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By: Patricia B. Mirasol

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[\[Opinion\] Crank up urban climate action](#)

By: Ed Quitariano

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By: Myrna M. Velasco

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[Think tanks can help expedite climate solutions](#)

By: Tetsushi Sonobe

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[PBBM rallies Pinoys to learn from Yolanda](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. emphasized on Friday the need to strengthen efforts to address climate change in the Philippines as the country marks the 11th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda – the strongest typhoon ever recorded to hit the country in 2013.

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[PH to raise financing gaps in climate action at COP29](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Philippine delegation to the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will highlight the urgent need to address financing gaps in climate action.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC, CSOs dialogue ahead UN Conference](#)

By: Vivienne Angeles

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with civil society organizations (CSOs) in a consultation dialogue to strengthen the Philippines' stance ahead of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Climate agency, civil society meet ahead of COP29](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with civil society organizations in a consultation dialogue to strengthen the Philippines' stance in the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan today.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[Lessons from Yolanda: Seawall, storm-resilient shelters vs climate catastrophes](#)

By: Ched Rick Gatchalian

House Speaker and Leyte 1st District Representative Martin Romualdez on Friday urged Filipinos to have continued vigilance against climate change as the country commemorates the 11th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda.

In a press release, Romualdez said the House of Representatives commits to creating more legislative measures that will arm Filipinos with climate resilience.

“Hindi na dapat maulit pa ang trahedyang naganap noong panahon ng Yolanda. Gaano man kalakas ang bagyong darating, dapat nating siguruhin na nakahanda ang ating mga kababayan. We must be vigilant against climate change to protect our people from falling victim to such tragedies,” he said.

Yolanda left the country with more than 7,000 people dead or missing. Tacloban City, the capital of Leyte province, bore the brunt of the storm's wrath through 5 meters-high storm surges that crashed over mostly poor coastal communities.

Romualdez said the construction of the giant seawall in 2016 that stretches from Tacloban to nearby Tanauan town gives the residents a sense of relief.

“Ang seawall na ito ay nagbibigay ng kapanatagan sa puso ng mga Taclobanon, dahil alam natin na may dagdag na proteksyon laban sa mga bagyong maaaring dumating,” Speaker Romualdez said.

The project, while it received commendations, has also earned some criticisms throughout the years with some groups and villagers saying it could affect the mangroves, corals, and livelihood of the residents.

One of the measures being pushed in the House of Representatives is HB No. 7354 or the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act which aims to mandate having permanent, storm-resilient evacuation centers across the Philippines.

Romualdez said these centers are planned to be equipped of essential facilities which include healthcare stations for vulnerable sectors.

“Ang Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act ay isa lamang sa mga panukalang ating tututukan hanggang maging batas, para lahat ng lalawigan, lungsod at bayan ay mayroong sapat na bilang ng evacuation centers,” Speaker Romualdez said.

The speaker emphasized the necessity of long-term solutions and not just immediate relief to prevent another tragedy like Yolanda.

“Hindi sapat na tayo ay maghanda lamang para sa susunod na sakuna; kailangan natin ng mga istrukturang pangmatagalan na tatagal laban sa anumang bagyo o kalamidad,” he explained.

“It takes a whole-of-society approach to combat climate change effectively. We need everyone’s cooperation,” he added.

BUSINESS WORLD

[Disaster preparedness of Filipinos increased, but needs more improvement – 2024 Harvard survey](#)

By: Patricia B. Mirasol

Filipinos are more prepared for natural disasters than they were seven years ago, but material investments and social support still needs improvement, according to a nationwide survey conducted between February to March 2024 by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI).

On average, Filipinos' self-reported disaster preparedness level increased by 42%, as revealed by the HHI survey on disaster preparedness and climate change perceptions in the Philippines.

The average score – 19.2 out of 50 points – was an improvement over the 13.5 out of 50 gleaned in a 2017 study conducted by HHI using the same methodology and instrument.

“For a country as vulnerable to disasters as the Philippines, [however,] this is not enough,” Vincenzo Bollettino, director of the HHI Resilient Communities program and co-lead for this study, said.

“A score of 19.2 highlights both progress and areas needing urgent attention,” he said in a November 7 press statement.

