



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Climate body budget deferred over commissioners' absence
- Climate Change Commission's 'dismal' performance irks Legarda

### ABS-CBN NEWS

[DOST features innovations in disaster risk reduction in 3-day exhibit](#)

By: Jasmin Romero

The Department of Science and Technology showcased their disaster risk reduction and management innovations at a 3-day exhibit to “enhance awareness of different stakeholders” on technologies they can utilize, and prepare against possible losses brought by natural disasters.

### [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.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### [Ancestral lands shield us from climate hazard](#)

Economic inequality is the unequal distribution of income and opportunity between different groups in society. In the Philippines, our indigenous people (IP) have been unjustifiably trapped in the web of economic injustice for the longest time. Despite their territories having an estimated forest ecosystem value of P1.1 trillion annually, three in every four indigenous persons remain among the poorest 40 percent of Filipinos, according to the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC).

### [Climate Migration: Açai growers flee salty Amazon water](#)

By: Fabiano Maisonnave and Eraldo Peres

Macapa, Brazil — Where the mother of all rivers meets the Atlantic Ocean in coastal Brazil, it’s not a single channel, instead it braids around 230 kilometers (142 miles) of islands including the Bailique Archipelago.

### [Fed up young climate activists: ‘Adults aren’t listening’](#)

By: The Associated Press

With decades of warmer and extreme weather ahead of them, young climate activists envision a future that has them frustrated and anxious, according to more than 130 activists questioned by The Associated Press. Most of them said they think their strikes and protests are effective. But lately in high-profile, attention-grabbing actions, a handful of activists have gone beyond skipping school to targeting art work, tires and fossil fuel depots.

### [People with disabilities raise voices at climate talks](#)

By: The Associated Press

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt — Last year, climate activists who focus on disability rights scored a major victory at the United Nations climate change conference known as COP. They gained official status as a caucus recognized by the UN Secretariat, the

conference organizer. They say it was the culmination of years of effort to be officially included in the proceedings. Here's what that means for this week and beyond.

### [\[Opinion\] Will Aparri disappear under a rising sea?](#)

Tuvalu is an island nation located halfway between Australia and Hawaii. It is one of the smallest countries in the world, with a land area of 26 square kilometers and a population of 11,925 in 2021. With its limited resource base, it is extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Worse, it is facing the highest risks associated with the climate crisis due to rising sea levels. Scientists say that as sea level rises, sand and gravel erode away into the seabed as the shoreline recedes; accordingly, a country like Tuvalu will eventually disappear under a rising sea.

## **BUSINESS STANDARD**

### [World Bank warns of heavy toll on Philippines due to climate change](#)

Climate shocks, whether in the form of extreme weather events or slow-onset trends, will hamper economic activities, damage infrastructure, and induce deep social disruptions, the report said

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### [Local level communication key to effective disaster management, says climate data software expert](#)

By: Matthew Carl Montecillo

An enhanced information dissemination system, especially at the local government level, is key to a more effective disaster management program, according to the head of a climate change data and analytics software company.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### [Razer launches Restorify at the 27th COP27](#)

By: Jonathan Castillo

Razer introduced Restorify, an e-commerce service rolled out by Razer Fintech, the financial technology arm of Razer. Restorify is a traceable carbon neutral checkout and was launched during COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[Binay eyes holistic approach to fight climate change effects](#)**

By: Joel E. Zurbano

Makati City Mayor Abigail Binay is proposing taking a holistic approach so people can “survive the worst outcomes of a changing climate.”

## **NIKKEI ASIA**

### **[Climate justice is social justice, activists say at COP27 'youth day'](#)**

By: Rhyannon Bartlett- Imadegawa

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt -- Young people suffering the effects of climate change made their voices heard both inside and outside the rooms of the world's biggest conference on the issue, drawing attention to the link between the environment and social justice.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[\[Opinion\] Tree planting and beyond](#)**

By: Gideon Lasco

President Marcos Jr.'s recent declaration that we need to plant more trees—as well as his decision to celebrate his 65th birthday with a tree planting activity—reminds me of Republic Act No. 10176 or the Arbor Day Act of 2012, which has this curious passage: “All able-bodied citizens of the Philippines, who are at least twelve (12) years of age, shall be required to plant one (1) tree every year.”

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[PBBM to hold bilateral meetings with leaders of France, Canada](#)**

By: OPS

Manila -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday said he is looking forward to his bilateral meetings with fellow leaders on the sidelines of the 40th and 41st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits and Related Summits.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[Global warming threatens critically endangered Taurus frog](#)**

By: Anadolu

Ankara – Türkiye's unique and critically endangered Taurus frog is under threat from serious habitat loss caused by various factors, including climate change-related global warming, according to an expert.

### [Israel shares sustainable agri practices to PH](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

Manila – Experts from Israel shared best practices on smart and sustainable agriculture to Filipino stakeholders Thursday, reflecting Israel's interest to further boost technical cooperation with Manila.

### [S. Kudarat gov urges ASEAN to address climate change, digital gap](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila – The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) must find immediate solutions to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change and address the digital divide among Southeast Asian youth, Sultan Kudarat Governor Pax Ali Mangudadatu said Thursday.

## **RAPPLER**

### [EXPLAINER: What the latest UN science says about climate change](#)

By: Reuters

It's 'now or never,' one report co-chair says in releasing findings that show that only drastic emissions cuts in the next few decades would prevent warming from spiraling out of control

### [COP27: How climate change impacts countries around the world](#)

By: Reuters

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt – While delegates at the COP27 climate conference discuss the shared problem of climate change, each country will face its own challenges and threats.

### [\[OPINION\] The failure of COP27 and the alternative to capitalism](#)

By: Sonny Melencio

COP27 (the 27th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change) is meeting this week in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, from November 6 to 18. The COP is the largest conference of the United Nations on climate change, held annually in different countries and participated in by around 25,000 representatives of different governments.

## **SUN STAR**

### [Climate change affecting production of industrial crops](#)

By Iona Finlay C. Mendoza

AN official of the City Agriculturist's Office (Cagro) of Davao reports that the changing climate has affected the production of industrial crops.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[China and Asean are important partners in tackling climate change](#)**

By: Gong Xin

Since 2022, extreme climate which includes heat waves, droughts and torrential rain have ravaged the globe, posing a serious threat to economies and people's lives. Climate change is no longer a future challenge but a current and urgent crisis. Statistics show that under the threat of climate change, Asia's gross domestic product (GDP) is predicted to lose \$4.7 trillion a year, with less developed countries being the hardest hit. Since the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (Asean) population and economic activity is concentrated along the coast, it is particularly fragile to climate-related damage such as floods, droughts and rising sea levels.

### **[Unity, action urged to tackle climate crisis](#)**

By: Global Times

THE 27th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP27), convened this year under the shadow of climate disasters and an energy crisis, appeared to have made some breakthrough to include loss and damage compensation into talks, in response to developing nations' persistent demands, and perhaps offered a chance for leaders around the world to make efforts together and take concrete actions.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Beyond resilience narrative, 'whole of government' planning needed vs disaster risks](#)**

By: Franco Luna

Manila, Philippines — Local disaster risk reduction and management officials from Metro Manila called for a "whole of government" approach to addressing climate change in the wake of Severe Tropical Storm Paeng, one of the worst natural calamities to hit the Philippines this year.

## **WIRED.COM**

### **[Countries Hit Hardest by Climate Change May Finally Get Their Due](#)**

In 2013, JUST a few days after one of the most powerful storms ever recorded struck his country, a Filipino climate negotiator named Yeb Saño spoke before world leaders at a United Nations COP summit in Poland.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### GMA NEWS

#### [Climate body budget deferred over commissioners' absence](#)

By: Sundry Locus

The Senate on Wednesday deferred the deliberation and approval of the 2023 proposed budget of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), citing the absence of two of its commissioners.

### PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

#### [Climate Change Commission's 'dismal' performance irks Legarda](#)

By: Daniza Fernandez

Manila, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda was irked on Thursday over the Climate Change Commission's performance and pushed for the agency's budget deferral.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS-CBN NEWS**

### **[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.

Country most threatened by climate change? Study says it's Philippines

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.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Ancestral lands shield us from climate hazard](#)**

Economic inequality is the unequal distribution of income and opportunity between different groups in society. In the Philippines, our indigenous people (IP) have been unjustifiably trapped in the web of economic injustice for the longest time. Despite their territories having an estimated forest ecosystem value of P1.1 trillion annually, three in every four indigenous persons remain among the poorest 40 percent of Filipinos, according to the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC).

LRC is the chapter of Friends of the Earth in the Philippines. It works for the recognition and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and upland rural poor communities to land and environment. The Center seeks to bridge the gap between the informal articulations of the aspirations of these marginalized communities on the one hand, and the formal, technical, bureaucratic and legal language used by the state, on the other.

In its 2022 State of the Indigenous Peoples Address Report, LRC said that half of all Certificate of Ancestral Domain titles (CADTs) in the Philippines are embroiled in environmentally destructive projects. The threats were found to cover at least 1.25 million hectares or equivalent to 21 percent of the total area of all CADTs (Read, "Report shows vast tracts of PHL ancestral domain lands tied to destructive projects," in the BusinessMirror, November 4, 2022).

"We found that half of all approved large-scale mining contracts and a whopping 87 percent of all large-scale logging projects are within or close to registered ancestral domains. Protecting ancestral domains and their natural defenses to extreme climate impacts is urgently needed if we are to rise above the climate emergency we are already experiencing now," said Atty. Mai Taqueban, LRC executive director.

The report said the indigenous people are facing significant socioeconomic gaps in accessing education, public health, water and electricity, and other public services. "The exploitation and commoditization of nature is sadly an enduring framework to managing our natural resources. This is contrary to indigenous peoples' conception of development. Not only has this marginalized them; it has also worsened their human-rights situation, for many of them naturally oppose these projects. What they have been clamoring for is support for their own development plans, anchored in their right to self-determination," Taqueban said.

The report highlighted the ongoing struggles of IP communities against extractive projects, such as the water woes experienced by the Tuwali people during the operations of the OceanaGold copper-gold project in Barangay Didipio, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. Protesting the depletion and pollution of water and its impacts on their farmlands, they have been repeatedly met with a history of violence and human-rights violations.

Taqueban said: “Indigenous peoples have declared they will pursue an IP agenda under the new government. They called for a harmonization of the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act with natural resources and other laws affecting IPs. They also enjoined the government to fast track the issuance of CADTs. Indigenous peoples’ enjoyment of their rights is premised on their right to land.”

The LRC report, which was launched in time for the opening of the UN COP27 climate negotiations, highlights the need for both local and world leaders to support indigenous actions to address the climate crisis

The country’s indigenous lands are the last remaining intact ecosystems that can protect us against the negative effects of climate change. For example, the Sierra Madre Mountain, which is home to indigenous Dumagat-Remontado communities that have ancestral domain claims covering parts of the mountain range, acts as a resilience backbone that weakens the impact of typhoons. Apart from being a natural barrier to typhoons, the Sierra Madre Mountain range absorbs large amounts of rainfall, thanks to the diversity of ecosystems found in the area.

It’s about time that interest groups are stopped from treating our ancestral lands as a rich resource base of raw materials. Let’s find out how we can do our share to protect these ecosystems, which are nature-based solutions that shield us from the devastating effects of climate change.

## Climate Migration: Açaí growers flee salty Amazon water

By: Fabiano Maisonnave and Eraldo Peres

Macapa, Brazil — Where the mother of all rivers meets the Atlantic Ocean in coastal Brazil, it's not a single channel, instead it braids around 230 kilometers (142 miles) of islands including the Bailique Archipelago.

A native of the mouth of the Amazon, Elielson Elinho, 31, knows that the struggle between the majestic river and the ocean shapes life in these islands. So much so that early this year, his family sensed that the sea was winning, and that it was time to leave.

The Amazon River discharges one-fifth of all the world's freshwater that runs off land surface. Despite that force, the seawater pushed back the river that bathes the archipelago for most of the second half of 2021, leaving thousands scrambling for drinking water.

"We had to travel upriver by boat for two hours to fetch sweet water. And sometimes it tasted salty even going that far." Elinho told The Associated Press in his home in Macapa city, where he has lived since August with his wife, Sabrina Fernandes, 25, and their three sons.

