda and demand more fair actions from the powers that be -- for the planet and humanity.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Lights for everyone in Magcorao-Bukidnon](#)**

Members of the Magcorao-Bukidnon Indigenous Community were presented with solar-powered flashlights recently during a day to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Month. This aims to support and raise awareness of indigenous cultural communities.

In keeping with these aims, the Technological University of the Philippines (TUVU), the Rotary Club of Bacolod-Marapara (RCBM), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and Junior Chamber International (JCI) jointly staged a special day in Barangay Katilingban, Talisay City, Negros Occidental, for some 100 members of the Magcorao-Bukidnon community.

The event included a basic electricity course with an orientation on how to properly use solar lights to maximize their capacity.

Community members were also given medical checks along with rice packs, vitamins and medicines.

"Using renewable energy like these flashlights not only helps the Magcorao-Bukidnon community, but solar lighting can help reduce the effect of climate change," said Dr. Eric Malooy, TUVF campus director.

JCI Talisay has been supporting the Magcorao-Bukidnon Indigenous Community for some time with Project RISE. This aims to uplift the lives of the community with activities such as training programs and livelihood projects.

"Our support for indigenous peoples started in a small way, and we're delighted to see that it's growing and being sustained through activities like this," said Project RISE Chairman Mary Chell Hinojales.

TUVF's Dr. Eric Malooy, NCIP Negros Occidental Head Hazel Acse and Marapara Rotary President Lani Ferrer joined JCI in expressing continued support for National Indigenous Peoples Month: "Pagtataguyod ng pamayanang kultural para sa isang matatag na Pilipinas (Upholding cultural communities for a robust Philippines)."

### ['Govt to enhance disaster response'](#)

The government will continue to prioritize efforts to enhance disaster preparedness and response, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Sunday. In his weekly vlog, Marcos underscored the need to improve local preparedness and response capacity to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters on communities.

"Improving and strengthening disaster response and disaster preparedness is a priority of our government," he said.

He said collective efforts are necessary to safeguard ecosystems, which will ultimately build climate resilience.

Marcos said planting trees will help reduce the impacts of climate change because they absorb carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas emitted through human activities.

"Simply planting trees will go a long way. It will save many generations from disaster or tragedy. That is our duty, not only to our country, but to our fellow human beings," he added.

He expressed confidence that joint societal efforts will help the country and the world deal better with climate change.

This month, the Philippines will reassert its entitlement to support and assistance to fight climate change during the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which opened at Sharm el-Sheikh City, Egypt on Sunday.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, who leads the delegation, said the Philippines will again call on developed countries to step up to obligations and "deliver without delay on their commitments on climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building."

### **Continued assistance**

Marcos likewise gave updates on continuing efforts to assist areas and people affected by Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (Nalgae) last week.

Among these are rescue operations by the Philippine Coast Guard; clearing of roads by the Department of Public Works and Highways; distribution of food and other forms of assistance by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Office of Civil Defense; and distribution of seeds and financial loans to farmers by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

However, he also acknowledged some areas of improvement, particularly in terms of aid distribution.

He reiterated the need to do away with bureaucracy in providing assistance to those affected by natural calamities.

Marcos said it is the government's job to ensure the immediate dispatch of relief goods.

"We should make distribution faster. That's the mindset that I want all our agencies to follow when it comes to disaster response. We don't choose whom to help," he said.

Marcos said vowed to strengthen the whole-of-government approach to disaster preparedness and response.

### [\[Opinion\] The doom of climate change](#)

By: Marit Sitnus-Cabugon

One could speculate as to the ecological footprint and greenhouse gas emissions generated by the 40,000 or more who are gathered at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt this week. How many airplanes did these 40,000 persons fill? How many of the participants in the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) and its side events chose less polluting modes of transportation such as ship or train? Ajit Rajagopal, maybe the only person who walked to Sharm El-Sheikh, was arrested!

OK, let's put aside cynicism and focus on what is at stake: the COP27 has been dubbed "Climate Implementation Summit" to signify that the time for talk is over and now is the time for action. So far pledges to cut greenhouse emissions are way below what is needed. Will COP27 be able to set the world on a path to push back climate change and save the planet, thus proving skeptics and critics — such as *The Economist* ("Say goodbye to 1.5 C") and Greta Thunberg ("COPs are not really working") — wrong?