“The score suggests that Filipinos are only doing 38.4% of the kinds of disaster preparedness activities needed to be prepared,” he added.

Among the five objective measures of disaster preparedness, Filipinos scored highest in information (4.9 out of 10) and lowest in social support (2.3 out of 10).

In terms of specific social support activities, less than a quarter of Filipinos are members of a group or association (23%) and are familiar with their local disaster risk reduction and management officers (16%).

Social support also declined to 2.3 in 2024 from 2.7 out of 10 in 2017.

While many Filipinos discuss emergency plans as a family (58%), less than a third prepare their respective disaster management plan (20%), Go bag (27%), adequate supplies of regularly taken medications (32%), and first aid kit (33%).

Regions-wise, the Cordillera Administrative Region (24.0 out of 50), Central Visayas (21.5), and Western Visayas (21.4) reported the highest levels of preparedness. Davao Region (17.3), Negros Island (15.8), and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or BARMM (15.1), on the other hand, reported the lowest levels of such preparedness.

The Philippine capital of Metro Manila ranked 11th in level of disaster preparedness (19.1) and slightly below the national average (19.2). It is also one of the regions with the least progress in disaster preparedness over time, with an increase in preparedness score by 22%, or 3.4 points from 15.7 in 2017.

“The [National Capital Region] is the heart of the Philippine economy and home for a significant part of the country’s population, yet it is routinely hit by natural hazards,” Mr. Bollettino said. “Increasing its disaster preparedness is crucial.”

The Philippines has the highest disaster risk in the world, based on the 2024 WorldRiskReport.

As Patrick Vinck, HHI’s director of research, said: “enhancing the Philippines’ disaster preparedness requires investing in local leadership and leveraging technology to improve early warning systems and community engagement, among other critical measures.”

“This should be accompanied by investments in resilient infrastructures, local capacities, and anticipatory actions,” he said in the same November 7 press statement.

[Opinion] Crank up urban climate action

By: Ed Quitariano

It has become easy to blame climate change for every disaster that befalls us. Climate change is a global emergency that suggests no less than urgent and purposive actions. But often we either hide in the belief that the Philippines has a relatively lower carbon footprint compared to highly industrialized countries or blame the latter for not paying up enough for their guilt.

While calling for climate justice, we need to examine our own norths in the domestic north-south divide: cities.

Cities, if not abroad, are where Pinoys go to get jobs and hope to change their lives. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, as of 2022, 54% of 109.3 million Filipinos have located themselves in cities. Urban density is felt even in small cities like Tagbilaran or Bacolod with densities 10 times the national average of 363 persons per square kilometer. Even more dense are highly urbanized cities like Manila with 73,920 persons per square kilometer. With density, we see cramped living spaces, especially of the poor and unemployed. We also see more transport vehicles to accommodate movement of people and more roads to accommodate vehicles. There are 3.8 million registered vehicles in Metro Manila where the total road length, including barangay roads, is just a little over 3,000 kilometers. Metro Manila is practically a huge parking lot with 1,234 vehicles per kilometer. If they move during rush hours, the speed is about 21 kilometers per hour (kph) in the morning and 17 kph in the evening, according to the 2023 TomTom Traffic Index.

An average driver in Metro Manila spends 240 hours on the road, half of it due to traffic congestion. Each car emits 1,027 kilograms (kg) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year.

A shift to electric vehicles is still a dream riddled with concerns over affordability and how to securitize and dispose of old vehicles. A 2019 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) study states that Metro Manila transport demand is expected to increase from 18.4 million person trips/day to 22.9 million by 2035. There is not enough space to accommodate vehicles, or for the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to build roads just to accommodate vehicles; not without impacting living space and land for agriculture and food.

The 2022 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggests that cities are primarily responsible for global CO₂ emissions. It is ironic that what attracts people to move to urban areas perversely creates conditions for more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vulnerability to the problem created.

Cities outside Metro Manila can already telescope their problematic future if there is no change in urban development trajectory. Cherry-picking sectors responsible for GHG emissions is unsound. The approach is to deal with the whole tree of urban development design and planning.