The river and the sea push back and forth against each other with different strengths according to the season. During a full moon, the sea invades the river with such strength that, in some places, it turns into a single giant wave of up to 4 meters (13 feet), a phenomenon known as pororoca. The advance of seawater typically occurs in Bailique during the dry season when the Amazon River's flow diminishes.

Last year, the seawater pushed upriver for longer, around five months. The water tasted saltier and for the first time in several decades, it reached the whole archipelago, eight islands, where about 14,000 people live spread across 58 villages.

"I had never seen it like this before. Not even my parents did it," said Elinho, who, living now in Macapa, is away from the islands for the first time in his life.

Macapa authorities declared a state of emergency in October 2021. But help was scant, Fernandes and other residents say. Her family of four (her third child was born this year) received only 9 liters (2.3 gallons) of mineral water every two months. Even reserving it for drinking, it lasted only a few days.

There is no piped water in the islands. With their drinking water — the river — salty, many Bailique residents had no choice but to use salty water to wash clothes, bathe, cook and brush their teeth, an unpleasant and unhealthy situation.

"We avoided cleaning our faces. The skin gets dry. We used soap, but it makes no foam. When we woke up, our skin was white. For my sons and many other people, it caused itching and they had to use an ointment," Fernandes recalls.

In January, Elinho's family made their first move, to a community farther from the ocean. During the week, he returned to work on his groves of açai palms, the primary income for hundreds of Bailique families. Much of the açai in the US comes from the mouth of the Amazon.

The water quality was better and the children attended a better school, but they continued facing another chronic problem in the region: electric outages — for months at a time.

The power lines that supply Bailique are hung from poles along the river's edge. But erosion of the riverbank has intensified, and many poles have begun to slump into the water.

It takes weeks or even months to restore power. Fernandes and Elinho's family were spending around US \$300 a month on gasoline for the generator. So they made a painful decision to move again. When the family left for Macapa in August, the lights still had not been restored.

Besides electrical lines, sea erosion is also swallowing houses, schools and other facilities. One of the most visible places is in Progresso, the Bailique region's largest village, located close to where the Amazon River touches the Atlantic. On a September morning, the AP team arrived after a 14-hour river trip surrounded by the lush rainforest. The front part of a market had just fallen into the water.

"There was a soccer field here in the front. And after that, there was a hut. And after that was a line of trees," butcher shop owner Reginaldo dos Santos said, pointing to somewhere in the middle of the river.

The sea erosion did not even spare the main school. In February, part of its buildings crumbled.

"First, people came to live here. Now they are leaving," says market owner Manoel Pantoja, 58. After 20 years in Progresso, he plans to move to a community closer to Macapa in December. "The village is approaching its end."

Macapa authorities did not respond to numerous requests for information about Bailique from The Associated Press.

The changes in the region are also an increasing threat to the omnipresent açai palm trees. In many places, sea erosion is taking them. And in areas closer to the sea, the açai berries began to taste different.

"Some açai tastes salty, and berries have a weaker color. It's no longer a deep purple. The canopy is thinner and the bunches are smaller," says Alcindo Farias Júnior, 24,

who works as a “peconheiro” or açai picker, a dangerous job that entails climbing high up the slender palm trees.

According to geologist Valdenira dos Santos, who has studied the region for over two decades, several things contribute to the damage, including grazing buffalo, hydropower plants nearby, the natural dynamics of the estuary and on top of that, climate change.

“We are in a coastal system, which is influenced by what happens both at sea and on land. It is a system that changes fast on its own. And now human activities are changing that system,” says Santos, a researcher at the Institute for Scientific and Technological Research of Amapa.

Data is limited: There is no monitoring at the mouth of the Amazon River. The closest official monitoring station is in Obidos, about 700 kilometers (430 miles) upstream.

“Brazil does not have the most basic information to face the challenges of climate change in coastal and maritime areas,” said Santos. “We need ongoing monitoring to have a steady flow of information to plan mitigation and adaptation.”

One of the region’s few studies on climate change is led by oceanographer Wilson Cabral, from the Aeronautics Institute of Technology. His team’s field research focuses on Marajo. Located south of Bailique, it is the world’s largest fluvial island, about the size of Switzerland.

Based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scenarios, their analysis estimates that at least half the Marajo municipality most exposed to the sea, Soure, should be underwater by the end of this century.

Projected diminished rainfall in the region means lower flow for the rivers that surround the islands and pour their waters into the Marajo Bay, the study said. In addition, sea level rise will likely increase the advance of seawater toward the island’s interior. The consequences are more saline soils and freshwater near the coast.

For those leaving Bailique behind, an entirely different life in the city of Macapa, the capital of Amapa state, is the obvious choice, but also a difficult one. One-quarter of its 520,000 inhabitants live in slums. It has the worst sewage system among Brazil’s largest cities and is the country’s most violent capital.

Living compressed in one-third of the space of their home in Bailique, Elinho, who now works as an electrical technician, says he worries daily about his family’s safety. Instead of the Amazon River, open sewage now runs past their porch in a working-class neighborhood.

He hasn’t given up on Bailique and plans to use his newfound technical knowledge for a comeback. “In 2025, I will take care of the archipelago’s energy and solve the problem for good.”

## [Fed up young climate activists: 'Adults aren't listening'](#)

By: The Associated Press

With decades of warmer and extreme weather ahead of them, young climate activists envision a future that has them frustrated and anxious, according to more than 130 activists questioned by The Associated Press. Most of them said they think their strikes and protests are effective. But lately in high-profile, attention-grabbing actions, a handful of activists have gone beyond skipping school to targeting art work, tires and fossil fuel depots.

The climate change generation is saying officials are talking too much, listening too little and acting even less. And they are fed up.

"Instead of talking about how to solve the climate crisis, they negotiate about how to continue polluting," said Mitzy Violeta, a 23-year old indigenous activist from Mexico. "Youth movements are realizing the solution isn't going to be in international gatherings," like the one taking place in Egypt.

"We're upset with the inaction that's being done," said Jasmine Wynn, 18, of the environmental group Treeage.

With decades of warmer and extreme weather ahead of them, young climate activists envision a future that has them frustrated and anxious, according to more than 130 activists questioned by The Associated Press. Most of them said they think their strikes and protests are effective. But lately in high-profile, attention-grabbing actions, a handful of activists have gone beyond skipping school to targeting art work, tires and fossil fuel depots.

Experts and funders expect these in-your-face actions to escalate.

"They will do whatever is non-violently necessary. They're on fire," said Margaret Klein Salamon, a clinical psychologist who runs the Climate Emergency Fund that financially backs some of the in-your-face protest events. "They're so passionate. Some of that comes from youth, sure. But it is powered by reality, by having a sort of confrontation with the truth."

At one of the more traditional protests in New York City in September, 14-year-old Truly Hort said she was scared about the future: "I've always had all these dreams, and now I'm like 'God, I can't do that.'"

The trouble, she said, is that leaders talk about what they hope to do, "but it's not a lot of people taking action."

Also mentioning her anxiety at the same protest 16-year-old Lucia Dec-Prat said, "it's one thing to worry about the future and it's another to get out there and do something about it."

But protesting only does so much, Dec-Prat said: “I honestly feel that adults aren’t listening.”

Governments and international organizations are advancing too slowly to fight climate change, many of those interviewed said about climate conferences. A vast majority of activists agreed with Greta Thunberg’s characterization of climate negotiations as all talk and no action, or “blah blah blah,” as the Swedish activist put it in a speech last year.

“So rather than just making noise to contribute to the blah blah blah, make noise for action. I think that has to be the critical thing,” said 25-year-old Jevanic Henry of St. Lucia in the Caribbean. “We are driving action.”

“Money doesn’t matter because we’re not going to have anywhere to live,” said Aniva Clarke, a 17-year old activist from Samoa. “And that’s probably the biggest issue that a lot of world leaders aren’t really focusing on.”

While many youth activists don’t feel they are being listened to, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres credited the world’s youth for spurring negotiators to do more. University of Maryland social scientist Dana Fisher, who studies the environment movement and youth activists, said they’ve testified before Congress and spoken before the United Nations and at past climate negotiations.

“Young people have gotten a lot more say than they did in any other time during my adult life,” Fisher said. “I think a lot of them felt like because they were invited and given these opportunities that that meant everybody’s going to snap and change policy.”

And she said that’s not what happens, which then causes them to get frustrated.

Speaking at a London cultural event, Thunberg said annual climate conferences like the one in Egypt will not bring about meaningful change. “Unless, of course, we use them as an opportunity to mobilize,” she said, “and make people realize what a scam this is and realize that these systems are failing us.”

One of the most prominent youth climate activists, Vanessa Nakate of Uganda, has been both on the outside as a protestor starting the Rise Up Movement and later inside as a UNICEF ambassador on climate change.

“The question should be like, what should the leaders do? What should governments do? Because this whole time I’ve done activism, I have realized the youth have done everything,” Nakate told The Associated Press.

And there’s little doubt about who young activists think needs to foot the bill in the fight against climate change: wealthy, industrialized nations that historically have emitted more greenhouse gases than poorer ones. Rich countries have pledged to pay poor

ones to adapt against the hurricanes, droughts and floods made worse by climate change, but so far they've not fulfilled their \$100 billion promise.

While investors on Wall Street continue pouring money into funds that call themselves 'green,' many young climate activists blame free-market capitalism itself for adding heat-trapping gasses to the atmosphere — something that adult analysts and officials often ignore as a factor.

Most of those interviewed called targeting corporations and businesses with more pressure, protests, and shaming — like a recent New York demonstration staged inside financial investment firm BlackRock's headquarters — an effective tactic in fighting climate change.

Minutes before they marched past the famous Wall Street bull statue and near the site of the Occupy Wall Street movement, 17-year-old Oscar Gurbelic squarely blamed the free market system and big business.

"Inherently climate change and capitalism are intertwined," Gurbelic said.

Many say they're willing to make changes to their own lives to take responsibility for reducing emissions. They fly and drive less, and walk more. A large chunk of activists questioned say they would likely have fewer children because of climate change. Most said they don't take part in certain activities at least once per week because it is wasteful or polluting.

"We no longer want to live in a world in which we only seek to consume and use things and discard them," said Violeta of Mexico.

Similar to other protest movements, there are differences in thought over whether to work inside or outside the system. Some activists that AP spoke with collaborate with governments, international organizations and non-profit groups to raise awareness of climate risks facing their communities. Others strictly work at the grassroots level, fighting the powers that be.

Experts studying youth climate activists say that while the generation they belong to is the most educated in history, many want to pause their educations to focus on climate action. Others, like Jevanic Henry, want to merge their professional lives with climate activism. He's worked for governments and non-profits on climate issues.

"I'm trying to remain optimistic as much as I can," Henry said in an interview, but he said it's tempered by a fear that socioeconomic collapse will come if action is not taken across the board.

But hope only goes so far.

“More and more people are going to be upset and frustrated and willing to take more aggressive action,” University of Maryland’s Fisher said. “And the problem is that at some point that can become violent.”

The newer tactics, such as throwing soup or mashed potatoes on famous art work — which has glass protecting them from damage — is born from that frustration, Climate Emergency Fund’s Klein Salamon said.

“We’ve tried everything. Marches and lobbying, writing letters, making phone calls,” Klein Salamon said. “We’re just not where we need to be.”

## People with disabilities raise voices at climate talks

By: The Associated Press

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt — Last year, climate activists who focus on disability rights scored a major victory at the United Nations climate change conference known as COP. They gained official status as a caucus recognized by the UN Secretariat, the conference organizer. They say it was the culmination of years of effort to be officially included in the proceedings. Here's what that means for this week and beyond.

### **COP27 CONFERENCE**

Someone from the caucus will have the chance to address conference attendees at the closing plenary about disability inclusion. People will have an official space to gather. Members of the caucus will also have more access to the conference organizer, making it easier to connect with other attendees including country delegates, negotiators, disability rights organizations, as well as to participate overall in events.

This year there have been two changes to make the venue more accessible to people with disabilities, according to Kera Sherwood-O'Regan, an indigenous and disabled climate activist from New Zealand. People with mobility issues or chronic pain may enter the conference via a separate line, so they don't have to wait as long, and there are more ramps into buildings and onto some of the stages.

Still, there is a lot more the conference organizers can do to ensure that the proceedings are accessible to all, like making sure attendees who use wheelchairs or walkers can move around the venue freely and that sign language interpreters are at all events, said Jason Boberg, a member of the disability caucus and a founder of the disability climate action network SustainedAbility.

