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CCC IN THE NEWS

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ABS CBN

[Cynthia Villar fumes at PH Reclamation Authority: 'Sobra na 'to eh'](#)

By: Jauhn Ettiene Villaruel

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BUSINESS MIRROR

[World's CO2 hotspots pinpointed by AI Gore-backed climate project](#)

A consortium of dozens of research nonprofits on Wednesday launched a free online platform that details greenhouse gas emissions around the world across 20 economic sectors. Climate Trace, which can be viewed on a web browser, includes a zoomable world map that displays and ranks the dirtiest 72,000 power plants, oil refineries, airports, ships and more. The group used satellite imagery and machine learning as well as more conventional techniques to build what it says is the largest available source of greenhouse gas emissions data.

BUSINESS WORLD

[WB expects PHL climate mitigation efforts to be led by private sector](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

The Philippine climate change mitigation effort will be borne largely by the private sector, the World Bank (WB) said in a report, adding that the absence of policies optimized for unlocking private investment could erode gross domestic product (GDP) by as much as 13.6% in the worst case.

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Marcos expected to meet with leaders of France, Canada on ASEAN sidelines](#)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 10) — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. announced he is looking forward to bilateral meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the 40th and 41st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits and Related Summits in Cambodia.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Climate action is ‘good business,’ says new UN climate chief](#)

By: Laurie Goering, Reuters

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt — Wealthy countries—like poorer ones—stand to reap huge economic, social and environmental gains by swiftly ramping up renewable energy and other climate action, the new UN climate chief said at the COP27 climate talks in Egypt on Wednesday.

[Economic damage due to climate change could cost 13.6% of GDP by 2040 — World Bank report](#)

By: Ted Cordero

Climate change can take a heavy toll on the country’s economic progress in the next decades if left unaddressed, according to the World Bank Group’s Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) for the Philippines released on Wednesday.

[Marcos OKs DOE's plan for advancing offshore wind power](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. approved on Wednesday the plan of the Department of Energy (DOE) to explore and develop the country's offshore wind potential as a source of sustainable energy.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Climate shocks take toll on PH ‘high-income’ bid — WB](#)

By: Chino S. Leyco

Climate change in the Philippines will continue and accelerate, which poses major risks for the nation’s long-term development, the World Bank warned.

[VP Duterte's visit to Eastern Samar brings messages about climate change, education](#)

By: Raymund Antonio

Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte underscored the importance of a climate-smart citizenry and improving the country's literacy rate during her visit to Eastern Samar on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

MANILA STANDARD

[Marcos sets Japan state visit next year ahead of China trip](#)

By: Vince Lopez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would make a state visit to Japan early in 2023 ahead of a similar visit to China, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin revealed in an interview with Kyodo News on Monday.

MONGABAY

[Deadly landslides prompt Philippine president to call for tree planting](#)

By: Bong Sarmiento

Mindanao, Philippines – In the wake of deadly floods and landslides caused by Typhoon Nalgae last month, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered tree planting be included in flood control and disaster mitigation projects across the island nation.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[A matter of human survival](#)

Last Nov. 8 marked the ninth year since Supertyphoon "Yolanda," the world's strongest typhoon to hit land, barreled across central Philippines, claiming 6,300 lives and causing P95.4 billion in damage.

[COP27: Tree-counting NGO offers data to tackle deforestation](#)

California-based non-governmental organization CTrees launched on Tuesday a data service to help countries limit deforestation and monitor the number of trees they have.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PBBM, DOE tackle 'immediate, medium-term' plans for energy dev't](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday convened a meeting with officials of the Department of Energy (DOE) to discuss "immediate and medium-term" interventions to develop the country's energy industry.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DoE, OCD help enhance National Dam Safety Guidelines](#)

By: Leander Domingo

The Department of Energy (DoE) in partnership with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) recently spearheaded a writeshop to help enhance the drafted National Dam Safety Guidelines and proposed Dam Safety Bill.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Agricultural output up 1.8% in Q3](#)

By: Danessa Rivera

Manila, Philippines — The country's farm production recovered in July to September, snapping two consecutive quarters of contraction, driven by the crop, fisheries and livestock sectors, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

[\[Opinion\] New dimensions of security, new challenges for us](#)

By: Michèle Boccoz

In a recent conversation I held with media friends, I was happy to hear France has gained visibility lately in the Philippines. This is not unrelated to the various events celebrating our 75th anniversary, but more fundamentally, it expresses our shared desire to take the relations of our two countries to another level.

THE STAR

[Marcos to stress cooperation on climate change, food security at Asean summits](#)

Manila (Xinhua): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said on Wednesday that regional cooperation on climate change, food security, health cooperation and economic recovery will be highlighted at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) meetings in Cambodia.

CCC IN THE NEWS

GMA 24 ORAS

[Climate Change dahilan ng mas matinding pag-ulan sa bansa, ayon sa pag-aaral.](#)

Pagkakaroon ng food shortage sa 2030, pinangangambahang mangyari 'pag hindi nasolusyunan ang problema sa agrikultura.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Cynthia Villar fumes at PH Reclamation Authority: 'Sobra na 'to eh'

By: Jauhn Ettiene Villaruel

MANILA -- Sen. Cynthia Villar on Wednesday lambasted the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), citing instances wherein the agency allegedly acted "against serving the public good."

During the Senate's deliberation on the proposed P5.268 trillion budget for 2023, Villar took the opportunity to air her grievances against the PRA.

Villar said that at the height of the pandemic, PRA prevented the Department of Health (DOH) from constructing an extension of the Las Piñas General Hospital.

"They don't want to allow us us build a hospital because hindi daw nire-release ng DBM 'yung pera sa kanila... I'm so surprised because it is with DBM, tapos na 'yung papel, eh alam mo naman ang DBM matagal mag-release. And it was COVID tapos ayaw pa niya i-start yung hospital," she said.

Villar also recounted another instance wherein PRA refused to allow the construction of a Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) district office in Las Piñas.

"They won't allow DPWH to build our district office kasi daw may utang yung DPWH sa kanila with regards to Cavitex na P4 billion. Ano naman ang relation ng Cavitex sa aming district office?" Villar asked.

"Bakit 'yung PRA magagawa na lang ang gusto nilang gawin?" she added.

Villar also questioned PRA's change of name from Public Estates Authority which, in effect, "institutionalizes the bad practice of reclamation especially with the worsening effect of climate change."

According to Senate Finance panel chairperson Sen. Sonny Angara, Villar can raise her issues against PRA through Governance Commission for GOCCs.

"I am arranging a meeting sa GCG to control this PRA. Sobra na 'to eh. This is for public good, this is not for me. I'm so amazed they're doing this to us... They have been doing this for so long and nagsasawa na ko," Villar said.

This is not the first time Villar berated a government agency over acts affecting Las Piñas City, the turf of the family. Last month, Villar cursed at a DENR official for another reclamation project.

Groups call for more action from developed countries to mitigate effects of climate change

By: Jasmin Romero

Civil society groups urged developing countries participating at COP27 to act more to mitigate the effect of climate change.

“Well, there's been a lot of talk a lot of inspiring speeches, a lot of saying that they understand what's going on, but if you look at the targets it's still very far from what's really needed to achieve,” Masungi Georeserve Co-founder Ann Dumaliang told ABS-CBN News.

Dumaliang is in Egypt and spoke as a panelist at the COP27 Tuesday, where she highlighted the contributions of Masungi Georeserve to the conservation of the environment.

“A lot more action you know, that needs to happen .We have more than enough science to tell us what needs to be done then we should be pursuing this more aggressively,” Dumaliang said.

The fisherfolk group PAMALAKAYA called on support from countries to address the effects of climate change.

“The ongoing COP27 should significantly address the climate crisis, instead of coming up with the usual false climate solutions. Specifically, we demand an adequate support for the loss and damages caused by severe climate change impacts. This is long overdue given that the threats of climate change continue to wreak havoc in the most vulnerable countries like the Philippines. Up to now, a significant number of fisherfolk in Manila Bay have yet to return to their normal socio-economic lives as their fishing boats and equipment have been destroyed by huge waves and typhoon debris. The devastating impacts of natural calamities were worsened by the massive destruction of forests and mangroves for large-scale logging, mining, and reclamation,” the group said in a statement.