At least three participants (Antipolo, Bacolod, and Tagbilaran) of the Integrated Urban Climate Action for Low-Carbon and Resilient Cities (Urban-Act) jointly implemented by a consortium of the German Development Cooperation, Institute for Climate Smart Cities and Clean Air Asia, and the Department of Interior and Local Government, have opted to crank up climate action. They begin by stirring the enabling environment to further sensitize urban development to climate change.

These cities are smaller than Metro Manila cities, but they foresee similar problems. They still have no count of GHG emissions contributions, but they feel the disaster impacts and other mundane problems such as housing, traffic congestion, and waste disposal, among others. They look beyond flooding and extremes of precipitation and heat. From a series of deliberative policy analysis workshops from May to August this year, they recursively examined the policy environment.

Like other local governments, there are decisions that cities cannot make. In transportation management, they can do road clearing, manage traffic, issue franchises for tricycles or prepare local transport route plans, but they do not have control over the issuance of drivers licenses and franchises of other public transportation vehicles. In housing and settlements, they undertake housing for the poor, informal settlers, and those living in danger zones, but they do not have a handle on the issuance of environmental clearance certificates (ECCs) and subdivision plans of private estates. Some cities have forests, but they do not have control of forest land tenure and resource use permits. They do solid waste management, but the system does not enable public appreciation of how much GHG emission has been avoided and reduced.

What do cities suggest?

First, an explicit policy to formulate medium- and long-term climate action programs. An existing policy enjoins National Government agencies and local governments to climate-tag relevant budget lines of their annual appropriations. While this is good enough, there is a need to think beyond annual appropriations. Reduction and avoidance of GHG emissions and improvements in adaptation capacities of people and ecosystems need medium- and long-term investments.

Government has been able to invest P309 billion on the comprehensive agrarian reform program over 30 years, P581.3 billion for the Risk Resilience Program from 2020 to 2022, and P47.22 billion for the National Greening Program from 2011 until 2019. Purposive climate investment programs can be developed by the National Government and local government units on top of climate-tagged budgets in annual appropriations.

Second, we need clear operational guidelines on resilient and green housing and settlements. Housing and settlements are privatized sectors. Government housing for the poor may not meet the criteria of greenness. There must be a way of influencing market players to go green without losing investments.

Third, local government participation in transportation planning and management must be expanded. Beyond road clearing, traffic management, franchising of tricycles, and route planning, local government units (LGUs) need to share power with the Land Transportation Regulatory Board over franchising of public utility vehicles. At the least, they should have access to franchises and drivers licenses issued by the Land Transportation Office. Most of all, being in charge of their territories, they need what it takes to manage local transportation comprehensively.

Other elements of the enabling environment for urban climate action can be propped up. Cities like Antipolo, Bacolod, and Tagbilaran can take up the challenge bit by bit.

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH to push for new climate finance goals at COP29](#)

By: Jel Santos

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga is set to lead the Philippine delegation to the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, where she will advocate for increased climate finance to support vulnerable nations.

The COP29, held under the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change, will run from Nov. 11 to 22, 2024.

In a statement on Friday, Nov. 8, Loyzaga expressed “cautious optimism” about the Philippine delegation’s role at COP29, noting the need to advance global commitments and set a new climate finance target for 2025 and beyond.

Currently, nations are working from a \$100 billion per year commitment.

“The Asia Pacific nations that host a number of islands and our archipelago remain among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,” Loyzaga said, stressing the urgent need for financial support in the region.

The DENR chief underscored that limited fiscal capacity in vulnerable developing countries necessitates immediate access to scientific resources, alongside “new, additional and appropriate financing and innovative mechanisms” from both public and private sources.

The COP29, according to Loyzaga, must also integrate multiple international commitments, including the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Plastics Treaty, as these are “inextricably linked” and require coordinated political action.

“All these must be linked because they rely on human and largely political decisions and actions and are truly interdependent,” she noted.

The agency said the Philippine delegation will focus on critical areas such as ocean health, biodiversity, food and water security, and climate-induced displacement.

“We are paying close attention to discussions on our oceans, just as we are watching life on land,” she said.

Loyzaga pointed out the importance of prioritizing issues such as a “just transition, food, (including agriculture and fisheries) and water security, public health, climate change-induced mobility, urbanization, local resilience and the developments in carbon and biodiversity markets.”