The issue of payment for harm caused by climate change, known in the jargon as "loss and damage," is also on the agenda for people with disabilities. Activists want to include disability rights in conference negotiations on this subject.

Boberg has been a key proponent in pushing for inclusion of disabled communities in climate action at the international level.

He said figuring out where loss and damage finance will come from and how to secure some of it for disabled people living in disaster-prone areas is "front of mind" for members of the disability caucus.

### **NEXT OBJECTIVES**

Boberg said one of the next goals will be formal elevation of the new caucus to the level of a "constituency" within COP.

Constituencies are umbrella groups of other organizations such as Indigenous alliances, business and industry coalitions, or farmers and agricultural associations. A disability constituency would have the authority to convene meetings with government officials and suggest speakers and attendees for official COP functions. They would have the right to participate at workshops and events that are otherwise closed.

“We are the most impacted because we’re left behind, we’re left on the sidelines and our voices need to be there,” said Dee Woods, the food justice policy coordinator for the U.K.-based agricultural union The Landworkers’ Alliance, at a November 2021 event that was held in Glasgow during last year’s conference, but was unaffiliated with the U.N.

Boberg said also that it is important for people with disabilities to be included in something called the UN’s Action for Climate Empowerment short-term action plan, which will be hashed out in the coming days. This is the U.N.’s framework for getting people, organizations and communities to reduce emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change. Last year, COP delegations adopted a 10-year plan to roll out the Action for Climate Empowerment.

“It’s really crucial for disabled people and organizations to be included” in those plans, Boberg said, so they can get more resources from countries for climate action and prepare for climate emergencies. This could mean assurance that relief shelters are accessible. Or it could mean the creation of registries of disabled people, to help governments deliver extra assistance to the right places in the lead up to extreme weather. It also could mean help cleaning up in the aftermath.

Activists are also pushing to ensure disability rights are included in international climate action plans, since there are over 1 billion people in the world living with a disability, according to the World Health Organization.

## **GETTING THIS FAR**

The recognition of the disability caucus by the leadership of the UN climate conference last year was a milestone. People have been meeting and organizing on this unofficially at the conference since COP23 in 2017 in Bonn, Germany.

“Back then [we’d meet] in the corridors and cafes and wherever we could get a space,” Boberg said.

He was able to give the disability caucus’ first-ever address to conference attendees last year. In it, he said world leaders and society at large have considered disabled people as “expected losses” to climate change. He implored world leaders to include human rights and indigenous and disabled people’s rights in Article 6 of the Paris climate agreement, which outlines how countries can achieve pledges they’ve made to reduce emissions and promote sustainable development.

“Until parties recognize disabled leadership on climate and uphold our rights, this COP will be critiqued as an exclusionary event where disabled people are missing,” he said in that 2021 statement.

Just days before he spoke, Israel’s energy minister Karine Elharrar, a wheelchair user, was prevented from getting into a conference event where she was slated to speak.

Boberg told The Associated Press in an interview days before he departed this year for COP27 that more than once he’s seen language that recognizes disability rights appear in draft text of negotiations — for example funding disability rights organizations to do climate action work. But the language was cut from the final agreements at the negotiations.

Sherwood-O’Regan said it’s “really disappointing” when that happens.

“You hope for the best, but plan for the worst and I like to keep my expectations not too high,” she said. “That sounds really cynical but that makes it a little bit easier to engage in the process.”

## [Opinion] Will Aparri disappear under a rising sea?

Tuvalu is an island nation located halfway between Australia and Hawaii. It is one of the smallest countries in the world, with a land area of 26 square kilometers and a population of 11,925 in 2021. With its limited resource base, it is extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Worse, it is facing the highest risks associated with the climate crisis due to rising sea levels. Scientists say that as sea level rises, sand and gravel erode away into the seabed as the shoreline recedes; accordingly, a country like Tuvalu will eventually disappear under a rising sea.

Rainwater is the main source of freshwater in Tuvalu. Groundwater resources are no longer suitable for human consumption due to pollution from saltwater intrusion caused by rising sea levels. Salinity intrusion enhanced by the porosity of soil has destroyed pulaka crops, a swamp taro grown mainly in Tuvalu and an important source of carbohydrates for the inhabitants. As most Tuvaluans live in coastal areas, additional stress is being placed on the already vulnerable marine ecosystem. Rising sea temperatures also contribute to coral bleaching and decreasing marine productivity.

To draw attention to Tuvalu's struggle against rising sea levels, Foreign Minister Simon Kofe gave a speech to the 2021 United Nations climate conference in Glasgow standing knee-deep in seawater to show how his low-lying Pacific island nation is on the front line of climate change. Images of Kofe standing in a suit and tie at a lectern set up in the sea, with his trouser legs rolled up, have been widely shared on social media.

From the Associated Press: "The world should confront climate change the way it does nuclear weapons, by agreeing to a non-proliferation treaty that stops further production of fossil fuels, a small island nation leader urged Tuesday. The proposal by Tuvalu came as vulnerable nations pushed for more action and money at international climate talks in Egypt, while big polluters remained divided over who should pay for the damage industrial greenhouse gas emissions have done to the planet."

"We all know that the leading cause of climate crisis is fossil fuels," Tuvalu Prime Minister Kausea Natano told his fellow leaders, adding that Tuvalu has joined Vanuatu and other nations calling for a fossil fuels non-proliferation treaty. "It's getting too hot and there is very little time to slow and reverse the increasing temperature. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize fast-acting strategies," Natano said.

Fossil fuel refers to an energy source made from fossilized animals and plants. This organic matter is compressed and heated over millions of years until it forms coal, oil, or natural gas. Burning these fuels is bad for the environment as they release carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that contributes to global warming.

Climate activists, religious authorities including the Vatican, and some scientists have previously advanced the idea of a non-proliferation treaty for coal, oil and natural gas, but Natano's speech gave it a boost in front of a global audience at COP27.

A rising sea level poses a serious threat to coastal life around the world. The highest elevation in Tuvalu is 4.6 meters above sea level. In the Philippines, we have towns equally vulnerable to rising seas. The town of Aparri, for example, has coastal areas with an elevation of one meter above sea level, and its lowest elevation is minus one meter below sea level. Seas are predicted to rise a foot by 2050, regardless of how much global carbon emissions can be reduced.

Like Tuvalu and other island nations, the Philippines is on its way to a major climate change disaster unless global leaders figure out soon how to avert the worst of global warming.

World leaders and diplomats attending the COP27 climate summit in Egypt have framed the fight against global warming as a battle for human survival. In her speech, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen urged countries to hasten action on climate change. “The global fossil fuel crisis must be a game changer. So let us not take the “highway to hell” but let’s earn the clean ticket to heaven,” she said.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Monday said: “We are in the fight of our lives, and we are losing. Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing, global temperatures keep rising, and our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible.”

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Local level communication key to effective disaster management, says climate data software expert](#)**

By: Matthew Carl Montecillo

An enhanced information dissemination system, especially at the local government level, is key to a more effective disaster management program, according to the head of a climate change data and analytics software company.

Felix R. Ayque, founder and chief executive officer of environmental intelligence platform Komunidad Global Pte Ltd., said the government's ability to communicate information during natural calamities is lacking despite having the infrastructure to properly collect information.

"The purpose of (Adapt Asia) is to improve (communication) and promote localization so that we become more resilient at the local level," Mr. Ayque told Businessworld in an interview.

Singapore-headquartered Komunidad is hosting the Adapt Asia 2022 forum in Makati City on Nov. 10-11 to provide a venue for sharing risk resilience methods and technologies.

"PAGASA has the best infrastructure but everyone is criticizing (them) right now... the issue is how do they communicate on the local level," Mr. Ayque said, referring to the state weather agency Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

He said Komunidad wants to help the government make better use of available information from existing infrastructure.

Komunidad already works with the local governments of Quezon City, Manila, Taguig and Mandaluyong, all in the capital region. It also set up a disaster resilience command center for a village in Camariñes Norte.

The company also has projects in villages in India, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Razer launches Restorify at the 27th COP27](#)

By: Jonathan Castillo

Razer introduced Restorify, an e-commerce service rolled out by Razer Fintech, the financial technology arm of Razer. Restorify is a traceable carbon neutral checkout and was launched during COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Carbon offsetting has the potential to be one of the effective interventions used to lower carbon emissions in the atmosphere. However, carbon credits are typically denominated in metric tons, each of which is not readily divisible. In such size, carbon credits are not readily disposed for the purpose of offsetting everyday purchases. Razer is addressing these challenges and more through Restorify, and is seeking to support OECD's vision to reach \$147/tonne by 2030 if the World hopes to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

The key drivers for Restorify, are to promote more transparency and accountability in the carbon market, and to make it easier for businesses to offset their emissions while empowering consumers to be a part of the solution.

#### **Graphical user interface**

Description automatically generated

Razer has been working towards becoming net zero by 2030 and has prioritized emissions reduction and recycling in its decarbonization journey. The company has adopted 'Life Cycle Thinking', meaning it follows best practices<sup>[2]</sup> to reduce emissions across the key stages of its products' lifecycles, from mineral sourcing to manufacturing, transportation to end of life.

"Our life-cycle approach allows us to develop interventions that drive emission reductions, but carbon credits will still have a role to play in the transition to becoming net zero," says Min-Liang Tan, Co-founder and CEO of Razer. "In our own journey to net zero, we have realized that there are growing pains and that not all carbon credits are equal. With Restorify, we hope our novel approach towards carbon credits will foster greater accountability and transparency within carbon offsetting."

#### **For consumers: Restorify offers a traceable carbon neutral checkout**

Restorify fractionalizes carbon credits in its reimbursement process so they can be made available in smaller denominations, empowering consumers to make offsets a part of their daily lives. Restorify aims to rebuild trust around carbon offsets by only allowing traceable offsets with realized decarbonization effects to be used by consumers. In other words, while some competitors promise to offset emissions in the

future, with Restorify consumers can rest assured that emissions relating to their purchases have already been offset.

Razer has started to curate a diverse portfolio of carbon credit projects which aspire towards UN's Sustainable Development Goals. To do so, Razer is working closely with partners such as leading energy and urban solutions provider, GoNetZero, as well as ESGpedia, which can aggregate the end-to-end traceable data of high-quality carbon credits from origination to retirement, and cloud computing platform, Amazon Web Services (AWS)].

The traceable carbon neutral shopping cart offered by Restorify will enable consumers to view the carbon footprint of a product, so they can make informed decisions. Furthermore, as they check out, they will also be empowered to offset the products they buy with carbon credits already retired from verified carbon registries. Upon purchasing the carbon credits, consumers will receive a certificate detailing the total amount of carbon emissions that have been offset by their purchase, what kind of project the retired credits have supported and in which country, as well as the certification standard. These individual fractionalized transactions are digitally recorded onto the ESGpedia registry where consumers can track their carbon offset efforts. This level of transparency is currently otherwise lacking in today's consumer carbon offset market.

Ongoing projects will also be monitored and reported regularly for verification and to assure the consumer of the integrity of the carbon credits.

### **For businesses: Razer is sharing its best practices**

Razer believes that brands have a responsibility to be transparent with consumers about the carbon footprint of their products so that buyers can exercise responsible consumerism. That's why Restorify applies a mass product emissions calculator that helps businesses estimate their carbon footprint based on a product's emissions across its life cycle[5]. The impetus for this service arose from the realization that some businesses don't have the means to calculate their products' carbon footprint and Razer wanted to provide one.

Restorify will also encourage and provide businesses with a pathway to evaluate the environmental impact of their products through the ECOLOGO Certification, Environmental Product Declaration Certification, or Product Carbon Footprint Verification using Razer's ecolabel partner, global safety science leader, UL Solutions.

Finally, Restorify's carbon neutral checkout is available for businesses to integrate into their existing platform. Razer will be working with partners from its supply chain as well as more than 50,000 merchants under Razer Fintech's network to support their transition to net zero at no additional cost. AWS will also be supporting Razer to make Restorify available to more than 100,000 partners from 150 countries[6].

"With a commitment to power all AWS Regions globally with 100% renewable energy by 2025, AWS is committed to being the world's most sustainable cloud. This charter

combined with the differentiating breadth and depth of AWS data services makes AWS an ideal partner for Razer as they embark on this exciting new chapter. This collaboration provides Razer with both development and go-to-market support for Restorify, an innovative carbon tracing solution that will deliver long-term benefits to Razer's business, customers, and the environment," said Conor McNamara, Managing Director, ASEAN, Amazon Web Services.