Based on the Global Index Report, the Philippines is ranked most susceptible country to hazards brought by climate change.

Dumaliang is hopeful that the countries participating in the COP27 would head the Philippines' call.

“As far as civil society actor go, nakakatuwa because everyone has been very aggressive in making the Philippines heard. Andami nating civil society organizations that are here, rallying outside COP and attending multiple sessions and meetings just to put the Philippines front and center,” she said.

At the moment the Philippine delegation, led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is expected to call for “bolder climate action” at COP27, currently being held in Egypt until November 16, 2022.

Indonesia-based eco-activist to expand anti-plastic crusade to PH

By: Anjo Bagaoisan

Manila — Environmental activist Gary Benchehib, the 2022 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for emergent leadership, plans to bring his work fighting plastic pollution in Indonesia overseas, including the Philippines.

The 27-year-old French founder of non-governmental organization Sungai Watch on Wednesday detailed the work of his team in Bali during an online lecture hosted by the Ramon Magsaysay Transformative Leadership Institute.

Benchehib showed in a pre-recorded video the barriers installed by his group in waterways that catch nearly 3,000 kilos of plastic daily.

There are 150 such barriers in Bali and 20 in Java.

Sungai Watch also built 6 materials recycling facilities to collect, clean, and upcycle the trash into other items.

Aside from organizing cleanups that have recovered over 200,000 kilos of plastic in 2021, Benchehib said Sungai Watch has been helping the Indonesian government in its push to ban single-use plastics by 2030.

"I'm here for the long haul, starting in Bali but really ready to expand our project to some of Indonesia's dirtiest rivers, looking really at some of the rivers in the Philippines very soon, to really try to put an end to this material but also making sure it does not end up in our ocean or our rivers," he said.

The Philippines was identified by a 2021 study as the contributor of over a third of plastic waste in the world's oceans.

The Pasig River was pinpointed as the top plastic pollution source, with 7 out of the 10 top rivers emitting such pollution in the Philippines.

Benchehib added at a forum following his lecture that his group is focused on gathering data on plastics use to determine how much as corporations, governments, or individual users contribute to waste.

It was important, he said, to expand efforts like these.

"Every single minute, one garbage truck full of plastic pollution enters our ocean and that is set to increase. We need to change the entire system and it needs to be global systematic change. That's why projects like ours—many other projects need to scale up around the region, throughout Asia," Benchehib said.

The eco-activist said the next 3 years will be difficult for disaster relief effort.

However, he is optimistic these efforts will bear fruit in the coming years.

“The climate change battle is that one battle I think we can still win within our lifetime, within the next 20, 30 years because that [plastic] is something we all use. We’re still connected to it,” he said.

“If we start saying no to it individually, that’s where we can really change things around.”

Benchehib began his environmental advocacy at 14 years old when he and his 2 siblings Kelly and Sam began a weekly beach clean-up with friends.

He and his siblings later formed Sungai Watch in 2020.

A filmmaker by training, Benchehib produced “crazy” videos emphasizing and at times dramatizing the impact of plastic pollution.

In 2017, he documented his expedition using a kayak made of plastic bottles to the Citarum River in West Java, which led to the Indonesian government undertaking a 7-year rehabilitation program for the river, dubbed the world’s most polluted.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation recognized his efforts “combining nature, adventure, video, and technology as weapons for social advocacy”.

Benchehib will be in Manila on November 30 for the formal presentation of this year’s Magsaysay Awardees.

“We need to use this opportunity to keep fighting this fight because Indonesia needs it, the Philippines needs it, many other countries need proper solutions,” he said.

Other 2022 recipients of the Magsaysay Award—Asia’s version of the Nobel Prize—are psychiatrist and Khmer Rouge survivor Sotheara Chhim, Japanese ophthalmologist Tadashi Hattori, and Filipino doctor and children’s rights advocate Bernadette Madrid.

Chhim will deliver the next lecture in the series on November 16, focusing on mental health lessons from Cambodia.

[PH needs to adapt to climate change, pursue mitigation: World Bank report](#)

By: Jasmin Romero

Manila - In order for the Philippines to reach its goal of becoming a “high-income economy by 2045”, it needs to adopt measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

This is based on the recently launched Philippines Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) by the World Bank and presented during the ongoing COP27 in Egypt.

The Philippines CCDR analyzed “how climate change will affect the country’s ability to meet its development goals”.

The study’s key findings include: that “climate change poses major risks for development in the Philippines; Policy inaction would impose substantial economic and human costs especially for the poor; but the country “has many options to address climate change which could significantly reduce its impact”.

“Let me quickly go back to the science and the magnitude of the threat posed by climate change in the Philippines-- this is not theoretical, it is happening,” Benoit Bosquet, East Asia and Pacific Regional Director of the World Bank, said.

“Temperatures in the Philippines have been rising and they’re predicted to rise by another one to three degrees Celsius over the course of this century,” he said.

THE REALITY

To illustrate, the report showed how climate change can affect crops and ultimately the livelihood of Filipinos.

“The productivity of many agricultural crops will decline and obviously rain fed crops will be the most affected. Look at about 5% reduction in the yields of rice and sugar cane, but potentially as much as 20% for maize across the three main regions. What does this mean? (It means) lower agricultural production will affect the well-being of the farmers, many of whom are poor,” Bosquet said.

“And because this is going to lead to higher food prices, it will affect the well-being of all Filipinos and especially the poor who spend a greater part of their income on food,” he added.

Even by “conservative assumptions”, the effect of climate change will result in the reduction of gross domestic product by “5.7 to 7.5%” by year 2040.

“The sensitivity to typhoons, this could actually be much worse. Everybody will be affected by climate change... But the poor will suffer the most. The poorest households will in fact see, may see their consumption fall by almost 9%. This is very, very

significant, and this means that adaptation is the key priority for the Philippines,” Bosquet said in his presentation.

ADAPTATION

But the Philippines can “substantially reduce” the effects of climate change through adaptation.

“Adaptation means reducing the risk and damage from extreme events against typhoons and super typhoons. But adaptation also means reducing the risk from slow onset events like rising temperatures or sea level rise,” said Bosquet.

“In fact, economic losses could be reduced by 2/3 by mid-century. And because everybody would suffer from climate change, everybody would also benefit from adaptation to climate change. And here, too, the poor would benefit the most,” he added.

How? One is by providing incentives.

“As most actions will need to be undertaken by the private sector, making sure that the incentives are right is critical... For example, using environmental taxes to discourage harmful activities, providing direct support to climate smart actions, and providing clear information on the cost of climate change and the benefits of climate action,” Bosquet said.

“This is particularly important for the Philippines where the local government units do not have sufficient information to make the right decisions.”

Another is “enhancing the capabilities of local government units to design and implement climate actions and focusing on effective implementation of existing plans and regulations”, and helping people cope with the adaptation.

“(It) will substantially reduce the impact of climate change on the people of the Philippines but it will not completely be eliminated. And so it's important that the poor and vulnerable people receive the means to cope and in particular through good adaptive social protection to provide targeted relief to those who are affected,” Bosquet said.

“The Philippines, we need to take action to avoid worsening the problem. Let's not continue to build where floods are happening and keep happening,” he advised.

Lawyer and environmentalist Dr. Tony La Viña, who is at the COP27 and served as one of the speakers, expressed his appreciation of the findings.

“I think many countries will benefit from the template that you use in developing this report. The research is solid... I do encourage this to be done regularly by the World Bank, maybe every three to five years to do this,” he said.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[World's CO2 hotspots pinpointed by AI Gore-backed climate project](#)

A consortium of dozens of research nonprofits on Wednesday launched a free online platform that details greenhouse gas emissions around the world across 20 economic sectors. Climate Trace, which can be viewed on a web browser, includes a zoomable world map that displays and ranks the dirtiest 72,000 power plants, oil refineries, airports, ships and more. The group used satellite imagery and machine learning as well as more conventional techniques to build what it says is the largest available source of greenhouse gas emissions data.