What is different with this climate change summit, David Waskow of the World Resources Institute's International Climate Initiative told Scientific American, that "we are living in the impacts [of climate change] now." Europe just experienced its hottest summer on record. Thirty-three million, about 15 percent of Pakistan's population, were displaced by an unprecedented amount of rainfall a few months ago. A third of the country was submerged. The World Weather Attribution reported that the southern provinces of Sindh and Balochistan received 7 to 8 times their usual rainfall. Prior to the monsoon season, Pakistan and India experienced a prolonged, extreme heat wave. While World Weather Attribution cannot determine with accuracy the part that climate change played in the killer monsoon, climate change was a major driver in the heat wave.

Aside from claiming 1,700 lives, the floods in Pakistan resulted in massive loss of livelihood, destruction of infrastructure and agricultural crops. We can relate considering that the Philippines gets hit by storms year in and year out, most recently Severe Tropical Depression "Paeng." It wasn't even a typhoon, yet it brought massive and unprecedented destruction to communities from Maguindanao in Mindanao, to Panay in the Visayas and Calabarzon in Luzon.

Despite this predicament we are still better off here compared to Africa. Scientists whose call for urgent action to address the situation in Africa was published in multiple scientific journals, including The Lancet, on October 18, estimate "that the climate crisis has destroyed a fifth of the gross domestic product of the countries [in Africa]."

"The damage to Africa should be a supreme concern to all nations," the authors warn. "The acute and chronic impacts of the climate crisis create problems ... that spread through globalized systems." The world is interconnected and leaving countries to the mercy of environmental shocks, as the authors put it, create an "instability that has severe consequences for all nations." This instability will affect the world politically, economically and socially.

Wealthy nations are called on to contribute more, to do more to help the countries that are bearing the brunt of climate-induced disasters. Countries in the Global South such as India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Africa's nations have contributed very little to greenhouse gas emissions, yet their populations are the most affected. Governments and people "pour money into responding to disasters, but can no longer afford to pay for greater reliance or [reduce] the root problems through emissions reductions," the scientists point out. This inability of the affected countries to help their citizens prepare better for disasters and thus minimize the destructiveness of the latter, will become a crisis that will "engulf all corners of the globe, by which time it may be too late to effectively respond. If so far wealthy countries have failed to be persuaded by moral arguments, then hopefully their self-interest will now prevail," the authors conclude.

Unfortunately, at least the wealthy European nations are currently facing their own "unprecedented and overlapping crises," according to The Lancet's "2022 Europe

Report" on health and climate change. This is primarily due to Russia's assault on Ukraine — an environmental disaster — and the resulting energy crisis and "fastest-growing migrant crisis since World War 2." This is a predicament from which Europe cannot escape. Resources that could have been used to help vulnerable countries prepare better and recover faster from natural disasters, are spent on helping Ukraine, including replenishing its war arsenal, and on Europe's own domestic military capabilities.

As bad as the floods, droughts, heat waves and powerful storms that ravage the world are, Greta Thunberg (The Guardian, October 8) reminds us that what we are seeing isn't the "new normal." Rather, what "we are seeing now is only the very beginning of a changing climate, caused by human emissions of greenhouse gases." Can we humans also undo the deadly mess we've created? Or have we reached the point of no return?

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[\[Opinion\] Climate change: still the world's biggest crisis](#)**

By: Elfren S. Cruz

The world today is facing several crises. There is raging inflation in all the economies of the world and it is becoming more apparent that next year, there will be a global recession. Beyond that, there is the threat of the deglobalization and a new period of stagflation. In terms of geopolitics, there is the ongoing Ukrainian invasion by Russia, the threat of an invasion of Taiwan by Xi Jinping, the reelection of an extremely rightist government in Israel which could re-ignite another violent confrontation in the Middle East. Recently, there has been increasing tension in the Korean Peninsula as North Korea increases the number of its missile tests.

These dramatic crises and conflicts have overshadowed what is actually the most critical problem confronting the world and its future. This is the worsening crisis brought about by global warming and climate change.

Today, Nov. 6, the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, most commonly referred to as conference of the parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) or Conference of the Parties (COP27), will be held in Egypt. This will be the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference. Last year, the 26th conference was held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom.