In conclusion, Razer is seeking to bring more accountability and transparency to the carbon industry through Restorify. While carbon neutral shopping carts exist, the solution offered by Restorify ensures that all carbon credits used are traceable, so consumers can know exactly where their money went. Restorify allows consumers to meaningfully take climate action by enabling them to offset their purchases, and will also help businesses decarbonize so that the planet remains an arena everyone can continue to play in.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [Binay eyes holistic approach to fight climate change effects](#)

By: Joel E. Zurbano

Makati City Mayor Abigail Binay is proposing taking a holistic approach so people can “survive the worst outcomes of a changing climate.”

The method, according to the mayor, means the government engages the private sector, community leaders, non-government organizations, the academe, the media, and other volunteer groups to strengthen the resilience of communities and society as a whole.

“I believe that in order to effectively combat the impacts of climate change, we must take a whole-of-society approach. This means working together across various sectors and levels of government to find innovative solutions that will benefit our communities and protect our environment for generations to come,” Binay said in a virtual message during the Adapt Asia 2022 held in Makati on Thursday.

Adapt Asia 2022, organized by data and environmental intelligence firm Komunidad, is a two-day forum that brings together leaders and practitioners from across Asia to explore the actions to take in advancing climate adaptation and resilience within their localities through innovative solutions.

Binay said climate change is one of the greatest challenges the world is facing. She added rising global temperatures are leading to more intense natural disasters and changing weather patterns, which in turn impact human societies and ecosystems around the world.

“Climate change is no longer just a distant threat. It is upon us. It is already affecting our planet, causing rising temperatures and extreme weather events that have made it more difficult for us to live and work safely,” she said.

“We need to act with utmost urgency to address its multiple challenges on all fronts, if we are to leave behind a world that is not just livable, but highly sustainable and nurturing for future generations. Through our forward-thinking initiatives, we aim to build a more sustainable city that is better equipped to withstand these situations.”

Makati is among the many cities around the world that have been greatly affected by climate change.

Citing historical data in their Local Climate Change Action Plan, Binay said extreme heating and rainfall have been observed in the city for the last 30 years.

“Our disaster team has projected a significant rise in the number of hot days with maximum temperature exceeding 35 degrees Celsius during summer. Greenhouse gas emissions are also expected to continue rising, especially with the continuous

infrastructure developments in the city. We also expect more dry days and more frequent heavy daily rainfall in the coming years,” she said.

As the financial capital of the Philippines, the local government of Makati is determined to take bolder steps to become more resilient against these changes.

“Since 2017, our city has been implementing programs and policies to build resilience and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. We have been upgrading our infrastructures and investing in disaster equipment to ensure that our city can survive the worst outcomes of a changing climate,” said Binay.

“With the assistance of partner agencies, we have established an early warning system by putting up seven automated weather stations in strategic areas, seven water level sensors, 17 automatic rain gauges, and 27 earthquake recording instruments,” she added.

The city government also has closed-circuit television cameras connected to the Makati Command Control and Communication Center or C3 to monitor flood-prone areas during heavy downpours.

Residents and workers can use the Makatizen App’s “SOS Send Help” function during emergency situations. They can also use the app to report community concerns such as floods and waste management issues through the “How Can We Help” button.

“We make sure that our first responders are well-trained so that we have a capable workforce that is ready at a moment’s notice. We have flood spotters in barangays who report flood situations in their areas to the Makati C3,” the city chief executive said.

“We are also active on social media and post localized weather forecast and advisories to help the public prepare and evacuate before a disaster hits the city,” she added.

In 2018, Makati started distributing emergency go bags and hats to students and residents in high-risk areas to promote disaster preparedness.

“These initiatives, as well as the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk resilience, are included in our Local Climate Change Action Plan and Comprehensive Land Use Plan. These plans are essential in helping us respond more effectively to natural disasters and mitigate the impacts of climate change,” said Binay.

The mayor also said her administration is committed to preserve and protect the environment through the strict implementation of ordinances, such as the Zoning Ordinance, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Ordinance, Plastic Ban in Establishments, Anti-Smoking Ordinance, Solid Waste Management Code, and the Ordinance on Regulation of Groundwater Extraction.

In 2019, the city launched the GHG Biggest Loser Challenge to recognize the efforts of three-star hotels in reducing their carbon footprint through green initiatives.

“Next year, we will bring this program to our 33 barangays to generate support and further reduce GHG emissions at the grassroots level,” said Binay.

She also said the city’s Department of Environmental Services has been relentless in conducting webinars to increase public awareness about climate change.

“At present, we continue to conduct waterways cleanup, tree planting activities, and daily collection and segregation of garbage through our materials recovery facility. We are also planning to promote the use of alternative and renewable energy sources,” she said.

By 2025, according to Binay, they expect a significant decrease in GHG emission levels through the city’s electric buses and the Makati Subway.

The city government made a partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency and Philippine InfraDev Holdings Incorporated to construct a smart bus system and the country’s first intracity subway, respectively.

Aside from reducing GHG emissions, both projects are expected to improve the city’s air quality.

“Soon, public schools and city government offices will have solar panels to reduce power consumption. By switching to renewable energy, we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, which have a major impact on both the environment and human health,” said Binay.

The city government urged the people to adopt environment-friendly practices in their everyday lives, such as using public transport or bicycles instead of driving, recycling as much waste as possible, and buying local produce.

“These actions may seem small on their own, but if we all do them together, they can have a real impact. I urge everyone to join me in taking action now and doing their part to reduce the impacts of climate change,” said Binay.

## NIKKEI ASIA

### [Climate justice is social justice, activists say at COP27 'youth day'](#)

By: Rhyannon Bartlett- Imadegawa

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt -- Young people suffering the effects of climate change made their voices heard both inside and outside the rooms of the world's biggest conference on the issue, drawing attention to the link between the environment and social justice.

Among those speaking out on "youth day" of the COP27 United Nations climate change conference was 22-year-old Alab Mirasol Ayroso from the Philippines, who said that in her country, "thousands of human rights violations are done to environmental and land defenders."

She said her father, who has not been seen in 20 years, is a victim of "enforced disappearance" for his activism in working with farmers and fighting for land rights.

Many young activists argue there is a link between climate change and human rights. The setting of COP27 in Egypt -- where freedom of speech and association are severely restricted, according to human rights groups -- brought rights themes to the fore on youth day.

Nineteen-year-old environmental activist Greta Thunberg skipped the conference again this year, partly over her objections to the limits of civil society participation and greenwashing, which refers to falsely promoting something as environmentally sound.

According to rights group Global Witness, 200 land and environmental defenders were killed worldwide in 2021 for their activism, with the Philippines one of the deadliest places.

Ayroso said, "As a climate activist, my fight for climate justice is a fight for social justice. It is our human right to live, breathe, eat and speak freely, we need these human rights in the world with climate justice."

Young people take part in a session at the COP27 United Nations climate change conference on Nov. 10. © COP27 Presidency

Protest organizers on the ground have said they are particularly careful about who is involved in protests, due to local laws, and are protesting only within the COP27 venue designated areas.

A demonstration that focused on the loss and damage caused by climate change, a big debate at this year's COP, saw a group chant demands that rich countries pay for the climate injustices they have created.

The COP process has been keen to engage with youth as their anger and pressure on governments grows across the world. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged young people "never to give up," tweeting that "young people who have been relentless in holding decision-makers to account" keeps him hopeful in the climate crisis.

This COP has a "Children and Youth Pavilion" as a physical base for activities centered on young people, and Thursday was designated "Youth and Future Generations Day," which saw many pavilions host young people as speakers and panelists to present their perspectives and discuss climate action.

The first Youth-led Climate Forum within COP saw young people from across the world discuss policy with negotiators and ministers including the COP27 presidency.

They presented the conclusions of the youth climate conference, which called for "systematic and radical action" on issues such as accessible climate finance, and said youth perspectives and needs should be included in national emission reduction and adaptation plans.

The inclusivity of the LGBTQ community at COP28 to be held in the United Arab Emirates was also raised, with a youth representative saying they received reassurances.

"We need to transition from just listening to young people," a youth representative said in the closing news conference. Young people need to be included in decision-making, and be empowered to have influence over decisions, she said.

An analysis by an NGO found that over 600 delegates at COP27 have links to fossil fuels, a significant jump compared with last year, while on Wednesday, Japan was given the dubious honor of "fossil of the day" by an environmental NGO for financing fossil fuel projects.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [\[Opinion\] Tree planting and beyond](#)

By: Gideon Lasco

President Marcos Jr.'s recent declaration that we need to plant more trees—as well as his decision to celebrate his 65th birthday with a tree planting activity—reminds me of Republic Act No. 10176 or the Arbor Day Act of 2012, which has this curious passage: “All able-bodied citizens of the Philippines, who are at least twelve (12) years of age, shall be required to plant one (1) tree every year.”

I'm not sure if this law—which tasks local government units to organize Arbor Day celebrations and encourages the “use of endemic or indigenous species”—ever got implemented. Even if it is, I'm not sure how it can be operationalized. Instead of requiring individual citizens to do something, a much better approach is to enable and incentivize them to do so—and to support those who already conduct tree planting (and nurturing) as their jobs, such as our underpaid and underappreciated forest guards.

Regardless, it's not a bad idea to promote tree planting. As RA 10176 rightfully noted, “there is a need for a collaborated effort between the State and its citizenry to combat the loss of our natural resources and rejuvenate our environment by undertaking nationwide tree planting activities and providing effective measures for their maintenance and sustainability.” When we feel that we contributed to nature, we're more likely to protect it and be invested in its fate. Arbor Day and other collective tree planting activities are also opportunities for people to discover and celebrate the natural areas within their localities—and participate in community building.

I caught a glimpse of this in Pista Y Ang Kagueban, Puerto Princesa's “Feast of the Forest,” which I participated in while I was living in Palawan as an ethnographer in 2014. Aside from having planted two million trees since its inception in 1991, I saw how the annual event has contributed to developing environmental consciousness among locals, many of whom fondly remember joining the Pista as students—and speak of their concern for their island's environmental future.

For this reason, I urge the President to follow through with his commitment to support not just tree planting activities, but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Enhanced National Greening Program, making sure that the recommendations from environmentalists, scientists, indigenous groups, local communities, and other stakeholders are accounted for. Vice President Sara Duterte's Department of Education has an important role to ensure that schools are meaningfully involved in such activities: Aside from providing our children badly needed exposure to nature, we need them to realize (and experience) not just how forests can heal humans (“The healing power of forests,” 10/14/2022), but how we humans can heal forests.

However, I must echo all the environmentalists who, in response to the President's call for tree planting, have made it plain that it is not enough to counter the environmental

damage over the past decades, including during martial law, where there was massive cronyism-driven deforestation and destruction of our mangroves. Neither is it enough to address the climate crisis, or mitigate particular vulnerabilities faced by the country's poor and indigenous peoples who bear the brunt of our disasters.

To truly realize—in the President's own words—the “goal of reducing poverty, ensuring food security, environmental stability, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change,” environmentally destructive and unsustainable mining and reclamation projects all over the country must be stopped. Just as crucially, the people who are standing in the way of these projects—our environmental and land defenders—must be protected, instead of being Red-tagged and vilified. It is most welcome news that DENR has put Kaliwa Dam on hold, but all over the country, there are various projects—contemplated or implemented—that will accelerate our ecological death spiral.

Coal mining, for instance, is underway in South Cotabato, notwithstanding the threats it poses to food and water security, as well as to indigenous ways of life. Even Sibuyan Island in Romblon—home to Mt. Guiting-Guiting—is being eyed for a nickel mining project, notwithstanding its immense biodiversity and fragile ecosystem. And of course, we have already seen how the coastline of Coron has been devastated by an illegal reclamation project that somehow still happened despite being “unauthorized.”

Greed is the enemy of green, and the government must make clear whose side it is on.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [PBBM to hold bilateral meetings with leaders of France, Canada](#)

By: OPS

Manila -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday said he is looking forward to his bilateral meetings with fellow leaders on the sidelines of the 40th and 41st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits and Related Summits.

"I'm looking forward to the bilaterals because... again, iba 'yung usapan eh kapag face-to-face," the President said in his interview with reporters onboard flight PR 001.