“The sources of emissions data that are available now are not granular enough, or comprehensive enough, to use as the basis for decisions,” Former US Vice President Al Gore said in an interview. “And so what we are finding is that there is a ravenous hunger for accurate data.” Gore, who has fundraised for the group, is expected to introduce the platform on Wednesday at COP27, the UN climate talks in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Each economic sector on the platform is tracked using its own methodology, managed by team leads and checked by other experts not involved in creating the technique. Several of these individual methodologies have already been peer-reviewed, and the team expects to put more and more of its work through that rigorous process.

“I like to think of it as Wikipedia with more sensors,” said Gavin McCormick, executive director of the research nonprofit WattTime and a Climate Trace co-founder.

The site lets users compare any major pollution source in the world, no matter the scale, with any other. For instance: According to the site’s data, China’s five largest power plants release more carbon dioxide in a year than the entire country of Colombia.

The goal of the project is to provide decision-makers with information to determine where to cut carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas, and the other pollutants. But the takeaways are not always intuitive. Saudi Arabia’s oil production, for example, is responsible for less CO₂ per barrel than the equivalent from Canada or Venezuela. In a world that still needs oil, some “might prefer to see a world where people are scaling up Saudi Arabian oil production and scaling down oil production elsewhere,” McCormick said. “So it’s a good example of how the data cut both ways.”

Climate Trace itself is made up of hundreds of researchers who have been scouring the world—tapping 300 satellites and 11,100 sensors, in addition to corporate and government data and the internet at large—for three years to assemble as complete a view of the human sources of greenhouse gas pollution as they think is currently possible.

The data they compiled suggests that oil and gas sector emissions are much higher than what some countries or facilities report. Recent scientific research into methane flaring and leaks is built into one of the platform's models, leading to the conclusion that many facilities are dramatically under-reporting their emissions. Countries that disclose to the UN their emissions related to oil and gas production may have actual emissions up to three times that amount, according to Climate Trace.

"We know that transparency drives accountability," said Andrew Zolli, chief impact officer at satellite company Planet Labs, a Climate Trace partner. "We are headed for an era of radical climate transparency."

Their findings also show that in virtually every corner of the global economy, a small number of polluters make up the bulk of emissions. It's true at the largest scale: The biggest 500 emitters make up less than 1 percent of all those in the group's database, but were responsible for 14 percent of total emissions in 2021. Oil and gas production accounts for 26 of the 50 dirtiest sources. Sixty percent of the dirtiest 500 sources are power plants.

"We're finding those patterns everywhere," said McCormick. "Everywhere you look, in every sector, a relatively small number of assets make up a much larger share of total global emissions than we expected."

With the world's climate diplomats and advocates in Sharm El-Sheik for COP27, the ability to independently check any country's emissions estimates—or provide them where they're absent—may be the most important potential use of Climate Trace this week and next.

But there are potentially many others. The mapping tool allows users to zoom in on any territory to see where specific facilities sit relative to surrounding cities or natural areas. A scroll along the bottom of the screen adjusts to show the biggest polluters at every zoom level.

Corporate supply chain managers might use the platform to gauge the carbon footprints of potential partners. International energy developers could scan a country or a continent for places where fossil-fuel generators are prevalent and clean power can make large CO₂ gains in a short period of time. Cities strapped to measure their CO₂ responsibility could use the tool to get a sense of how they're doing, or to check their own math.

The purpose of Climate Trace is to spur collaboration, not to point fingers or "name and shame," said Deborah Gordon, senior principal for climate intelligence at RMI, an energy think tank, and the lead for Climate Trace's work on oil and gas production.

"Climate Trace doesn't exist to be the climate police," she said.

The project's origins go back to 2018, when the UK research nonprofit Carbon Tracker published a pilot study that applied machine learning to satellite imagery of coal plants in countries where there's often little data about them. The researchers studied images of plumes released from flue stacks and cooling towers and became confident in their ability to infer from that how much the plants were being used, their productivity and even their profitability.

McCormick and Matt Gray, who led the Carbon Tracker study and is now chief executive officer of the UK company Transition Zero, applied for and received funding from Google.org's Google AI Impact Challenge to expand on the work, partnering also with the World Resources Institute. They announced in May 2019 their goal to track in real time pollution from every power plant in the world. Gore read an article about it, contacted them to see how many other sectors might be included, and Climate Trace was born.

The project grew as it became clear how much data it could suck in. Scientists contributed data that had never left their own servers for little reason other than data incompatibility. Some 50 software engineers work on Climate Trace directly, in some cases just to make existing data usable.

In addition to convenor, Gore worked as a fundraiser for the group, attracting support from Google.org, Schmidt Futures, Benificus Foundation and his partners at Generation Investment Management. Fossil fuel backers were ruled out on principle and the team avoided companies too, to prevent them from potentially using any support of the effort to greenwash themselves, Gore said.

In September 2021 Climate Trace released national greenhouse gas inventories covering 2020, which until today was the group's major output.

The group came in for some tough love in a "fast-track" National Academy of Sciences report published in early October, which evaluated ways to improve greenhouse gas monitoring. The report dinged the enterprise in several areas, including data transparency, whole-project peer review and inclusivity of air-pollution agencies or citizen science efforts.

McCormick said the panel was evaluating dated work, and added that as Climate Trace grows rapidly—its data doubling every two months or so—it is adopting recommendations and resolving critiques. The group is releasing more than 400 pages of additional material, according to McCormick; it has undergone checking by multiple independent sources and has sought input from a wide range of developing-country government officials and professionals, he said.

"Our commitment is to openly and transparently publish the best info we have at any time, and be constantly soliciting and incorporating widespread feedback from many sources as we go," McCormick said. "And I think that's what the peer review of the future has to look like."

Gore said the urgency of climate change sometimes encourages research that publishes first and peer reviews later.

“The hunger for this data is such that people don’t want to wait for years before they start using data ... that can empower them to make important decisions,” he said. “We have a global emergency on our hands, and we have very accurate data that can be used to respond to that emergency.”

BUSINESS WORLD

[WB expects PHL climate mitigation efforts to be led by private sector](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

The Philippine climate change mitigation effort will be borne largely by the private sector, the World Bank (WB) said in a report, adding that the absence of policies optimized for unlocking private investment could erode gross domestic product (GDP) by as much as 13.6% in the worst case.

“It is absolutely key that the incentives for the private sector be put in place so they can fully take action,” Benoit Bosquet, regional director for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice at the World Bank, said on Wednesday at a virtual briefing presenting the World Bank Group’s Country Climate and Development Report for the Philippines.

“The good news is that the Philippines does have many options to address climate change which could dramatically reduce the impacts,” Mr. Bosquet added.

The World Bank’s more moderate projections for GDP erosion range from a 3.2% average loss by 2030, and 5.7% in losses by 2040.

He added that the Philippines must address both extreme and slow-onset events and provide targeted support for the most vulnerable members of society.

Climate mitigation financing is a contentious issue in developing countries, which include some suffering from the worst effects of climate change. Developing countries have taken the position that the rich world did the most to disrupt the climate when it industrialized, and bears responsibility for funding the bulk of climate mitigation efforts.

The previous Philippine government has argued for “climate justice” from developed countries, estimating that the Philippines can internally fund only a fraction of its climate-mitigation bill.

“Climate change indeed poses major risk for the development of the Philippines. Policy inaction will impose substantial economic and human costs, especially for the poor,” Mr. Bosquet said.

The report recommended that governments arrange incentives in such a way that make the benefits of climate action clear, while removing obstacles to allow the private sector to undertake climate projects.

“We can induce farmers to adopt practices that reduce water use and emissions while increasing productivity by ensuring these practices are more profitable than the status quo. We can induce the private sector to invest in renewable energy by ensuring that renewable energy plants are more profitable than fossil fuel plants,” the report stated.

“Likewise, private sector investment in electric vehicles and energy-efficient and disaster-resilient buildings will depend on the profitability (of such projects),” it added.

“Adaptation is the key priority for the Philippines. Adaptation means reducing the risk and damage from extreme events, like typhoons. It also means reducing the risk from slow onset events like rising temperatures and we should not forget about that,” Mr. Bosquet said.