This climate summit comes at a critical moment as world leaders are divided on how to confront the terrifying prospect of global warming. In the past year, our planet has been hit by record-breaking heat waves and storms in practically all sections of the planet. Deadly floods have also wrought historic destruction caused by unusually numerous typhoons and hurricanes. The Philippines was recently hit by Typhoon Paeng which caused numerous deaths and destruction caused by heavy rains.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has realized that the poorer countries need financing from richer nations if there is to be a transition to renewable energy in these poor countries. Guterres said, "If that pact does not take place, we will be doomed, because we need to reduce emissions both in the developed countries and emerging economies." Last year, there was some optimism during the COP26 in Glasgow that the target of limiting the increase in global warming would be held to the targeted 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial temperatures. Since that summit, the result has been very disappointing. In the latest UN Emissions Gap Report, the finding is that a mere 0.5 tons have been shaved off last year's 17- to 20-billion-ton gap, where the annual rate of carbon dioxide emissions would need to be in 2030 in order to offer a decent chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

According to the same report, most of the shavings come from the new Australian government's more active climate policies. It states that if every national climate goal for the end of this decade was met, then the average global temperature would still rise by 2.4 degrees Centigrade by 2100. This is still way above the targeted 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

If the midcentury net zero pledges are met, it could mean an increase of just 1.8 degrees Centigrade of global warming. However, the UN report warns that this is "currently not credible." According to their studies, real climate change action and not just promises still equate to 2.8 degrees Centigrade of global warming by the year 2100.

In order to avoid the more than 1.5 degrees Centigrade of global warming, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 and then fall by 43 percent from 2019 levels by 2030.

Another report by an NGO – Systems Change Lab – is even more pessimistic. This organization is a conglomerate of environmental NGOs and think tanks which translated

these reductions into 40 indicators, each with a 2030 target. In its 2022 report, it finds that not one of the indicators is targeted for the 1.5 degrees Centigrade. In fact, the report claims that some of the indicators are going in the opposite direction.

For example, the share of electricity generated by fossil fuels like natural gas burned without capturing the resulting carbon dioxide has actually risen in current years. Also, the amount of carbon dioxide generated by steel production has increased and food production is emitting more than it did five years ago.

As far as I am concerned, the worst news is that aside from Australia, none of the developed countries has met their target. The developing countries have also not met their targets because of lack of financing from the rich countries. The recent action of the Russians cutting off fuel supply to the rest of Europe and the OPEC decision to reduce oil production to keep prices high have led to countries going back to reopening of coal mines as an alternative.

The COP 27 climate summit in Egypt must confront these impending disasters in order to reverse the current global warming trends before these become irreversible.

### [SMC Global keen on battery storage](#)

By: Richmond Mercurio

Manila, Philippines — SMC Global Power Holdings Corp., the power subsidiary of conglomerate San Miguel Corp., is prioritizing putting up battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities to enable the use of more renewable capacities in the grid.

SMC Global Power is building a total of 31 BESS facilities with a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW).

The battery facilities, which will minimize power wastage and redirect otherwise unused capacity to remote areas, are regarded as the best and most sustainable technical solution to the country's power quality and reliability issues as these are seen to balance and improve access to power nationwide, according to the company.

It will also make viable use of intermittent renewable sources such as solar and wind by efficiently storing the energy for electricity, it said.

“The major challenge of renewable power everywhere in the world is intermittence. With renewables, the ability to generate power is always limited. You cannot generate solar power at nighttime, or when weather conditions block sunlight. You cannot produce wind power when there’s no wind. When there’s a drought, you also can’t produce hydropower. Battery storage is key to mitigating all these issues,” SMC president and chief executive officer Ramon Ang said.

“That is why we have prioritized putting up the country’s first battery facilities and first and largest battery network to date. It is key to enabling the use of more renewable capacities in the grid, and a critical part of our phased transition and expansion to cleaner and renewable power,” he said.

SMC Global Power is also expanding the scope of its nationwide forestation and carbon capture program to cover areas where its battery storage facilities are installed or are being put up.

These include Albay, Bohol, Cagayan, Cebu, Davao del Norte, Davao de Oro, Isabela, Laguna, Leyte, Misamis Oriental, Pampanga, Pangasinan and Tarlac.

Ang said foresting the areas around its new BESS facilities also makes sense because the facilities themselves are a major step to strengthening the entry of renewable energy capacities in the future.

“Reforestation is one of the major sustainability priorities of the entire San Miguel Group. While we have had many similar efforts initiated by our various subsidiaries in the past, SMCGP has taken it to another level, planting a record five million trees in just under three years, with consistently high survival rates,” he said.

Ang said SMC Global Power’s transition away from coal power toward cleaner liquefied natural gas (LNG) power and renewable energy is being pursued responsibly, “without compromising our developing economy’s growing need for reliable and affordable power, and while also continuing effort to bring basic electrification to the entire country.”