The President's plane touched down at the Phnom Penh International Airport around 7:43 p.m. (Philippine time).

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) earlier announced that the chief executive is expected to meet with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on the sidelines of the summit.

During the interview, the President said he is likewise expected to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron.

"I've never met with him (Trudeau), so I suppose it's just going to be an introductory one," Marcos said.

On the other hand, Marcos said he has spoken to President Macron twice already.

"So, we can move forward on the details of the things that he's thinking about," he said.

"Remember also we've been talking about nuclear power. Ang France is 67 percent nuclear power ang kanilang supply. So they're very well-practiced when it comes to that," Marcos added.

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

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Global warming threatens critically endangered Taurus frog](#)

By: Anadolu

Ankara – Türkiye's unique and critically endangered Taurus frog is under threat from serious habitat loss caused by various factors, including climate change-related global warming, according to an expert.

Thanks to climatic and geographical conditions, the fauna of Türkiye is abundant and extremely varied and includes many rare and endemic species.

But in Türkiye, as in other parts of the world, such species struggle to survive under various threats such as climate change, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflict.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Mert Karis, an expert on herpetology, the branch of zoology concerned with reptiles and amphibians, said the first member of the species was discovered over 120 years ago in the areas of the Karagol and Ciniligol lakes in the Bolkar Mountains.

"The Taurus frog, or by its scientific name *Rana holtzi*, was first described as a subspecies of the Uludag frog, also known as *Rana macrocnemis*, in 1898 by Austrian scientist Franz Werner," he noted, adding that later, as a result of comprehensive studies, it was found that the Taurus frog is a new species rather than a subspecies.

The unique species lives only in areas of Nigde province at an altitude of 2,500-3,000 meters (8,202-9,842 feet) and some small puddles within the borders of Mersin province, said Karis, who is also a lecturer at Nevsehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University.

Touching on the threats to the species, he pointed to the risk of the drying of lakes and puddles as he underlined that many of the habitats where the population lives dry up from the hot summer towards the September-October period.

"Until this drying period, the Taurus frog must complete the breeding process in the water. The larvae have to go terrestrial and go through metamorphosis," he said, warning that otherwise, there is a risk of losing all of the populations living out of Karagol and Ciniligol.

### **Global warming**

Karis said climate change-related global warming is the first reason behind this threat as warming weather primarily threatens animals living in cold and cool areas because there is a temperature range that those animals are used to.

"In the 1990s, the residents' unnatural release of carps in Karagol and Ciniligol became a serious problem for Taurus frogs in the early 2000s as carps are predators and the eggs of Taurus frogs are among their favorite foods," he said.

Later, the number of carp in those lakes significantly decreased thanks to protection efforts as well as some projects carried out by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK), he noted.

"With more comprehensive efforts, the lakes should be freed from non-native species," said Karis, adding that transhumance, off-road and trekking activities, camping, and climbing are other things that negatively affect the species and its habitats.

The Turkish expert warned that all these activities need to be carried out under some regulation, especially during the activation time, when the frogs awaken from their seasonal hibernation in the winter.

The Taurus frog is marked as "CR" (critically endangered) on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of threatened species.

Karis also noted that preventing pollution in the region and preserving the nature of waters inhabited by these frogs are also key steps in the protection of the species.

The species is also important for ecotourism as many people come from abroad to view and photograph it, he said, stressing that this also should be under control as some foreigners can do sample collecting and hurt this endemic and unique species.

He said about 50,000 Taurus frogs remain in the wild, living in five or six populations.

## Israel shares sustainable agri practices to PH

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

Manila – Experts from Israel shared best practices on smart and sustainable agriculture to Filipino stakeholders Thursday, reflecting Israel's interest to further boost technical cooperation with Manila.

In a learning exchange at the Bureau of Plant Industry, Ambassador Ilan Fluss said Israel is keen to assist the Philippines move from traditional farming to modern smart agriculture that is based on science, technology, and sustainability, among others.

"We can bring best practices, technical assistance and work together in partnership," he said in his speech. "As the Ambassador of Israel to the Philippines, I look forward to materializing the visions for the agriculture sector of the Philippines to address the request of President Marcos."

Israeli expert Nina Lehmann underscored the need to adopt smart and sustainable practices as agriculture is a sector extremely vulnerable to climate change.

"We cannot rely anymore on rain, we have to support the plants in times when rain is not on time. The changing climate also has an effect on the appearance and behavior of pests and disease," she said, adding that government support and the use of technology are among the vital components of smart farming.

In her lecture, Lehmann shared cow breeding -- a major contributor to climate change for emitting greenhouse gases -- could also be sustainable if done the correct way, which includes processing cow manure as nutrient substance for plants.

Eli Simenski, meanwhile, tackled crop management and the need to carefully study all stages of pest's development to identify appropriate and effective solutions.

Moshe Broner, an Israeli expert in water engineering, also highlighted the importance of water management and constant improvement of soil.

Israel has been active in promoting cooperation with the Philippines, particularly on agriculture, a sector where Israel is a known powerhouse.

Last March 2022, Lehmann and Broner also visited the Philippines to hold consultations with Filipino farmers in Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

The two are also among the Israeli experts tapped by a Filipino-owned farm to boost its cacao yields.

## [S. Kudarat gov urges ASEAN to address climate change, digital gap](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila – The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) must find immediate solutions to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change and address the digital divide among Southeast Asian youth, Sultan Kudarat Governor Pax Ali Mangudadatu said Thursday.

Mangudadatu made the call, when he was introduced by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during the ASEAN Leaders' interface with representatives of youth leaders from the region.

In a speech delivered at the Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Mangudadatu cited the devastating effects of Severe Tropical Storm Paeng which struck the Philippines in October.

Mangudadatu said the damage wrought by Paeng is a "wake-up call" not only for the Philippines but for the whole ASEAN also composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"It is a major concern for everyone... Because of climate change, things have changed. Our region, which was once known to be typhoon-free and safe from typhoons, has now become its latest victim," Mangudadatu told the ASEAN leaders.

"It is a wake-up call for everyone to act immediately. This is a call for all of us to work together in addressing climate change as one of the biggest threats to our future and especially to the youth," he added.

Addressing climate change is one of the top priorities of the Marcos administration.

On Tuesday, Marcos bared his plan to place the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) under the supervision of the Office of the President, to improve the Philippines' disaster response and considering that the country is prone to disasters.

In line with the government's "whole-of-nation" approach to step up the country's disaster preparedness, the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS), the lead communications arm of the executive branch, also participated Thursday in the fourth Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill.

The OPS, in a separate Facebook post, shared photos of its personnel performing "Duck, Cover, and Hold" gesture in its office.

### **Digital gap**

Meantime, Mangudadatu also asked ASEAN member-states to put a stop to the digital gap among the children, the youth, and members of the community, especially with the current global digitalization.

Addressing the digital divide, Mangudadatu said, would help the youth become more "productive and competitive."

"We join ASEAN in ensuring that our youth will be productive and competitive in all levels and in different fields as we adjust to a post-pandemic world. We also continue to ensure that the new life and the new normal will be beneficial, progressive, and growing for everyone," Mangudadatu, a Mindanao youth leader, said.

Mangudadatu also expressed pride in the Philippines for "[creating] young leaders who lead the youth and [honing] young leaders who lead the country and the government."

Marcos was also a pro-youth advocate when he was still a member of the Philippine Congress, authoring numerous bills in youth empowerment, such as the strengthening of the National Youth Commission and the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Law.

The ASEAN leaders' meeting with the youth representatives serves as a platform to discuss and exchange views on youth development and other issues as well as to promote partnership for sustainability.

Serving as ASEAN youth representatives of the Philippines were Assistant Professor Mark Bon Basadre of the Father Saturnino Urios University and Sangguniang Kabataan chairperson Franklin Villa of Sampaguita village in Solana, Cagayan, based on a Facebook post by state-run Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM).

The Philippine delegation advocated for proactive engagement in the formulation and implementation of programs beneficial for the youth, the Office of the President said in another Facebook post.

Marcos is currently in Cambodia to attend the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits from Nov. 10 to 13.

## RAPPLER

### [EXPLAINER: What the latest UN science says about climate change](#)

By Reuters

It's 'now or never,' one report co-chair says in releasing findings that show that only drastic emissions cuts in the next few decades would prevent warming from spiraling out of control

At the COP27 conference in Egypt, delegates have at their disposal decades of research into warming trajectories published by the UN climate science agency to inform their decisions.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produces reports roughly every five years that represent global scientific consensus on climate change, its causes and its impact. Last year's report tackled the main drivers of global warming and the core elements of climate science.

That was followed by two major reports this year – one in February addressing how the world will need to adapt to climate impacts, from rising seas to dwindling wildlife, and another in April on ways to mitigate climate-warming emissions.

Here are some of the takeaways from those reports:

Humans unequivocally to blame

Last year's report on the physical basis for climate change unequivocally blamed humans for rising temperatures.

It also said climate change was dangerously close to spinning out of control.

Previously rare weather extremes are becoming more common, and some regions are more vulnerable than others.

For the first time, the report's authors called for urgent action to curb methane. Until now, the IPCC had focused on carbon dioxide, the most abundant greenhouse gas.

With time running out to prevent runaway climate change, the authors said it was worth looking into the benefits and drawbacks of geoengineering, or large-scale interventions, such as injecting particles into the atmosphere to block out solar radiation.

The report said the world's nations, including the wealthiest, needed to start preparing for climate impacts and adapting to a warmer world.

Urgent need to adapt to heatwaves, storms, sea level change

News of Russia's invasion of Ukraine eclipsed the release in February of a seminal report on how the world should prepare for a warmer world.

With climate change already causing extreme weather worldwide, the report urged rich and poor countries alike to adapt now to impacts including more frequent heatwaves, stronger storms and higher sea levels.

The report made clear that different regions face different risks, and offered localized projections for what to expect.

Millions of people face poverty and food insecurity in the coming years, as climate change hits crops and water supplies and threatens to disrupt trade and labor markets. The daunting forecast for the world's poor reignited calls for a "Loss and Damage" fund through which rich nations would compensate for costs incurred by poor countries from climate-related disasters.

Following a breakthrough at the start of this year's climate summit, the issue of loss and damage is for the first time part of the UN talks' formal agenda.

'Now or never,' individual action matters

It's "now or never," one report co-chair said in releasing findings that show that only drastic emissions cuts in the next few decades would prevent warming from spiraling out of control.

The report explored how various emissions scenarios would translate into future temperature rise.

Cities are a big part of the emissions problem, it said, but also a source of hope and positive solutions.

The energy transition to renewable sources and clean-burning fuels is moving too slowly.

The report went beyond focusing on fossil fuels and manufacturing to urge strong climate action in agriculture, where farming methods and better forest protection could curb emissions.

It warned that climate change threatens economic growth, and for the first time highlighted the need for action at the individual level, calling on governments to agree policies to change consumer and transportation habits to encourage less waste.

## [COP27: How climate change impacts countries around the world](#)

By: Reuters

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt – While delegates at the COP27 climate conference discuss the shared problem of climate change, each country will face its own challenges and threats.

In February, the UN climate science agency released a major report on adapting to a warmer world – and detailed how that effort would differ from place to place. While some countries see glaciers melt or coastlines rise, others will contend mostly with raging wildfires and extreme heat, the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said.

That will call for different investments and solutions as communities seek to adapt. Here are just some of ways climate change will hit countries in each region:

### **Asia**

Countries with territory in the Himalayan mountains or its foothills, including China, India, Nepal and Pakistan, could face sudden flooding events, the report said. As the ice melts, water can pool behind rocky ridges to form lakes. And when those rocks give way, water rushes down – putting downstream mountain communities at risk.

Further south, mosquitoes that can carry diseases including dengue fever and malaria are expected to spread to new parts of subtropical Asia, encouraged by warmer temperatures and heavy rains.

And hundreds of millions of people will be on the move. A World Bank report warned in September that climate impacts, including water scarcity and declining crop yields, could force some 216 million to migrate within their own countries by 2050.

### **Africa**

Living on the world's hottest continent, Africans are at an especially high risk of suffering from heat stress. If global warming goes more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, at least 15 additional people per 100,000 would die every year from extreme heat, according to the IPCC.

Africa's population will likely grow faster than any other during the 21st century, with many people living in coastal cities. By 2060, more than 200 million people in Africa are predicted to be vulnerable to sea level rise.