“The good news is that adaptation actions can substantially reduce the impact of climate change on the economy. Economic losses could be reduced by two-thirds by mid-century,” he added.

Typhoons have been estimated to dampen GDP by 1.2%, the World Bank said.

The report recommended avoiding new construction in vulnerable areas and increasing the energy efficiency of buildings to help urban residents deal with the effects of gradually increasing temperatures.

“Improving water storage will reduce the risk of damaging floods and droughts and, by increasing water availability, allow irrigation to be extended into rainfed areas, thus helping farmers in those areas adapt to higher temperatures,” it added.

World Bank Regional Vice-President for East Asia and Pacific Manuela V. Ferro said that the power sector is a potential driver for mitigating climate change risk.

“The Philippines is one of those countries where there is a sweet spot between climate change mitigation action and lowering the price of electricity,” she said.

“Investments in renewable energy... (that) bring costs down are very within hand. That’s a sector we see tremendous potential to do more,” she added.

Mr. Bosquet said the Philippines has the opportunity to decarbonize using solar and wind energy.

“An important aspect of this transition is that all these options reduce the current electricity generation costs. The Philippines has a high cost of electricity at the moment. Based on our analysis, we see that many of the investments that are already planned will do a great deal and the adaptation options are feasible and costly, but less costly than other countries we’ve analyzed,” he added.

According to the World Bank, most climate actions do not require legislative change but improved implementation of existing programs or changes to implementing rules and regulations.

“For example, strengthening financial sector regulators’ capacity to integrate climate risks in monitoring and supervision requires developing regulations, guidelines, and standards but no new legislation,” it added.

CNN PHILIPPINES

Marcos expected to meet with leaders of France, Canada on ASEAN sidelines

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 10) — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. announced he is looking forward to bilateral meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the 40th and 41st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits and Related Summits in Cambodia.

“I’m looking forward to the bilaterals because, again, iba ‘yung usapan kapag face-to-face [discussions are different when done face-to-face],” the President said in his interview with reporters onboard flight PR 001.

“I’ve never met with him (Trudeau), so I suppose it’s just going to be an introductory one,” Marcos added.

On the other hand, Marcos said he has spoken to Macron twice and added that their discussions can “move forward on the details of the things that [Macron is] thinking about.”

“Remember also we’ve been talking about nuclear power. France is 67% nuclear power ang kanilang [for the needed] supply. So they’re very well-practiced when it comes to that,” Marcos added.

Marcos also noted that France is trying to put together a coalition on climate change under the auspices of the United Nations.

Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Nathaniel Imperial earlier announced that Marcos will meet with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and South Korean chief executive Yoon Suk-yeol.

According to a statement from the Office of the Press Secretary, the President’s plane touched down at the Phnom Penh International Airport around 7:43 p.m. (Philippine time).

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Climate action is 'good business,' says new UN climate chief](#)

By: Laurie Goering, Reuters

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt — Wealthy countries—like poorer ones—stand to reap huge economic, social and environmental gains by swiftly ramping up renewable energy and other climate action, the new UN climate chief said at the COP27 climate talks in Egypt on Wednesday.

"It's good business for them to embrace the transition," which offers everything from cheaper power to less pollution, Simon Stiell said in an interview. "It's a healthier, wealthier future."

The problem in making that change is "there's so much vested interest in where we are. That's the challenge."

Stiell, who grew up in the Caribbean island nation of Grenada, says his job is to become the world's "accountability chief"—in charge of ensuring global plans and pledges to deal with climate change are carried out by governments, companies and others.

It is an enormous job, particularly as a 2030 deadline looms to cut global emissions by nearly half, or face soaring warming-linked losses, even as fossil fuel emissions keep rising.

"Today a new era begins. We begin to do things differently," he said as the UN climate talks launched in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh this week.

On the formal—or in some cases informal—agendas in Egypt are efforts to drive forward a host of fundamental changes needed to address climate change, including a rethink of global financial systems to channel money where it is most needed.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has proposed a revamp of post-World War II international financial systems, dubbed the 'Bridgetown Agenda', designed to make funding easier to access for countries to develop cleanly and battle climate threats.

The proposal has won some early key backing, including from France's President Emmanuel Macron.

"We need all our institutions fit for purpose," Stiell noted, although he said "we have a long way to go" to achieving that.

Despite resistance by some wealthy nations, a push to create a new "loss and damage" funding facility to help poorer countries who have done little to cause climate change deal with its impacts also is on the COP27 agenda.

UN officials, activists and some national leaders have said that a deal is crucial to the summit's success.

Break it down

Stiell said his plan to get governments to nearly halve emissions by 2030 and find vast amounts of new finance for clean energy and adaptation to climate threats is to break the job down into what needs to be done in each of the eight years left.

"You can get lost in the weeds—and the weeds don't provide the clarity and the direction that is needed," he said.

At decades of COP meetings "the process up to now has been highly incremental," Stiell noted. "This COP signals a shift in direction," with businesses and countries failing to implement their pledges increasingly likely to be called out.

Since it began on Sunday, the summit in Egypt has seen a few promising signs—from securing a spot for loss and damage finance on the agenda, to more than 100 country leaders—almost without exception—calling for swifter climate action.

Plans to tighten rules around net-zero emissions pledges by businesses—to ensure companies actually cut their own emissions substantially first rather than relying heavily on carbon offsets elsewhere—also have received plaudits.

Stiell said making real progress toward climate goals will require ramping up what is already working, finding ways to pull along laggards, providing a "massive" boost in climate finance and increasing political will to make climate action a priority, despite other nagging crises.

"I'm a technocrat as well as a politician," he said. "And one thing being a technocrat has taught me is there are solutions to everything if there is political will."

The problem is that doing the hard work of making a new policy and shifting money "is going to be painful," Stiell said.

"We are comfortable, too comfortable, in an uncomfortable environment," he added.

Taxing fossil fuels

One clear option to find more cash for climate action, many activists and some leaders at COP27 agree, is a windfall tax on fossil fuel firms, now bringing in eye-watering profits, partly due to rising oil and gas prices driven by the war in Ukraine.

Barbados' Mottley called for a 10% tax on fossil fuel companies to help fund rising "loss and damage" from climate change.

Richer nations may also need to widen taxes on wealthy corporations and individuals to raise the money to address climate change, at home and abroad, activists said.

"National tax systems will be the key to unlocking real action to address climate change," said Teresa Anderson, global climate justice lead for charity ActionAid International.

Selwin Hart, a special adviser on climate change to the UN Secretary-General, said finding finance to help people on the frontlines of climate change deal with impacts they did not cause is "a moral obligation, a moral imperative for all of us."

But Mottley and others have emphasized it is also a matter of self-interest for rich nations, which will also face impacts—from trade disruption to bigger migration flows—if climate stresses forced people in poorer countries from their homes and livelihoods.

Stiell said many rich countries recognized the growing risks "academically"—but that urgency was lacking unlike when nations mobilized trillions of dollars to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

On climate change, which is harder to see and prioritize, "I think the urgency is going to be there. [But] when we all see it as urgent as the pandemic, it's going to be too late," he said

[Economic damage due to climate change could cost 13.6% of GDP by 2040 — World Bank report](#)

By: Ted Cordero

Climate change can take a heavy toll on the country's economic progress in the next decades if left unaddressed, according to the World Bank Group's Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) for the Philippines released on Wednesday.

In its report, the World Bank said that using historical typhoon information to calibrate a catastrophe risk model to estimate the destructive potential of future events on the economy, the average estimated loss of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030 is at least 3.2%, rising to at least 5.7% by 2040.

"However, the impacts could be much worse, reaching 7.6% of GDP by 2030 and 13.6% by 2040," the World Bank said.

The multilateral lender said that rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns will likely have negative impacts on human health and labor productivity and reduce many crops' yields.

Most importantly, the multilateral lender said the frequency and severity of typhoons are likely to increase, with higher damage costs.

The World Bank said climate change will affect all sectors, particularly capital-intensive sectors such as energy and manufacturing.

Without adaptation measures, climate change is also seen to increase poverty rate by nearly a percentage point as well as economic insecurity by 3.3 percentage points and inequality by 0.3 percentage points, according to the report.