While attending COP29, the Philippines is also preparing to host the fourth meeting of the Board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage in Manila in December.

Recently signed into law by President Marcos, Republic Act No. 12019 establishes the Loss and Damage Fund Board Act, giving legal status to the Fund’s Board in the Philippines. This law seeks to support countries affected by climate change through innovative climate finance solutions.

MANILA STANDARD

[COP29 showdown: Climate vs. Greed](#)

By: Myrna M. Velasco

The stage is set for a new round of debates and negotiations on tackling the climate crisis – and the promise of host country Azerbaijan is for the process not succumbing to a fault-finding frenzy.

While Azerbaijan’s hosting of the COP29 climate diplomacy summit came as a last-minute decision in last year’s conclusion of COP28 in Dubai, Presidential Advisor Hikmet Hajiyev firmly stated that the country will be “demonstrating democratic and political courage toward green transition.”

Although COP29’s venue in the capital city of Baku is literally ringed by oil fields that have long fueled its economy, Azerbaijan has laid a firm foundation for change – primarily charting a course to achieve 30 percent renewables in its energy mix by 2030—a stepping stone toward its ambitious goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent through year 2040.

Hajiyev recognized Azerbaijan’s role as a fossil fuel exporter but emphasized that the nation’s oil wealth has been a tool—not just for prosperity and progress for its people, but also as a bridge toward its greener future.

“Azerbaijan is a fossil fuel exporting country; but the fossil fuel potential of this country, it has been used for the welfare of the population and for the development of this country and it has also been used for our green transition,” he sa

Being the COP29 host, the Presidential advisor emphasized that “the priority from Azerbaijan’s side is we always try to lead by example; and Azerbaijan is completely against any kind of blame game.” Instead, he asserted that the COP29 process will favor “constructive cooperation” throughout the course of climate deal-making that will be unfolding from November 11-22 in the nation’s capital.”

Anticipated as front and center at the negotiation table are the crucial next steps: defining how the landmark \$700 million loss and damage (L&D) fund from last year’s Dubai summit will be deployed, alongside bolstering commitments to clean energy financing – goals to support cemented goals in COP28: to triple renewable energy investments, double improvements in energy efficiency, and accelerate the global transition away from fossil fuels, with a sharp focus on phasing down inefficient coal plants.

A key issue poised for resolution at COP29 is the definition of 'vulnerable countries'—a critical decision that will determine which nations can gain access to the pledged L&D fund.

Torn apart: The Philippines' climate reality

The Philippines, repeatedly battered by fierce typhoons, devastating floods, death-dealing landslides and other natural disasters, is manifestly a 'poster child' of climate change, holding the highest vulnerability to the impacts of global warming, as revealed by recent data from the World Risk Index.

While Filipinos continue to demand 'climate justice,' the harsh reality is that the national discourse still fails to fully confront how the country can evolve into a true driver of solutions to the climate crisis.

The Philippines has a promising 'blueprint' for its energy transition, aiming for 35 percent renewables in its energy mix by 2030 and a bolder goal of 50 percent by 2040 – but the real challenge lies in turning these ambitious targets into tangible action.

A closer look at what's playing out on the ground reveals that fossil fuel plants will maintain their grip on the nation's power supply for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, it's all too common to hear government officials dismiss the country's greenhouse gas emissions as little more than a drop in the ocean compared to the industrialized world.

Despite the deregulation of the Philippine power sector for over two decades, supply shortages have remained a persistent predicament. Then as the country faces this challenge once again – primarily in the main economic center of Luzon grid, investors are quick to place their bets on coal plants, clinging to the fossilized belief that this is the only path toward achieving energy security.

To date, alarms are being raised on coal projects slipping through the cracks of the 2020 moratorium policy, while calls for clearer and firmer policies on coal plant retirements also grow louder.

Yet, the real question remains unanswered: for how long will the government allow coal plants/fossil fuels to dominate the energy mix? Even financial institutions are demanding for an unclouded definition of what some quarters are touting as a 'transition coal' investment model, highlighting the uncertainty of the country's energy transition track.

It's true that the country urgently needs quick fix to its looming power supply crisis, but we must also question where our conscience truly stands. What do we prioritize when the planet is burning—climate solutions or short-term corporate gains? And in this pivotal moment, are we willing to gamble on the future of humanity's survival? As you answer that question, gaze into your children's eyes and genuinely feel the weight of your words!