Nigeria's coastal capital, Lagos, is on track to become the world's most populous city in 2100. The population growth across the continent could also increase resource scarcity.

Central and South America

The Amazon rainforest and the thousands of diverse plants and animals it supports are highly vulnerable to drought and wildfires, made worse by farmers clearing trees for agriculture.

Droughts, storms and flooding will worsen in parts of the Andes, in northeast Brazil and in parts of Central America. Coupled with geopolitical and economic instability, these impacts could lead to waves of migration.

The mosquito-borne diseases zika, chikungunya, and dengue fever could make more people sick.

## **Europe**

The 2019 summer heatwave offered just a glimpse of what's to come for Europe if warming reaches 3 degrees Celsius. At such temperatures, cases of heat stress and heat-related death would double if not triple compared with 1.5C.

Beyond 3C, "there are limits to the adaptation potential of people and existing health systems", the IPCC report says.

Damage from coastal flooding is projected to go far beyond sinking Venice, increasing at least 10-fold by the end of the century.

And despite Europe's relative wealth, current adaptation measures are falling short. Scientists project continued heat deaths, crop failures, and water rationing during drought in Southern Europe in coming decades.

## **North America**

Large wildfires will continue to burn forests and darken skies in the western United States and Canada, causing destruction of nature and livelihoods while contributing to air and water pollution.

Even if global warming is kept to 1.5C, many parts of the United States will be at high risk from severe storms and hurricanes, in addition to flooding from higher sea levels and storm surges.

On Monday, the country's Fifth National Climate Assessment warned that these events would threaten "the things Americans most value", such as safe homes, healthy families, public services and a sustainable economy. The IPCC also said such climate impacts would disrupt global supply chains and international trade.

And in the Arctic, melting sea ice, warming temperatures, and thawing permafrost will push many species to the brink of extinction. In a new report Monday, scientists predicted summer sea ice would vanish entirely by 2030.

## **Australia**

Australia's Great Barrier Reef and kelp forests will hit a hard adaptation limit beyond 1.5C, undergoing irreversible changes due to marine heatwaves. Tourism revenue would fall sharply, the IPCC said.

Extreme fires would challenge southern and eastern Australia and parts of New Zealand.

And as Australia's forests dry out, alpine ash, snowgum woodlands and northern jarrah forests would then largely collapse.

## **[OPINION] The failure of COP27 and the alternative to capitalism**

By: Sonny Melencio

COP27 (the 27th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change) is meeting this week in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, from November 6 to 18. The COP is the largest conference of the United Nations on climate change, held annually in different countries and participated in by around 25,000 representatives of different governments.

Greta Thunberg, a well-known Swedish climate activist, criticized the global summit as a forum of “greenwashing” that is not really meant to change the whole system but encourages only paltry changes. Thunberg’s statement highlights the position taken by a growing number of Left activists in the Philippines who are coming together soon to launch a movement called ecosocialism.

### **The character of capitalism**

Capitalism cannot solve global warming and the destruction of the ecosystem as these are brought about by the operations of the system itself, from the burning of coals and fossil oils, to the inauguration of the petrochemical industry, industrial farming, extractive mining, massive logging, and the like. Capitalism is based on the private ownership of the means of production, especially large means of production, by a few rich capitalists or corporations. It is in capitalism’s nature to destroy the environment and the ecosystem as it pursues its overarching need to gain profit and accumulate capital.

In the history of capitalism, the means of production have always been in the hands of private individuals. While capitalism introduces advances in technology, it suffers two impairments. First, capitalism is founded on competition, where many capitals compete for a maximum profit and an unceasing accumulation of capital, thus its tendency to ignore the harmful effects of its production processes on the environment.

Second, the system is founded on the exploitation of the working people, which brings about extreme inequality in society marked by a few individuals and families comprising the super-rich in society on one end and a vast number of the super-poor on the other end.

### **Capitalism is entwined with the fossil fuel industry**

In the history of Western capitalism in the early 1800s, industrial production developed through the establishment of factories using machines driven by water power, such as the spinning and weaving machines of the cotton industry. Water in streams and rivers powered the operations of factories. Water mills are in fact using clean and renewable energy in their operations. With the invention of the steam engine, it was later replaced by steam generated by burning coal, which became the predominant form of energy.

As coal mining became widespread, factories were refitted and started to use coal energy. The coal was mobile. Capitalists could move production where the labor sources were, rather than transporting people to where the energy source was.

After coal came oil. Gasoline became a main source of energy. Gasoline powered the new machines invented at that time: cars, airplanes, tanks, warships, and submarines. The fossil fuel industry later branched out into a number of significant affiliated industries, such as the petrochemical, pharmaceutical, synthetic, and plastic industries. No wonder the capitalists and corporations that dominated the fossil fuel industry then ventured into pharmaceuticals and petrochemicals in the 1900s, like Standard Oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, who pioneered in the pharmaceutical industry.

The burning of fossil fuels exacerbated the global warming problem as it led to the accumulation of massive amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere compared to the previous modes of production. This is threatening humanity and the globe, but this type of production cannot be stopped because the world is controlled by a few elite clans that control not only the means of production and the economy but also the state and the political system.

Aside from climate change emanating mainly from the burning of fossil fuels, there has been a growing loss of biodiversity due to widespread deforestation, chemical industrial production, and large-scale mining. They destroy the ecosystem in an immeasurable and irreplaceable way.

### **Socialism is the alternative**

The only alternative is a system that is the antithesis of what capitalism is all about. This system is socialism, where the means of production and the production processes are not privately owned but instead in the hands of the working people or in the hands of the communities managed by the community members themselves.

However, the first model of socialism, which is now called 20th century socialism, was a failure in several aspects. It had to contend with a world largely dominated by capitalism and the capitalist market system. In competing with the global capitalist system, its focus shifted towards producing more goods not only needed by the population but also goods and hardware that could defend and arm itself against capitalism's encirclement.

This 20th century socialism adopted what is being critiqued by several Left groups today as a "productivist" system of production. This is the idea that the purpose of society's development is to achieve "more production" and "growth," similar to capitalism. This type of development ignores sustainability and the impact of production processes on the environment and ecology.

Socialists have been proclaiming that the main tenet of socialism is to produce goods in "abundance." Abundance of goods ensures the implementation of the socialist banner, "from each according to one's ability, to each according to one's needs." We thought

this would be the solution to the problem of inequality in society. It turns out that changing the relations of production to ensure that the working masses benefit from the fruits of their own production is not the entire story. The productive forces, including the production process and technology, are also important factors to consider. The idea that we can merely focus on changing the relations of production has nothing “green” about it.

The socialist Left in general is beginning to understand that it has to discard the idea of a development that is aimed merely at producing more and more goods, and has to ensure that the production of society’s needs should nurture the environment and the ecosystem.

### **What is ecosocialism?**

It is socialism with an ecological foundation. In a re-reading of the work of Karl Marx, the founder of scientific socialism, the Left found out that he did not merely talk about the need for abundance to solve the inequality in society. Marx stated the need to fix the environment, or the problem brought about by what he called the “metabolic rift” in the way the capitalist system is operating. Recognizing capitalism’s continuing breach in the ecological foundation of the planet, Marx cautioned that in producing for the needs of humanity, we must ensure that the environment is protected and even enriched for future generations to come.

This reminded me of a popular quote from tribal hero Macli-ing Dulag, who was assassinated in 1980 by the Marcos military forces for his opposition to the Chico River Dam Project. He said, “How can we speak of owning the land when the land outlives us?”

Now it is clear: there is no socialism without an ecological foundation. And the climate crisis and the destruction of the ecosystem can only be resolved under a socialist system founded on ecological principles.

## SUN STAR

### Climate change affecting production of industrial crops

By Iona Finlay C. Mendoza

AN official of the City Agriculturist's Office (Cagro) of Davao reports that the changing climate has affected the production of industrial crops.

Cagro focal person on industrial crops Dario Divino said production has been unstable since the changing weather patterns as of late disrupted the usual schedule of the harvest season. Divino said the rainy weather earlier in the year replaced what was supposed to be the vital dry season.

Before, the dry months of March to April prepare the crops for flowering before the arrival of the wet season around May to June and harvesting will come just in time for the month of August.

"Apan ang nahitabo, bisan gani summer mag ulan (Even when it's summer, it's raining). Nausab gyod ang timplada sa atong mga tanom mao na dili na kaayo ta maka-harvest pagabot August, sa Kadayawan na schedule (It changed the conditions of the crops, thus we were not able to harvest in August)," Divino said during a radio interview.

This phenomenon has been evident this year when the city only harvested a low yield of 3,000 metric tons of durian for the first half of 2022, compared to the usual harvest of at least 12,000 metric tons.

On the other hand, Divino said the unusual weather patterns also affect the health of the crops as plant diseases and pests or insects thrive in prolonged dry weather.

"Ang mga insekto dali lang sila mudaghan, mag proliferate sila sa init na klima (The insects proliferate in warm climate). (At the same time) pag taas ang moisture unya mag init og kalit, ang mga fungal og sakit, mukusog (the weather changes from humid to wet which allows fungal and plant disease grow)," he said.

One of the city government's interventions is to plant fruits trees in high-altitude areas. "Ang mga punuan ang musuyop sa atong carbon emission og ma-control niya ang init sa lugar and ma-neutrize ang situation" Divino said.

The program was started in 1998 and Divino said the city will be able to reap the benefits and help mitigate the effects of climate change in the city and control food security. ICM

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [China and Asean are important partners in tackling climate change](#)

By: Gong Xin

Since 2022, extreme climate which includes heat waves, droughts and torrential rain have ravaged the globe, posing a serious threat to economies and people's lives. Climate change is no longer a future challenge but a current and urgent crisis. Statistics show that under the threat of climate change, Asia's gross domestic product (GDP) is predicted to lose \$4.7 trillion a year, with less developed countries being the hardest hit. Since the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (Asean) population and economic activity is concentrated along the coast, it is particularly fragile to climate-related damage such as floods, droughts and rising sea levels.

It is no surprise that climate change has become one of the biggest threats to the region's long-term stability and prosperity.

As a response to climate change, Asean countries set a goal to reduce overall energy intensity by 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2025, and increase the share of renewable energy to 23 percent of its total primary energy supply, 35 percent of the total installed capacity of power generation, according to the (2021–2025) Asean Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation.

The joint report by the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) International Green Development Coalition pointed out that Asean countries face a crucial period of economic transformation and upgrade. It is expected that Asean's carbon emissions will keep rising in line with economic and population growth, meaning the realization of energy transition goals must address a huge gaps in capital, technology and infrastructure.

China has become a global leader in green technology innovation. It has strong technological and financial advantages in the clean energy industry. There is great potential for green and low-carbon cooperation between China and Asean.

Since the release of the first Asean-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy in 2009, the two sides have issued several cooperation strategies and action plans, established a mature policy dialogue mechanism addressing environment and climate issues. Cooperation on through high-level dialogue, biodiversity and ecological protection, ecological industry and technology have been carried out. Such activities contribute greatly to South-South environmental cooperation.

According to media reports, from 2011, China has signed 41 climate change cooperation documents with 36 developing countries, including Asean countries, mobilizing total funds of about 1.2 billion yuan (\$166 million). The Cambodia Low-carbon Demonstration Zone in the city of Sihanoukville is one of the 10 low-carbon projects China announced to establish in developing countries. It's reported that as of

2022, China has donated 200 solar panels and 2,800 solar bulbs, along with 10 sets of environmental monitoring equipment and 200 electric motorcycles to the project. Chuop Paris, director general from the Ministry of Environment said that following the increased use of green energy in Sihanoukville, the power supply has not only become more stable, but also environmental-friendly. Local people have felt the benefits brought by the low-carbon demonstration zone. Clean energy equipment aided by China has helped Cambodia take an important step toward combating climate change.

Near Laos' capital Vientiane lies the Saysettha Development Zone. The China-Laos Saysettha Low-Carbon Demonstration Zone here is another example of China and a Southeast Asian country addressing climate change together. It is also part of the program to build the Green BRI. The demonstration zone was officially unveiled on April 29, 2022. With new energy vehicles and solar power infrastructure put into use, it is expected to reduce local carbon emissions by about 1,243 tons per year, equivalent to planting more than 100,000 trees. The concept of green and sustainable development as created a model for a low-carbon and eco-friendly city in Laos and other Asean members.