"In 2040, consumption by the richest 20% of people will decline by 6–7% compared to a scenario without climate change. Poorer households will experience a greater decline of more than 7.5% for the entire bottom half of the distribution, and of more than 8 percent for those in the lowest decile," the bank said.

The World Bank recommended the following to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change:

- Avoiding new construction in flood-prone area
- Improving water storage to reduce the risk of damaging floods and droughts. This will also increase water availability
- Extending irrigation in rainfed areas and promoting climate-smart agriculture practices such as Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)

- Making social protection programs adaptive and scalable to respond to climate shocks

- Removing obstacles that private actors face in scaling investments in renewable energy.
- Ensuring new buildings are energy efficient and climate resilient

The bank said adaptation measures can reduce economic losses from climate change by around two-third.

Likewise, the World Bank said that “measures to mitigate GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions in the Philippines could thus boost the economy through the stimulus effect from the required investments.”

Marcos OKs DOE's plan for advancing offshore wind power

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. approved on Wednesday the plan of the Department of Energy (DOE) to explore and develop the country's offshore wind potential as a source of sustainable energy.

Before leaving for Cambodia to attend the ASEAN Summit, Marcos met with and tasked DOE Secretary Raphael Lotilla and other energy officials to push through with the agency's offshore wind energy production initiatives.

Marcos said the DOE should handle the regulatory functions to streamline coordination and simplify the approval process, as the agency proposed the creation of an Offshore Wind Development and Investment Council.

"It should be the Department of Energy who should be talking with the OSW developers, in consultation with the council, of course. It has to be led by the DOE," Marcos said in a press release.

The council will be composed of various government agencies and will serve as a one-stop shop for OSW developers.

The DOE reported to Marcos that there are 42 approved offshore wind contracts with an indicated capacity of 31,000 megawatts (MW).

Lotilla said there is a strong interest from the private sector, especially from countries considered leaders in offshore wind technology such as Denmark, Norway, and the United Kingdom, in this project.

He also said the Philippines has the capacity to deploy 40 gigawatts of OSW electricity by 2050. He said the power that could be generated through OSW projects could be used to produce alternative fuels, such as green hydrogen.

"This is more than enough to cover the 500,000 MW projected peak demand the country will require by 2040 based on DOE's medium- to long-term power outlook," he said.

In an interview with reporters on his way to Cambodia, Marcos said the government must ensure having enough power amid rising fuel costs.

"Then there was the issue of course of the fuel cost. How we're going to run the gas plants...? All of these things. How to find ways to ensure that we have power, we have enough power at least in the short term," Marcos said.

Marcos said they also discussed ways to bring down the prices.

“In the long term, talagang kulang talaga tayo. So we’ll have to do that. Also... we spent a long time talking about how to bring down the prices. And we went down to the distribution, to the mix that they are doing,” Marcos said.

"There’s a way to rationalize your supply of power, the mix of supply of power,” he added.

“So we’re thinking of... No, in fact, we’ve started going to the local cooperatives to show them how to do that. So that they can get the cheapest --- they can sell power at the cheapest price possible,” Marcos said.

The DOE had inked a memorandum of understanding with a Japanese and an Australian firm to expedite hydrogen research. It said the hydrogen could be converted into ammonia, which is a primary component in the production of industrial fertilizers used in agriculture.

At the same meeting, the DOE said it is closely coordinating with other government agencies to address the delays in the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines' transmission line projects to free up power capacity for 2023.

Pending the release of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2023–2028, the DOE will come up with short-term action plans from 2022–2024 to guide the energy sector during this period.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Climate shocks take toll on PH 'high-income' bid — WB](#)

By: Chino S. Leyco

Climate change in the Philippines will continue and accelerate, which poses major risks for the nation's long-term development, the World Bank warned.

Based on the World Bank's report on Wednesday, Nov. 9, climate change could hamper the country's ambition of becoming a high-income country by 2045 given its heavy toll on Filipinos' lives, properties, and livelihoods.

Multiple indices rank the Philippines as one of the countries most affected by extreme climate events. The country has experienced highly destructive typhoons almost annually for the past 10-years.

Annual losses from typhoons have been estimated at 1.2 percent of the economy, or gross domestic product (GDP), and as much as 4.6 percent of GDP in extreme cases like Super Typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

If left unaddressed, World Bank said climate shocks would continue to hamper economic activities, damage infrastructure, and induce deep social disruptions.

In the World Bank's country climate change and development report for the Philippines, it recommended several measures to protect the economy from climate shocks.

Among these recommendations were avoiding new construction in flood-prone areas; improving water storage to reduce the risk of damaging floods and droughts. This will also increase water availability.

Likewise, World Bank wants to extend irrigation in rainfed areas and promote climate-smart agriculture practices such as Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD).

Moreover, the bank suggested to make social protection programs adaptive and scalable to respond to climate shocks as well as remove the obstacles that private actors face in scaling investments in renewable energy.

Lastly, the government regulators should ensure new buildings are energy efficient and climate resilient, World Bank said.

Manuela V. Ferro, World Bank vice-president for East Asia and Pacific, said the Philippines would benefit from an energy transition towards more renewable energy.

"Accelerated decarbonization would reduce electricity costs by about 20 percent below current levels which is good for the country's competitiveness and would also dramatically reduce air pollution," Ferro said.

The private sector has a crucial role to play in accelerating the adoption of green technologies and ramping up climate finance by working with local financial institutions and regulators, World Bank said.

“The investments needed to undertake these actions are substantial, but not out of reach,” John Gandolfo, International Finance Corp., acting vice president for Asia and the Pacific said.

“The business leaders and bankers who embrace climate as a business opportunity and offer these low-carbon technologies, goods and services will be the front runners of our future,” Gandolfo said.

[VP Duterte's visit to Eastern Samar brings messages about climate change, education](#)

By: Raymund Antonio

Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte underscored the importance of a climate-smart citizenry and improving the country's literacy rate during her visit to Eastern Samar on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Vice President Sara Duterte speaks during the Brigada Pagbasa Summit at St. Mary's College in Borongan City, Eastern Samar on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022. (OVP photo)
On separate Facebook posts, the official shared about her trip to the province to attend its 57th Founding Anniversary and the Brigada Pagbasa Summit at St. Mary's College in Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

"Ang selebrasyong ito ay patunay ng inyong katatagan mula sa mga hamon ng kalamidad at seguridad — at ito ang nais kong paghandaan natin (This celebration is proof of your strength from the challenges of calamities and security — and it is our hope to be prepared)," she wrote.

Duterte shared that she called on the parents not to let their children join the separatist group, New People's Army (NPA), because it will destroy their futures.

But the Vice President also highlighted the importance of helping one another to fight climate change.

"And as the country continues to face extreme weather conditions brought on by climate change, the challenge is for us to strengthen our collective commitment to creating a climate-smart citizenry that understands the climate situation and what must be done to build resilient homes and communities," she said.

Meanwhile, during her visit to St. Mary's College, the Vice President and concurrent Education chief reiterated the importance of reading literacy among schoolchildren in building a good foundation of "lifelong learning".

"This school year, the Brigada Pagbasa national movement for reading became even more relevant as we transitioned to face-to-face learning and strived to recover the learning loss due to school closures during the pandemic," Duterte told her audience at the summit.

The Brigada Pagbasa is a program of the Department of Education (DepEd) that aims to raise the level of literacy in Filipino youth and address the learning gaps brought forth by the pandemic.

Duterte explained that even before the Covid-19 pandemic, former Education secretary Leonor Briones already initiated the Bawat Bata Bumabasa (3B) program.

During the event, she also expressed appreciation to the initiatives of the schools division to upgrade the reading literacy. Among these were Project Aklat, Aba, Kada Pagbasa, and Catch UP Program for Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic (Cup for 3Rs).

“I was truly appreciative sa nakita ko sa ginawa ninyo para sa inyong kabataan dito sa probinsya ng (of what you’ve done for the youth here in the province of) Easter Samar dahil nandyan kayo para tulungan sila na matutong magbasa (since you’ve been around to help them read) because that is the foundation of what I said earlier— lifelong learning and that education will lift them out of poverty,” Duterte said.