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

#### **[PH seeks 'bolder' climate commitment from developed nations](#)**

By: Jane Bautista

The Philippines will assert its call for “bolder” climate action from developed nations and also urge them to make good on their commitment to climate finance and assistance during the annual United Nations climate negotiations being held in Egypt from Sunday until Nov. 18.

The 27th session of the annual Conference of Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change comes a week after Tropical Storm Paeng (international name: Nalgae) barreled through the Philippines and caused landslides and massive flooding that left 154 people dead.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, the head of the country's delegation to COP27, pointed out that Paeng's wrath was a "reminder of the devastating impacts of climate change."

The Philippine delegation to COP27 is composed of representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Finance, Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, and the Climate Change Commission, including climate scientists and climate and development experts.

Sameh Shoukry, Egypt's minister of foreign affairs and president-designate of COP27, said this year's summit in Sharm El Sheikh would provide an opportunity to address climate change as more than 100 heads of state and government would "come together, mend multilateralism, rebuild trust and unite at the highest political levels."

"COP represents an opportunity that humanity cannot afford to miss. With this in mind, it was only logical that COP27 unofficially be labeled 'the Implementation COP,'" Shoukry said, adding that it would be an avenue to ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement's provisions.

The Paris Agreement is a landmark international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 on Dec. 12, 2015. It aims to "limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels."

#### Loss and damage

Loyzaga said developing countries "hardly" contribute to greenhouse gas emissions but continue to suffer the most and bear the brunt of climate change.

The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions said the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases were China, the United States, as well as members of the European Union.

"As developing countries need resources for climate adaptation, the Philippine delegation will continue calling on developed countries to step up to these obligations and deliver without delay on their commitments on climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building," Loyzaga said.

The country aims to build on the agreements from COP26 in Glasgow last year, particularly in the working group focused on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement that deals with climate finance and loss and damage.

#### Fourth most affected

“Simultaneously, addressing loss and damage is crucial for Philippine climate action plans. As such, the Philippines agrees to the operationalization and funding of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, which aims to provide developing countries with technical assistance,” Loyzaga said.

Based on the Global Climate Risk Index report by environmental policy think tank Germanwatch, the Philippines ranked fourth out of 180 countries most affected by extreme weather from 2000 to 2019, next to Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti.

A total of 317 extreme weather events in the country were recorded during the 20-year period of the study while climate-related hazards resulted in P506.1 billion worth of losses and damage over the past decade, the Department of Finance reported last year.

Civil society organizations, meanwhile, urged the Philippine delegation to put agroecology—an academic discipline that explores the relationship between agricultural crops and the environment—on the summit’s agenda.

“We forward the framework of agroecology as a viable, feasible, and an alternative climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy ....[It] must be recognized as a global warming solution and a rights-based approach in the COP27 processes and decisions, to ensure the delivery of urgent and concrete climate actions,” they said in an open letter on Sunday.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[Everything you need to know about COP27](#)**

By Lorenz Pasion

COP27 is hoped to become the 'turning point where the world came together and demonstrated the requisite political will to take on the climate challenge through concerted, collaborative and impactful action.'

Delegates and heads of state from around the world are coming together in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, for the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference or COP27 from November 6 to 18.

This year, the annual climate talks are hoped to become the “turning point where the world came together and demonstrated the requisite political will to take on the climate challenge through concerted, collaborative and impactful action.”

Facing an increasingly tight deadline to address the climate crisis, a lot is on the table for COP27 delegates: climate finance, climate adaptation, commitments to previous pledges and targets, and calls for the creation of a funding mechanism for loss and damage.

More than discussions, countries are expected to turn their commitments under the Paris Agreement into action.

Building on the outcome of last year’s climate talks, here’s what you need to know about COP27.

### **Full-packed schedule**

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) website, the following are the main events and sessions scheduled for the 12-day climate conference:

27th Conference of Parties (COP27): Includes the sessions of Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), CMA 4, and CMP 17.

Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Implementation Summit: A high-level conference where heads of state and governments are invited to participate. After the opening ceremony, there will be six high-level round tables, and high-level side events.

High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership programme for COP27: A program aimed at fostering collaboration between the government and non-party stakeholders to deliver greenhouse gas emission reductions and help ensure a just transition to a net-zero economy.

#Together4Transparency: A series of climate transparency events at COP27, showcasing achievements and outlook in pursuing universal participation in the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

There are also side events and exhibits, all of which could be accessed virtually via the COP27 platform and the official YouTube channel of COP27.

### **Sustaining the momentum**

Countries are expected to discuss many topics in COP27, some carried over from COP26.