At the 19th China-Asean Expo in Nanning, China this September, Chinese and Southeast Asian parties signed a total of 10 environmental protection industry projects, 19 enterprises and institutions signed strategic cooperation agreements, and the research center for carbon neutrality in Beibu Gulf was established. China and Asean have also reached an agreement on cooperation on air pollution control, transformation in energy sector, and jointly building green industrial parks.

With the formal entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership this year, the cooperation between China and Asean in carbon neutrality will release huge potential. With Asean's renewable energy market growing rapidly and China being the world's largest producer of green energy, the two sides should cooperate effectively in zero-emission energy production and consumption, as well as storage equipment.

From a global perspective, all countries are working together to deal with climate change through energy conservation and emissions reduction. The Paris Agreement signed by 194 parties entered into force in 2016 and aims to drastically reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and limit the rise in global temperature this century to less than 2 degrees Celsius.

But as we've seen this year, record heatwaves and the energy crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict has forced some European countries to delay their climate goals, while the United States, one of the world's largest emitters, has been lost in a domestic partisan battle over climate change, leaving uncertainty hanging over its climate policies. Some developed countries abuse their advantage in technology and impose extra trade terms and restrictive measures on developing countries. These trends have already raised concerns over the prospect of global emission reductions.

Meanwhile, as important developing economies, China and Asean have taken active measures to address climate change. Asean updated its Nationally Determined Contribution targets in 2021. China announced the target of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality back in 2020, that is peaking carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, providing strong impetus for the world to achieve the Paris Agreement goal.

Climate change knows no borders. It is a common challenge faced by all humankind and requires the world to work together. In this process, all parties should abandon unilateralism, geopolitical games and green barriers, and join hands to build a win-win, fair and reasonable global climate governance system. China and Asean members are friendly neighbors linked by mountains and rivers. It is our responsibility and mission to continue environmental protection cooperation, promote energy transformation, enhance climate response capability, and preserve a beautiful Asia as our home.

## Unity, action urged to tackle climate crisis

By: Global Times

THE 27th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP27), convened this year under the shadow of climate disasters and an energy crisis, appeared to have made some breakthrough to include loss and damage compensation into talks, in response to developing nations' persistent demands, and perhaps offered a chance for leaders around the world to make efforts together and take concrete actions.

Yet, as delegates officially entered two weeks of negotiations, experts warned on Monday that as global efforts to tackle global warming are needed more than ever at this "watershed moment" on climate action, politicization and pointing fingers at others at the summit will only damage trust between countries and block joint efforts.

It is the United States that has been taking politicization of the climate issue to a new level before the summit. With Washington sparing no effort to use this summit to shore up its leadership on climate issues, it is shifting blame onto China over climate issues and sowing discord between China and other developing countries. Observers said such behavior showed the US is jealous about China's popular role among developing countries in dealing with global warming and other climate issues.

Humanity is in "the fight of our lives" as climate change intensifies droughts, floods and heatwaves, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned world leaders on November 7 at talks in Egypt on curbing global warming.

"Cooperate or perish," he told leaders at the COP27 summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik. "It is either a climate solidarity pact, or a collective suicide pact," media reported.

Speaking at a side event at COP27 on Sunday, China's Special Envoy for Climate Change Xie Zhenhua introduced China's progress on climate change in recent years.

"China has actively implemented the Paris Agreement and further enhanced its nationally determined contribution, aiming to reach carbon peak and achieve carbon neutralization in a strong, orderly and effective manner. China has made great progress in this regard," said Xie.

"I hope the conference this time will meet the demands of developing countries as much as possible, as it is being held in Egypt, a developing nation," he said.

In addition to addressing unresolved issues from last year's COP26 summit in Glasgow, Scotland, discussions about financing for and mechanisms to compensate the loss and damage caused by climate change are likely to be the main focuses at this year's summit, said Teng Fei, deputy director of the Energy Environment Economy Institute at Tsinghua University.

Delegates from nearly 200 countries kicked off the UN climate summit in Egypt on Sunday. Diplomats approved discussion on matters relating to "funding arrangements responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage."

The agenda item was proposed by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China during inter-sessional work at Bonn, Germany, in June this year. It envisages compensating developing nations for mounting damage linked to climate change, media reported.

The loss and damage agenda, which comes in response to developing countries' concerns, is likely to be established during the summit and become a political legacy of COP27, Li Shuo, senior global policy advisor from Greenpeace East Asia, told Beijing-run tabloid Global Times. However, he warned there will be an arduous journey before any final resolution is reached.

Convened after a year of devastating climate disasters and amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has triggered an energy crisis that has stoked inflation and threatened food security, Li warned that this year's conference will be closely tied up with geopolitical factors, posing a challenge for COP27.

Speaking on the sidelines of the COP27 summit in Egypt, French President Emmanuel Macron said the US, China and other non-European rich nations must pay "their share" to help poorer nations deal with climate change, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported.

"We need the United States and China to step up," Macron said, noting that "Europeans are paying. We are the only ones paying. Pressure must be put on rich non-European countries, telling them, 'you have to pay your fair share'."

Developed countries shoulder greater historical responsibility as they are overwhelmingly blamed for the catastrophe of global climate change, said Yang Fuqiang, a senior advisor on climate change and energy transition at the Energy Research Institute at Peking University. However, those countries are constantly making empty promises on financing developing countries in tackling global warming. "Those rich countries should first honor their own pledges before pointing fingers at others. They are not the only ones paying."

At the top of Egypt's "to-do" list is the \$100 billion a year developed countries promised way back in 2009 to help the developing world cut emissions and adapt to changing climate, the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) reported, adding that the money was supposed to be delivered in 2020 but now won't be available in full until next year - three years late.

Experts said that handling global warming requires global cooperation, and pointing fingers and shifting blame will only harm the trust between countries, which will wreck global joint efforts in this field.

### **A political show**

The US, however, could not miss the opportunity to elevate its politicization of the issue to another level. Despite making little progress on curtailing emissions on its own soil, and US facing the possibility of returning to climate denialism if Republicans gain a sweeping victory in midterm elections, the Biden administration is reportedly going all out to assert itself as a global leader on climate action at COP27.

Biden will arrive in Sharm El-Sheikh on November 11, shortly after the midterm elections. At the summit, the US seeks to challenge China's claim to global leadership and restore US credibility on climate action to counter China's courting of developing countries, US media outlet Politico reported.

The US tactic of throwing mud at China includes shifting the blame onto China for halted climate talks and pressuring it to pay, analysts said.

Washington has always served as the bulwark of wealthy countries' resistance to making such payments, but before the summit, it suddenly changed its tune, saying it was open to paying reparations to countries suffering the ravages of climate change — but only if China ponies up, too, according to Politico in another report.

China should contribute its own funds to the cause, US Special Envoy John Kerry told reporters late last month, "especially if they think they're going to continue to go on to the next 30 years with increasing their emissions," Politico reported.

In fact, it reflected Washington's sour grapes mentality after seeing that China's role on climate action is winning acclaim among developing countries and is expanding cooperation with them, said Yang. He explained that the US has a desire to assume leadership in every field, thus it seeks to make China look bad and sow discord between China and other developing countries.

However, the US attempt to assume leadership on climate action is doomed to fail, as the world has witnessed how the country failed to make concrete progress in tackling global warming and how fragile its commitment is when faced with political changes at home, said experts.

The US has inflicted more than \$1.9 trillion in damage to other countries from the effects of its greenhouse gas emissions, the Guardian reported, citing a new analysis in July that provided the first measurement of nations' liability in stoking the climate crisis.

The huge volume of planet-heating gases pumped out by the US, the largest historical emitter, has caused such harm to other, mostly poor, countries through heatwaves, crop

failures and other consequences, that the US is responsible for \$1.91 trillion in lost global income since 1990, the Guardian reported, citing the study.

In comparison with the US resistance to offering money to ease developing countries' suffering due to climate issues, China has offered 1.1 billion yuan (\$150 million) on South-South cooperation in climate change, offered energy-saving and new energy products to nearly 40 countries and trained 1,500 professionals on climate change for 120 developing countries, Wang Wenbin, spokesperson of China's Foreign Ministry, said last year.

Li Haidong, a professor from the Institute of International Relations at the China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing pointed out that US climate policy is again on the brink of seeing a flip-flop, as Republicans are positioned to regain control of the House of Representatives during midterm elections. The US pulled out of the Paris Agreement in 2017 under Republican president Donald Trump.

"A Republican-controlled House will greatly frustrate Biden's climate plans. Moreover, such a policy shift by the world's biggest emitter will deal a huge blow to global efforts to realize climate goals," said Li.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Beyond resilience narrative, 'whole of government' planning needed vs disaster risks](#)

By: Franco Luna

Manila, Philippines — Local disaster risk reduction and management officials from Metro Manila called for a "whole of government" approach to addressing climate change in the wake of Severe Tropical Storm Paeng, one of the worst natural calamities to hit the Philippines this year.

According to the latest situation report from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Paeng's death toll now stands at 138, while over 4.6 million Filipinos were listed as being "affected" by the typhoon.

At the Adapt Asia 2022 forum on Thursday morning, disaster risk reduction advocates said that Paeng was proof that the narrative of "Filipino resilience" can hinder attempts to improve the country's disaster preparedness.

"This forum is not about policymaking...this forum is about the real situation out there," Felix Ayque of Komunidad Global Pte Ltd. said in his opening remarks.

#### **A worsening situation**

Day 1 of the forum on Thursday saw local government officials sharing stories of pushing risk resilience in their localities.

Makati Mayor Abby Binay said that the city government was projecting more extreme heat in the coming years.

"Extreme heat and rainfall events have been observed in our city for the last 30 years," she said in a taped message.

Peachy de Leon of the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office said that disasters have become more and more complex in the face of a changing climate. Quezon City, the country's largest local government, is home to over 3 million residents.

"Quezon City requires a shift in its strategy that is more mindful of the essentials of DRR," de Leon said. "The last thing we should do is blindly romanticize Filipino resiliency without building a safe and more livable community."

"What was once merely called climate change now accounts for stronger typhoons and a concerning rise in the sea level close to Manila," she said.

## **Best practices**

Mayor Binay said one of Makati's best practices was to intensify the city's implementation of climate-adjacent ordinances like the anti-smoking ordinances and those concerning the cleanup of waterways.

In response to the latest findings from city hall's research office, Binay said LGU is looking to upgrade its infrastructure and put up an early warning system in hard to reach areas of the city.

To date, the city has 20 automated weather sensors to issue warnings of impending weather warnings and, outside of natural disasters, serve as air quality and weather monitoring mechanisms.

Manila DRRMO director Arnel Angeles said city hall has already crafted its Climate Change Adaptation Plan after noting rising temperatures over the past year.

However, he said that the newly-elected city government was looking to scale this down to better suit the requirements of constituents across 897 barangays in the capital city — the most out of any local government in the country.

Angeles said that Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna is also trying to strengthen the city's cleanup drives along Manila Bay as well as upgrade its modernized materials recovery facility. The latter, he said, allows the LGU to repurpose materials into new items like shopping bags and construction materials like hollow blocks

## **'Bayanihan'**

Manuel Rangasa, executive director of Local Climate Change Adaptation for Development, called for a "whole of government approach" in the sharing of knowledge and best practices to bolster the disaster risk reduction efforts of far-flung areas in the Philippines.

Liza Velle Ramos, head of research and planning at Makati City who represented Binay at the forum said that the health departments of cities around Pasig River coordinate with each other in tracking the movement of mosquitos to predict patterns in the weather and the volume of dengue cases in an area.

Ramos added that partnership-building is always the city government's primary thrust when building climate and disaster resilience, saying the city often tries to secure funding and institutional commitments through active partnership building with nongovernment organizations.

"There are a lot of developments and opportunities right now for climate and disaster risk financing...it's a matter of knowing the market and their requirements and tapping them for technical assistance," she said.

More than funding, sharing data on a granular level among local government units was also a common theme in the roundtable discussion among local government officials at the forum.

De Leon from the QCDRRMO emphasized the need for correct and timely information, which could easily become a life or death mechanism for citizens and frontliners alike.

In pushing for integrated urban systems among barangays, De Leon presented the interface of iRise Up, a system of QCDRRMO in which consolidates and integrates DRRM information from various sources, processing and translating data for concrete and effective actions to reduce disaster risk.