The Vice President also thanked the teachers for implementing programs aimed at resolving difficulties in reading, which she described as factors that may “lose confidence in their learning ability.”

“It’s important that as teachers, as professionals, as public service providers, you protect your integrity and maintain your professionalism, as students look up to you as role models,” she said.

“Your words and actions show your students how to behave in public and social settings, act and treat others when they interact, and navigate life’s challenges with dignity and strength of character,” she added.

MANILA STANDARD

[Marcos sets Japan state visit next year ahead of China trip](#)

By: Vince Lopez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would make a state visit to Japan early in 2023 ahead of a similar visit to China, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin revealed in an interview with Kyodo News on Monday.

Mr. Marcos attaches “great importance” to visiting Japan, the biggest source of official development assistance for the Philippines, Lucas Bersamin told the Tokyo-based news agency in his first interview with foreign media as the Cabinet’s “little President.”

The former Chief Justice said “there’s no urgency to go to China” for the President as Manila continues to bolster its defense cooperation with Tokyo amid Beijing’s growing maritime assertiveness.

Mr. Marcos has already accepted China’s invitation for a state visit, Bersamin noted. When asked if the President’s trips to the two countries will occur at the same time, he said he expects the Japan trip to take place “early next year” and “ahead of China.”

Bersamin said the President is looking to Japan for continued collaboration on clean energy, infrastructure, agriculture, food security, and maritime security in the South China Sea, to which China has sweeping and overlapping claims with the Philippines and other countries.

He said the President may ask for more help from Japan with regard to patrol boats, saying that “our coastlines will have to be defended.”

The Philippines has territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea or West Philippine Sea in the waters within the country’s exclusive economic zone.

With only three large patrol ships in its fleet, including two provided from Japan between May and June, the Philippine coast guard remains outmatched by the better-equipped Chinese coast guard in the contested waters, Kyodo News noted.

Mr. Marcos and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida first met in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, and arrangements have been underway for the Philippine leader’s trip to Japan, it added.

The visit was initially scheduled for December but pushed back due to regional and international conferences taking place later this year, Bersamin said.

Mr. Marcos will attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders’ Summit in Cambodia from Nov. 10 to 13 before proceeding to Thailand from Nov. 18 to 19 for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders’ Week.

The President will raise the South China Sea issue as well as post-pandemic economic recovery and transformation in his Asean meetings in Phnom Penh, Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Daniel Espiritu noted previously.

“The South China Sea will also be there because we always carry that in all of our meetings in the international fora,” Espiritu said.

“(Post pandemic recovery discussions) would cover food security, energy security, digital transformation and the digital economy, and also climate change in as much as this is very much related to our disaster management efforts in the Philippines,” he added.

Mr. Marcos will then join other heads of state for the annual APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting (AELM) in Bangkok. There, he will raise economic issues, food and energy security, and climate change during the 8th APEC Meeting next week, Malacanang said Monday.

In a media briefing, Office of the Press Secretary officer-in-charge Cheloy Garafil said the annual regional forum is an opportunity for the country to advance its economic agenda and priorities.

MONGABAY

[Deadly landslides prompt Philippine president to call for tree planting](#)

By: Bong Sarmiento

Mindanao, Philippines – In the wake of deadly floods and landslides caused by Typhoon Nalgae last month, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered tree planting be included in flood control and disaster mitigation projects across the island nation.

The severe tropical storm, known locally as Paeng, made five landfalls on Oct. 29 and killed a confirmed 123 people across the country. The worst-hit area was the province of Maguindanao del Norte on the southern island of Mindanao, where at least 61 people were killed.

Located along the typhoon belt in the Western Pacific, the Philippines is struck by an average of 20 typhoons each year, which cause deadly flash floods and landslides.

On Nov. 1, Marcos flew by helicopter over Maguindanao to inspect the damage wrought by the storm, which affected more than half a million people in the area. In a briefing with national and local officials at a military camp in Maguindanao after the flight, the president blamed deforestation and climate change for the deadly disaster that hit the area.

“When I was in the helicopter with [the Maguindanao governor], I noticed that there were no trees in the area hit by the landslide — the mountain was bald. That’s the problem,” Marcos said.

“I was pointing out to the governor, the mountain with trees did not suffer landslides,” he added.

Landslides occurred in at least six villages in Maguindanao, the worst in Kusiong, where many victims were buried alive by mud and boulders.

Owing to the catastrophe, Marcos directed government offices to include tree planting as a major component of flood-control projects.

“That’s one thing that we need to do. We knew it and we have been hearing this over and over again, but still tree cutting persists. It is the culprit for landslides,” Marcos said.

Tree-planting initiatives

According to government data, forest cover in the Philippines declined from 21 million hectares (52 million acres), or 70% of the country’s total land area, in 1900, to about 6.5 million hectares (16 million acres), or 22%, by 2007.

In an effort to jump-start massive reforestation efforts, then-president Benigno Aquino III in 2011 created the National Greening Program (NGP), an ambitious project that sought to regain 1.5 million hectares (3.7 million acres) of forest lands by planting 1.5 billion trees between 2011 and 2016. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is implementing the NGP, which was extended to 2028.

The program's aims include poverty reduction, conserving and protecting resources, and helping mitigate the effects of climate change by expanding forests that can serve as carbon sinks.

However, in a 2019 assessment, the country's Commission on Audit did not give the NGP flying colors. It found forest cover in the country had increased by just 177,441 hectares (438,466 acres), or less than 12% of the 1.5-million-hectare target. "The environmental targets of the NGP is way beyond the absorptive capacity of the DENR; and forcing to meet these targets led to waste," the commission's report said.

Meanwhile, the Philippines faces increasingly frequent and severe storms as the climate changes, leading the Asian Development Bank to conclude the country faces "some of the highest disaster risk levels in the world."

Are trees enough?

Preserving forests is important, and deforestation was certainly a factor in the recent tragedy in Maguindanao, according to Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Jefferson Chua. However, Marcos has been mouthing climate platitudes since assuming power in July, and is "unfortunately missing the big picture on the climate agenda that he purports to promote," Chua tells Mongabay.

"Tree planting is getting a lot of attention as a nature-based solution to the climate crisis," Chua says. "But tree planting is not a silver bullet. It needs to be part and parcel of a coherent climate action plan."

Chua says trees planted now on the slopes where landslides occurred will take years, even a decade, to help with erosion control or carbon sequestration. And by then, other disasters may occur or intensify.

"We need a coherent plan from the government, one that urgently addresses both the sudden as well as slow onset impacts of the climate crisis, and takes into consideration ambitious mitigation actions as well community-centered adaptation strategies," he adds.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[A matter of human survival](#)

Last Nov. 8 marked the ninth year since Supertyphoon “Yolanda,” the world’s strongest typhoon to hit land, barreled across central Philippines, claiming 6,300 lives and causing P95.4 billion in damage.

But as catastrophic as Yolanda was, it may be just a foretaste of the worse to come should governments fail to act together to ensure that global temperatures don’t heat up beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius to prevent a “climate catastrophe.”

Yolanda’s painful memory throws into greater focus the urgency of meeting the goals of the ongoing 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) in Egypt, where government leaders have come together to address the “defining issue of our age” and “the central challenge of our century,” as United Nations Secretary General António Guterres put it.

From its previous editions, the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP27 is being positioned as an “implementation COP,” meant to firmly address the devastating weather disturbances caused by human activity-induced global warming. These include the rise in sea levels, heat waves, cold spells, and catastrophic flooding that are seen to become more frequent, prolonged, and severe.

“We are in the fight of our lives. And we are losing...” warned Guterres during the high-level opening of COP27. “Our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator.”

The Philippine delegation led by Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga has joined the global conversation with its urgent call for “bolder climate action” and increased assistance to developing countries like the Philippines.

The Philippines has been identified as one of the most vulnerable, as it lies in the world’s most cyclone-prone region and is visited by some 20 typhoons a year.