The discussion on the future of fossil fuels is expected to be continued at COP27. In 2021, countries agreed to “phase down” coal production but plans to curb fossil fuel consumption were disrupted by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Climate finance will also be a key topic in COP27. High-income countries have yet to fulfill their \$100 billion-a-year pledge and have only delivered \$80 billion a year in 2019 – a quarter of which is used to finance climate adaptation projects in low-income and climate-vulnerable countries.

Host country Egypt has made the issue of “loss and damages,” or compensation for losses from climate-related disasters, as a top agenda in COP27.

Countries also promised in COP26 to “revisit and strengthen” their current national climate plans to keep aligned with the goal of the Paris Agreement of preventing warming beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius.

### **Major players in COP27**

Discussions and negotiations during COP27 will be done by major players and negotiation blocs with different concerns and interests.

This makes reaching a consensus very difficult and can even result in last-minute drama like what happened in COP26.

Key players in COP27 are China, the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom. According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, these players are among the world’s top greenhouse gas emitters.

In COP26, India, China, and other coal-dependent developing nations rejected a clause calling for the “phase out” of coal-fired power, which watered down the clause to ask countries to only “phase down” their coal use.

The US and China unveiled a deal during COP26 to cut methane emissions, phase out coal consumption, and protect forests. The two countries are the world’s largest emitters of carbon dioxide.

Reuters said the following negotiating blocs are also expected to be in action during this year’s climate conference:

‘BASIC’ Countries: An alliance of Brazil, South Africa, India, and China. These fast-developing economies produce large quantities of pollution due to their coal dependency.

Africa Group: This group comprises Africa’s UN members who are pushing for increased climate financing.

Climate Vulnerable Group: A negotiating bloc of 58 countries, including Bangladesh and Maldives, most vulnerable to climate impacts. This bloc is demanding that rich countries help climate-vulnerable countries in terms of “loss and damages.”

Alliance of Small Island States: AOSIS represents countries particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Independent Alliance Of Latin America And The Caribbean: This bloc is aligned with other developing countries in demanding rich countries to increase climate funding.

Least Developed Country Group: A bloc of 46 countries vulnerable to climate change despite contributing very little to it.

Powering Past Coal Alliance: Led by the United Kingdom and Canada, this bloc is composed of 41 nations, local governments, and companies that pledged faster transition to clean energy.

High Ambition Coalition: This bloc is pushing for more progressive emissions targets and climate policies.

### **World leaders at COP 27**

Several leaders and heads of state and government are expected to attend this year's climate conference in Egypt.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will attend COP27, reversing his previous decision to skip the climate conference to address the United Kingdom's economic problems. Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he will also attend COP27.

Newly elected Brazilian president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will also attend COP27. Lula pledged to stop all Amazon rainforest destruction and act aggressively on climate change – a complete turnaround from the environmental policy of Brazil under former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro.

Under Bolsonaro's term, deforestation soared in the world's largest rainforest.

US President Joe Biden and climate envoy John Kerry are also expected to fly to Egypt and attend COP27. Biden returned the US to the Paris climate accord, previously withdrawn by former US president Donald Trump.

In COP26, Biden announced a long-term strategy laying out how the US would achieve a longer-term goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. He also announced a key budget bill that would unleash \$555 billion in climate spending in last year's climate talks.

The budget bill titled "Inflation Reaction Act of 2022," is a final version of Biden's original sweeping Build Back Better plan, which Biden signed into law on August 12, 2022.

French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will also attend COP27.

### **Philippine delegation**

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was also invited to attend COP27 but is not expected to be part of the Philippine delegation. In his speech at the United Nations General

Assembly (UNGA) on September 20, 2022, Marcos called industrialized countries to “immediately fulfill their obligations” under the UNFCCC.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said in a press statement that Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga will head the official Philippine delegation to COP27.

DENR also said the Philippine delegation will include representatives and negotiators from the DENR, Climate Change Commission, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Energy, as well as advisers – climate scientists and climate and development experts.

Filipino environmental advocates are also attending this year’s climate conference, including veteran environmental activists Lidy Nacpil, Tony La Viña, and Father Jett Villarin.

Youth climate activists Mitzi Tan, Krishna Arriola, and Jefferson Estela also attending this year’s climate conference, as well as Rodne Galicha and Ann Dumaliang. Galicha is a Filipino environmentalist and lead convenor of Living Laudato Si Philippines while Dumaliang is a managing trustee of Masungi Georeserve which won the 2022 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) Action Award.

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