As a result of the system's launch, De Leon claimed that 100 percent of high risk communities that are classified as being prone to flooding are warned ahead of time before the landfall of natural disasters.

"Maps are no longer understood by specialists alone; they are made more useful by planners and decision-makers," she said.

The same system also enabled the city to identify cold and hot zones in terms of coronavirus cases, which assisted the city's monitoring of the disease and eventual policy-making to address the pandemic.

It also allowed the early detection and automatic alerts, which in turn prompt the delivery of services to affected areas.

## **Transportation**

Kelly Bird, country director for the Asian Development Bank, said that the ADB is financing the North-South Commuter Railways and the MRT-4.

He said that sustainable transportation is among the top priorities in the ADB's approach to addressing the climate crisis.

Manila DRRMO's Angeles said the capital city was also pushing for more use of electric vehicles to modernize public transportation and minimize greenhouse gas.

Binay also urged residents of the city to consider buying local produce, recycling, and using public and active transportation instead of driving private vehicles to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

She said that the Makati Bus System was also projected to improve the city's air quality while also reducing power and fossil fuel consumption.

**WIRED.COM**

## [Countries Hit Hardest by Climate Change May Finally Get Their Due](#)

In 2013, JUST a few days after one of the most powerful storms ever recorded struck his country, a Filipino climate negotiator named Yeb Saño spoke before world leaders at a United Nations COP summit in Poland.

The Philippines is used to big storms. It has an early warning system for typhoons and an extensive network of shelters. Everyone has a plan. But in Saño's hometown, plans were upended by Typhoon Haiyan. Shelters collapsed, water rose in places it never had before; his town was flattened. At that moment, Saño told his fellow delegates at the annual climate conference, he did not know whether his family had survived. This was an unnatural storm, he said, one fueled by people who live far from the Philippines choosing to burn fossil fuels. And it was "madness" for those same people to continue adding more carbon to the air, making the world all the more unlivable—if not deadly—for others. Saño pledged to fast during the conference until delegates produced results. He remained seated through a standing ovation, wiping away tears with a red handkerchief.

At the time, to a COP attendee named Saleemul Huq, Saño's speech looked like a breakthrough. It was long overdue recognition, Huq recalls thinking that "it's time for the polluter to pay up." Yet it's only now, nine years later, at COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, that paying for those impacts, an issue known as "loss and damage," has become an animating concern of the meeting. Just months after devastating floods in Pakistan killed thousands and caused billions of dollars of damage, many officials from developing nations arrived angry at years of inaction and ready to say so. By the time those leaders departed on Tuesday, they had achieved something that had never happened before at COP: There was a plan to figure out how to put money on the table.

A plan to talk about doing something may not sound like big progress, but in the history of loss and damage, it is. At COP meetings, negotiations between rich and poor nations typically center on how to pay for decarbonization and ways to live in a changing climate. But beginning with early climate talks in the 1990s, Pacific Island nations recognized they could not "adapt" their way out of the path of rising seas. Nor would adaptation help those facing unending droughts that turn fertile farmland to dust and that fuel unstoppable wildfires. Yet for 20 years, very little changed.

In 2013, the COP where Saño spoke had offered a rare moment of progress on the issue—followed by more years of disappointment. The delegates finally came up with a pact to study the issue, but discussions never progressed to how to fund it. Since Saño's speech, that issue has been put on the backburner by rich nations—chiefly the US—which feared that agreeing to funding would amount to an admission of guilt for their role in worsening climate change. That could make them liable to compensate developing nations for potentially trillions of dollars of impending damage. "We're not

saying it's a liability. It's humanity. So far you have not shown your humanity," says Huq, who directs the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Some, including Huq, hope that humanity will finally be demonstrated at COP27. A straight-talking scientist with a white handlebar mustache, he has attended all 27 COP meetings and is intimately aware of their slow churn. But the reactions of some world leaders to the Pakistan floods gave him hope for action this time. The UN secretary general, António Guterres, visited Pakistan, "and you could see that he was moved," Huq says. Guterres later opened the conference with a demand that delegates address loss and damage. The movement has also been bolstered by a relatively new science of attribution that helps policymakers determine how much of a disaster's severity can be tied to the changing climate. For the floods in Pakistan, a recent analysis found that climate change increased the intensity of the rains by up to 50 percent.

Earlier this week, COP delegates agreed to talk about the specifics of loss and damage. Negotiations lasted late into the night in the hours before the conference began, striving to avoid what they call an "agenda fight," where backroom battles that determine what will be discussed over the next two weeks spill out into the open. The agenda directs the delegates to have a finance plan ready in two years. That left some advocates unimpressed. "The only way I can sum up COP27 so far is: poor start," said Mohamed Adow, founder of Power Shift Africa, a group pushing for a faster shift to renewables in Kenya, at a panel the next morning. Later that day, Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, had even sharper words for her colleagues, speaking of the legacy of colonial extraction that paid for the polluting industries in wealthy nations. Now those formerly colonized nations were being left to clean up the mess of that pollution. "That is fundamentally unfair," she said.

Speakers have frequently invoked the phrase "climate reparation" to describe the responsibility to compensate future generations based on past harms. That reflects a tradition as old as World War I, when certain nations were held responsible for paying for the clean-up, explains Lisa Vanhala, a political scientist at University College London who studies loss and damage negotiations. But wealthy polluters like the US have remained fearful that it could be leveraged to hold them accountable in venues outside the United Nations, despite agreements at past COPs to avoid liability claims. Those countries want to keep the conversation looking forward, away from a litany of past harms, preferring to use the more anodyne and open-ended phrase "loss and damage" at the negotiating table. Worried about alienating the rich nations, countries advocating for finance have largely agreed to speak in those terms—at least in the negotiating room. The UN requires consensus to move forward.

The question remains what the phrase "loss and damage" actually means. One idea, led by Germany ahead of COP, is a sort of insurance program that would pay out when a climate-linked disaster strikes. The program, which the EU calls Global Shield, would likely involve help from wealthier nations to cover the premiums and would supplement

ongoing disaster relief efforts. At COP, a number of nations, including Belgium and Ireland, have committed funding to the program.

But other nations want a fund for loss and damage within the UN. Among the fiercest advocates are some of the small island nations that pioneered the idea of loss and damage, who say any insurance plans cannot come at the expense of a grant-based program for affected nations. “As climate impacts become worse, some places will become uninsurable,” says Michai Robertson, who leads finance negotiations for AOSIS, a group of small island states. Plus, he adds, insurance is good at covering sudden disasters but not slow-onset changes like desertification and sea level rise. The group’s member states have plenty of ideas for how to finance a UN loss and damage fund, including grants from polluters or other measures like taxing oil company profits.

By late Tuesday in Egypt, as world leaders departed, leaving negotiators with their marching orders, some appeared slightly more optimistic about the creation of a fund. “Suffice to say that momentum is gathering,” said Mottley of Barbados at a press conference Tuesday. There are challenges ahead, including indications that the United Kingdom may be unwilling to provide funding and uncertainty over the US position as it emerges from midterm elections. Also uncertain is the role of countries, like China and India, that are major polluters now but haven’t contributed as much to the problem in the past. On the sidelines of the talks, Gaston Browne, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, emphasized that everyone must step up. “The polluter must pay. I don’t think there’s a free pass for any country,” he said.

In the meantime, more action is taking place outside the UN process. At COP27, New Zealand and other polluters have set up their own loss and damage funds, joining a movement spearheaded last year by Scotland, a non-UN member, which has pledged a total of \$7 million to loss and damage. That’s “very, very small” in the context of potentially trillions in losses and damages, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon acknowledged at an event. Covering the immense costs, she said, could not be tackled only through a “coalition of the willing” that decide to take action on their own, highlighting the importance of finding consensus in the COP negotiations.

She turned to Huq, her copanelist, thanking him for his years of work on making that happen. He replied that he is often asked why he keeps attending COP every year, despite its consistent shortcomings. His answer is relentless optimism. This year, at least, they’ll be talking money, and that’s a start. “We’ve been playing this game for years, and we’ve been losing,” he said later, “but this time we got it.”

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### GMA NEWS

#### [Climate body budget deferred over commissioners' absence](#)

By: Sundy Locus

The Senate on Wednesday deferred the deliberation and approval of the 2023 proposed budget of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), citing the absence of two of its commissioners.

Senate Pro Tempore Loren Legarda raised the motion in plenary as she pointed out that only the commission's executive director, Robert Borje, was present in the deliberations.

The two other commissioners, Rachel Anne Herrera and Albert Dela Cruz, are both in Egypt to attend the Climate Change Conference (COP 27) slated from November 6 to November 18.

"I will... reserve my questions for the commission when they return home next week. And with the concurrence of the vice chair of Finance for the commission, may I respectfully request that the deliberations on the budget of the CCC be deferred," Legarda said.

The Department of Budget and Management proposed a P132.69 million budget for CCC under the P5. 268 trillion 2023 National Expenditure Program (NEP) — lower than its P145.40 million allocation in 2022.

In making her motion, Legarda also mentioned she wants to see the CCC's full report on COP 27 as well as its current steps on mainstreaming climate change actions and policies in the government.

"I'm not being kontrabida (a villain), to use a colloquial term. They are not negotiators...They need to come home this weekend. If Secretary Borje, the vice chair, is here, why are they there?" she said.

"I will not apologize for my intervention. What you saw is just passion. I'm not angry. I love this commission, we created this by law...I just want you to work...We will see the CCC with a full report on COP 27 and they will come home before the 16th on the last day," Legarda added.

Senate President Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri affirmed Legarda's motion and said heads of government agencies should be present in plenary for the debate on their respective budgets.

"This is a once-a-year budget deliberation. My personal position...is if the head of agencies is not here, sorry na lang. (I'm sorry.) You have to come back before the end of the budget. And if he or she does not come home, delikado ang budget nila. Baka maslash-an pa (their budgets are in danger. It may be slashed)," Zubiri said.

Meanwhile, the legislative body approved the proposed budgets of the Philippine Space Agency, Philippine Postal Corporation, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Komisyon sa Wikang Pilipino, National Security Council, Philippine Racing Commission, Philippine Center for Economic Development, Anti-Money Laundering Council, Civil Service Commission, Anti-Red Tape Authority, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Authority of Freeport Area of Bataan.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Climate Change Commission's 'dismal' performance irks Legarda](#)

By: Daniza Fernandez

Manila, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda was irked on Thursday over the Climate Change Commission's performance and pushed for the agency's budget deferral.

uring the plenary session, only Climate Change Commission Commissioner Robert Borje was present while other commissioners were absent.

The commissioners are currently in the 27th session of the annual Conference of Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Egypt. The event is until November 18.

“So, pwede natin tanggalin ‘yang budget na ‘yan para magtrabaho sila at ang kanilang asikasuhin ang mga magsasaka’t mangingisda at ang mga katutubo na kailangan natin tulungan, lalo na sa panahon ng Paeng.

(So, we can remove their budget so they could work and assist farmers, fishers, and indigenous peoples who need help, especially those affected by Paeng.)

“You’re supposed to save lives and avert loss of livelihoods. Kung tayo paupo-upo sa mga komperensya ay hindi po tayo makakatulong sa mga namatay sa panahon ng Paeng,” Legarda, an environmental advocate, said.

(You’re supposed to save lives and avert loss of livelihoods. If we just sit in conferences, we cannot help those who died during Paeng.)

Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (international name: Nalgae) recently ravaged the country and left massive flash floods and 159 people killed. Agricultural damage was pegged around P6 billion.

Legarda requested the commission to give a report on the commissioners’ trip and give an update on the COP.

She also would like to be apprised on how climate change adaptation has been mainstreamed in national and local government processes.

The senator then moved for the deferral of the commission’s budget amounting to P128.2 million.

“May I respectfully request that the deliberations of the Commission of Climate Change [budget] be deferred,” Legarda said.

Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva agreed with Legarda.

Senator Imee Marcos, budget sponsor, heeded Legarda's call.

"I think we all have grounds for the requested deferral and as vice chair for the concerned agency, I accede to that request and agree that there should be a deferral of the Climate Change Commission budget," Marcos said.

Zubiri deferred the commission's budget deliberations: "The manifestation of our dear colleague, Senate President Pro Tempore, is well taken. Therefore, the budget is deferred."

Legarda urged the commissioners to return before the last day of budget deliberations on November 16.

**=END=**