The World Bank also noted that with half of the country’s population of 111 million living in cities, many of them along coastal areas, the Philippines is vulnerable to sea level rise. Changes in the frequency and intensity of rainfall, as well as increased temperatures, will also affect the food security and safety of the population. Annual losses from typhoons have been estimated at 1.2 percent of (gross domestic product), the World Bank said.

In fact, just a week before COP27, Severe Tropical Storm “Paeng” hit the Philippines, leaving over a hundred dead amid the devastation wrought by landslides, floods and torrential rains.

Yulo-Loyzaga said the Philippines would assert its entitlement to support and assistance as a nation highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, given that “the increasing intensity and frequency of climate and weather-related hazards have been severely impacting the lives and livelihood of every Filipino and putting a strain on the Philippine government’s efforts toward poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth.”

“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,” Yulo-Loyzaga said.

Fortunately, an increasing number of wealthy nations responsible for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions heating up the planet are heeding the call to shoulder some of the costs of climate change. There have been pledges to help developing nations transition to renewable energy sources as part of efforts to address the loss and damage caused by climate change.

These are welcome steps, but the Philippines must also do its part by strengthening its disaster risk reduction and management policies, and exacting accountability from violators of environmental protection laws that should be properly implemented.

It’s been heartening to hear President Marcos Jr. acknowledge before the 77th United Nations General Assembly in September that “there is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort.”

In line with that, he has proposed to put the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council—the lead agency tasked to coordinate government response to disasters—directly under his office.

“I believe that there are ways when we can make it (disaster response) more streamlined,” the President said during the commemoration of Yolanda’s 9th anniversary in Tacloban City, one of the hardest hit by the supertyphoon.

Any improvement in disaster response and changes to climate change policies should be pursued and implemented quickly, for there is no time to waste. As Guterres has said, “change is happening with catastrophic speed—devastating lives and livelihoods on every continent,” as the Philippines knows only too well.

It is thus imperative for the Philippines to join Guterres’ call to “answer the planet’s distress signal with action—ambitious, credible climate action. COP27 must be the place—and now must be the time.”

Indeed, humanity’s very existence depends on it.

[COP27: Tree-counting NGO offers data to tackle deforestation](#)

California-based non-governmental organization CTrees launched on Tuesday a data service to help countries limit deforestation and monitor the number of trees they have.

Based on 20 years of data, CTrees' platform uses advanced satellite technology to enable the detection of changes in forests, including degradation, fires and clearance.

As global climate talks take place until Nov. 18 in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, CTrees said its data would help countries to measure their contribution to reducing emissions ahead of a stocktake of progress at next year's U.N climate talks.

So far, emissions reductions are not enough to cap global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), the level scientists consider necessary to avoid the most severe impacts.

CTrees' project, which is making its data showing how much carbon is stored in trees available for download, has been developed by an international team of scientists, led by Sassan Saatchi, a senior scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"We are coming dangerously close to the 1.5 degree threshold," Saatchi said in a statement. "Soon many impacts of climate change will be irreversible and countries need the most accurate data possible to implement the most effective, immediate policy."

In an interview, the scientist said CTrees could give policymakers a tool to assess forests and trees outside official forest areas as well as within them.

In Africa, CTrees' satellite mapping showed a third of all trees were outside areas classified as forests.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PBBM, DOE tackle 'immediate, medium-term' plans for energy dev't](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday convened a meeting with officials of the Department of Energy (DOE) to discuss "immediate and medium-term" interventions to develop the country's energy industry.

The meeting between Marcos and DOE officials was held at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Wednesday morning, hours before he flew to Cambodia to participate in the 40th and 41st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summits and Related Summits next week.

"President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. conferred with officials of the Department of Energy Philippines and other relevant agencies to discuss immediate and medium-term plans for energy development and power supply in the country," the Office of the President (OP) said in a Facebook post.

The Office of the Press Secretary (OPS), in another statement posted on its official Facebook page, said Marcos wanted the DOE, headed by Secretary Raphael Lotilla, to make sure that the country has sufficient energy supply.

Marcos is expected to raise during the upcoming Asean Summit pressing issues, including energy security, the OPS said.

"Prayoridad ng administrasyon ni PBBM ang sektor ng enerhiya at inaasahang isa ito sa mga tatalakayin ng Pangulo sa darating na Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit sa Cambodia (The energy sector is given priority by the administration of PBBM, and it is expected to be discussed by the President in the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in Cambodia)," it said.

The DOE is "actively updating" the Philippine Energy Development Plan, as part of the government's effort to explore alternative energy sources, the OP said.

Marcos is pushing for the transition to renewable energy to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change on the country.

In his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) delivered on July 25, Marcos said the use of renewable energy will top his administration's climate change agenda, as he believed that it would help slow down the effects of climate change.

The DOE is preparing for the second green energy auction by June 2023 after the success of the first one held in June this year.

The Green Energy Auction Program was undertaken to support and facilitate immediate and timely investments in new or additional renewable energy capacities to utilize more sustainable supply sources to meet the country's electricity demands.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DoE, OCD help enhance National Dam Safety Guidelines](#)

By: Leander Domingo

The Department of Energy (DoE) in partnership with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) recently spearheaded a writeshop to help enhance the drafted National Dam Safety Guidelines and proposed Dam Safety Bill.

According to Andy Ulgado, Renewable Energy Management Bureau (REMB) division chief for Hydro and Ocean, the writeshop aimed to address the negative perceptions about dams and hydropower and highlight the benefits that hydropower can provide the community.

"We want to address the negative impact or negative perceptions people have on dams and hydropower. When you say hydro, people think about flooded communities and about its effects on livelihood. We are hoping to change the way people see hydro by addressing dam safety guidelines," Ulgado said.

poster

He noted that when environmental standards are met, the positives that hydropower can give back to the community outweigh the negatives.

"There are many other ways hydropower can be harnessed, too, not just with high dams. There are waterfalls. There are run-off rivers where you redirect only a small amount of water from a river, harness it in a hydropower plant and then return it to the river," Ulgado said.

According to the DoE and REMB, their intensive promotion of renewable energy (RE) resources in the country is aligned with the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) 2020-2040. Thus, the DoE writeshop which amplifies the establishment of safety regulations about the building and operating of hydroelectric dams in the country.

Under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, NREP aims to boost RE shares in the country's power generation mix and through this program. The DoE supports local RE investments that will fast-track the country's achievement of energy security, self-reliance, and climate change mitigation.

In coordination with the Development of Renewable Energy Applications Mainstreaming and Market Sustainability (Dreams), the writeshop was attended by representatives from the technical working group (TWG) of the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCODS).

Dreams is a project of the DoE in partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) while the NCODS-TWG is in

charge of refining the bill to improve the regulation, implementation, and information dissemination among offices concerned with dam safety.

University of the Philippines College of Engineering Professor Emeritus Dr. Guillermo Tabios 3rd, who is also NCODS-TWG and UNDP-GEF Dreams project consultant, noted that in pushing the guidelines and policies necessary in ensuring dam safety, "political will is of great importance."

Raquel de Leon, officer in charge of the OCD-Disaster Risk Reduction Management Development and Standards Division, noted that OCD's regional offices have been also throwing all-out support for RE.

De Leon said RE should be a priority agenda of the government as the country subscribes to various international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.

"Investing in renewables is one of the most significant steps in addressing climate change and pursuing our country's climate agendas," de Leon said.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Agricultural output up 1.8% in Q3](#)

By: Danessa Rivera

Manila, Philippines — The country's farm production recovered in July to September, snapping two consecutive quarters of contraction, driven by the crop, fisheries and livestock sectors, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Agriculture and fisheries output grew by 1.8 percent – a reversal from the 0.3 percent and 0.6 percent contraction in the first and second quarters, respectively.

The third quarter growth also reversed the 2.6-percent contraction in farm production in the same period last year.

“Base effects helped third quarter post a positive gain, with the livestock sector managing to slowly bounce back after the 2021 African swine fever (ASF) episode,” ING Bank senior economist Nicholas Mapa said in a text message.

The sector's overall performance from January to September inched up by 0.3 percent, a turnaround from the 2.5 percent decline in the same period last year.

“The better measure of agri-fisheries performance is January to September 2022 vs. January to September 2021. Using this metric, overall, the entire sector had zero growth. Crops, as well as palay, posted slight declines,” Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) chairman Leonardo Montemayor said in a text message.

The agricultural sector, at current prices, grossed P501.58 billion in the third quarter, up 12.3 percent from P446.77 billion in the same period last year.

Total value for the nine-month period reached P1.53 trillion, 6.25 percent higher than the P1.44 trillion in the comparative period.

“We were expecting a worse output mainly due to the effect of fertilizer and fuel prices. This might be reflected more fully in the fourth quarter,” FFF national manager Raul Montemayor said in another text message.

From July to September, the PSA noted that output of crops, livestock and poultry posted increments while fisheries production dropped during the quarter.

Crops, which accounted for 53.9 percent in the total value of production, went up by 1.8 percent.

Palay or unhusked rice production increased by one percent while corn production expanded by 2.5 percent.

Sugarcane and abaca also registered double-digit growth at 78.8 percent and 21.7 percent, respectively.

At current prices, the crop subsector grossed P240.97 billion, up 4.2 percent year-on-year.

Commenting on the crop subsector, Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) executive director Jayson Cainglet said the PSA report is wanting as the data used is the standing crops.

“As it is on the ground, because of expensive fuel and fertilizers, farmers have not used as much fertilizers as they wanted, so that will have an impact on production, which you cannot gauge on the standing crops,” he said.

While growth is noted for the subsector, the third quarter figure is prior to the recent typhoons that heavily devastated the rice and corn sectors, Cainglet said.

Super Typhoon Karding’s damage to the rice sector was valued at P2.05 billion and P65.4 million in the corn sector, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, Severe Tropical Storm Paeng caused P1.95 billion worth of damage to rice and P160.32 million to corn.

Livestock, which contributed 15.6 percent to the total, rose by four percent on higher dairy, hog, carabao or water buffalo and cattle production.

The livestock subsector’s value amounted to P94.49 billion, an 18.7 percent increase from a year earlier.

Similarly, poultry – which had a 15.2 percent share – grew by 6.4 percent as all commodities, except for duck, registered gains.

On the other hand, fisheries production, which accounted for 15.3 percent in the total, recorded its third straight quarter of contraction as it declined by 4.2 percent.

Double-digit decreases were noted in mudcrab (alimango), blue crab (alimasag), Indian mackerel (alumahan), tiger prawn (sugpo), Bali sardinella (tamban), grouper (lapu-lapu), and milkfish (bangus).

Lower production was also noted in tilapia, big-eyed scad (matangbaka), slipmouth (sapsap), roundscad (galunggong), and frigate tuna (tulingan).

In total, the fisheries subsector grossed P77.97 billion, up 10.3 percent from last year.

Mapa said the “fishing ban implemented from May to August this year could have negatively impacted the fisheries sector.”

In a statement yesterday, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) has sought concrete compensation for the loss and damages of climate crisis, which has gravely affected the livelihood of fisherfolk.

“Specifically, we demand an adequate support for the loss and damages caused by severe climate change impacts. This is long overdue given that the threats of climate change continue to wreak havoc in the most vulnerable countries like the Philippines,” PAMALAKAYA said.

The group said the Philippines’ coastal communities remain to be among the most vulnerable places to the threats of climate change.

“It is still more than a week since Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (international name Nalgae) struck the country and left a trail of destruction mostly in rural communities,” it said.

The call was made amid the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

[Opinion] New dimensions of security, new challenges for us

By: Michèle Boccoz

In a recent conversation I held with media friends, I was happy to hear France has gained visibility lately in the Philippines. This is not unrelated to the various events celebrating our 75th anniversary, but more fundamentally, it expresses our shared desire to take the relations of our two countries to another level.

In September, Presidents Emmanuel Macron and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had a phone call, during which they agreed to strengthen our cooperation in the fields of food and energy security, defense and human exchanges. They met again during the UNGA in New York. These topics were discussed as well during the visit of delegation of 10 senators led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri in Paris and Normandie.

The world as a whole feels the consequences of the war in Ukraine. The weaponization of food, energy and disinformation in this ongoing conflict showcase new fundamental dimensions of our security, that we need to address and to harness to our shared values: in these troubled times, democracies should close their ranks and intensify cooperation. And as every Filipino knows, climate change and environment protection are equally among top challenges that have to be fully integrated in an extended definition of human security. For this reason, we see with great interest the candidature of the Philippines to the United Nations Security Council 2027-2028 term.

A few days ago during the COP27 Climate Summit in the Egyptian city of Sharm El Sheikh, President Macron introduced a Positive Conservation Partnership, that aims at funding the protection of vital reserves as carbon and biodiversity. Because they provide a critical environmental service to humanity, these ecosystems should be recognized and rewarded financially. Through this scheme, primary forests and mangroves in the Philippines, that are carbon traps and pools of biodiversity, could bring prosperity to their periphery through chains of sustainable exploitation, be better protected or even expand.

Recent scientific research shows in particular that mangroves and coastal ecosystems have a unique capacity to sequester carbon among other ecosystems. This complements the High Ambition Coalition on Nature and People, spearheaded by France and Costa Rica that aims at ensuring the effective conservation of at least 30 percent of all land and sea areas. It is excellent news that the Philippines supports these two initiatives.

Later this month, we will celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony of a coral reef restoration center in Palawan with Sulubaai Environmental Foundation, funded by the French Facility for World Environment that precisely aims at strengthening the resilience of coastal communities. AFD, our French Development Agency, recently held high-level consultations in Manila to push further projects involving green infrastructure, such as mangroves or coral reefs, and other means of climate resilience.

The war in Ukraine also reminds us that territorial invasions did not stop in the 20th century and can still happen overnight. Classic security issues are still the main point of attention in the Indo-Pacific region, and for the Philippines in particular. This is also the case for French overseas territories in the Indo-Pacific, where nearly 2 million French citizens live.

In coherence with our commitment to peace and stability, France pursues a non-confrontational approach and the peaceful settlement of disputes, while ensuring the strict protection of our sovereignty. We work together finding ways to reinforce our security, through the upholding of international law and the strengthening of our military cooperation, with training, joint drills and the modernization of forces. Our operational cooperation encompasses a wide range of topics, including humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR).

And our exchanges intensify: late October, AFP Chief of Staff Lt. General Bartolome Vicente Baccaro was in Paris to attend the Euronaval exhibition show in Paris where he had a very warm and promising bilateral meeting with his French counterpart General Burkhard. This week, we held our 3rd Joint Defense Committee with Captain Guillaume Arnoux and Defense Assistant Secretary Henry Robinson in Manila. Next month, our Defense Ministry in-house think-tank IRSEM will have a series of exchanges in the Philippines to deepen our mutual understanding on various issues.

Our bilateral relationship is also grounded in other sectors of cooperation. Last week, about 25 French companies came to Manila under the lead MEDEF International, the largest employer federation in France. And a few days ago, we held the 25th French Film Festival in the Philippines, where many of you noticed the presence of superstars Isabelle Huppert, and Lucas Bravo, the chef from the series “Emily in Paris.”

All these areas of cooperation matter.

We wish to further intensify our political dialogue with the Philippines, and as a nation of the Indo-Pacific, we want to work more closely with the Philippines in the region. For the first time, the French President has been invited to the APEC summit, and we are expecting major developments from this meeting. France recently obtained the status of Development Partner of ASEAN, and we are working with the Philippines and neighboring countries to develop regional projects, such as One Health, that focuses on the interactions between humans, animals and ecosystems in the development of infectious diseases.

With this in mind, the conclusion of the celebrations of our 75th anniversary can give us the occasion to envision a partnership based on a common vision of sovereignty, security and sustainable development in the food and energy sectors.

CCC IN THE NEWS

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[Climate Change dahilan ng mas matinding pag-ulan sa bansa, ayon sa pag-aaral.](#)

Pagkakaroon ng food shortage sa 2030, pinangangambahang mangyari 'pag hindi nasolusyunan ang problema sa agrikultura.

Climate Change Commission umaapela sa mga LGU na magpatupad ng mas mahigpi na ordinansa para sa kalikasan.



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