Tidbit: In Baku, the host city of COP29, the Villa Petrolea houses the "Oil Club," a gathering place for the globe's top oil magnates and political leaders. Ironically, this very villa (now transformed into a museum) was once home to Alfred Nobel's family, who first funded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize.

[Romualdez calls for vigilance vs climate change on Yolanda anniversary](#)

House Speaker Martin Romualdez marked the 11th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda's devastation by calling for continued vigilance against climate change, which has led to increasingly severe weather events affecting the Philippines.

Leyte was one of the areas hardest hit by Yolanda. Romualdez, who represents the province, highlighted the House of Representatives' commitment to legislative actions that encourage climate resilience to protect Filipinos from future calamities.

"The tragedy that occurred during Yolanda should not be repeated. No matter how strong the storm is, we must make sure our citizens are prepared. We must be vigilant against climate change to protect our people from falling victim to such tragedies," Romualdez said partly in Tagalog.

In Tacloban, he said, a significant development that has contributed to the safety of the community is the construction of a giant seawall. This massive structure, designed to protect Taclobanons from storm surges similar to those experienced during Yolanda, stands as a physical shield for the city.

"This seawall brings peace to the hearts of Taclobanons because we know that there is extra protection against potential typhoons," he noted. Romualdez said the giant seawall was built in 2016 and is officially named the Leyte Tide Embankment Project..

The 38.12-kilometer structure, stretching from Tacloban City to nearby Tanauan town, stands 30 meters high and is aimed at protecting people, houses, and buildings from storm surges.

In the wake of Yolanda, which claimed thousands of lives and destroyed homes and infrastructure across the Visayas region, Romualdez reflected on the hardships endured by his constituents.

Yolanda, one of the strongest on record, left Leyte and other parts of Eastern Visayas in ruins, with many residents still grappling with the aftermath years later.

"As public servants, it is our duty to ensure the safety of every Filipino). Our commitment to address climate change should continue to inspire us to craft legislation that can shield our people from adverse effects of any calamity," he stated.

NIKKEI ASIA

[Think tanks can help expedite climate solutions](#)

By: Tetsushi Sonobe

As global leaders gather at the COP29 summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, next week, the needs of those most vulnerable to climate change's devastating effects must be at the forefront of negotiations.

At last year's COP28 in the United Arab Emirates, there was recognition that progress has been too slow across all areas of climate action and climate transition finance, despite previous agreements and proposals to spur action, such as the 2022 Bridgetown Initiative to reform the global financial architecture.

While talks on climate finance became more and more chaotic, the estimates of the necessary amount of money raised skyrocketed. In 2022 the global community belatedly reached \$100 billion a year, the goal set in 2009. A recent report from the Asian Development Bank highlights the scale of the current funding gap, estimating that between \$102 billion to \$431 billion is needed annually in Asia and the Pacific up to 2030. Globally, the estimated annual amount needed to achieve climate goals for developing countries, excluding China, is staggering -- \$1.8 trillion, according to the 2023 G20 India-commissioned Independent Expert Group.

Currently, a divergence remains between developed and developing countries in setting a New Collective Quantified Goal for Climate Finance (NCQG). All countries are determined to invest in climate adaptation to reduce vulnerability and build up resilience. They are also supposed to make their maximum effort to expedite green transformation for climate mitigation as well, scaling up green transportation, green energy transition -- including green hydrogen -- green public procurement and innovative nature-based solutions.

However, the current situation seems to be characterized by skepticism, suspicion, mistrust and lack of understanding about other countries' mitigation efforts and abilities. This can hinder progress. Moreover, in the last two COPs, tension was raised by the reductive positioning of "Global North vs Global South." The Global North suspects that the money it lends at low-interest rates to the Global South will be largely wasted due to the lack of capacity or agency necessary to implement adaptation and mitigation actions. The South sees the North as irresponsible and stingy, denying its obligation to compensate for its historical greenhouse gas emissions and the South's chance at economic development.

This situation is counterproductive and must be replaced by trust, collaboration and cooperation. Otherwise, the planet will not survive. How can the world make such a change of course on a global scale? The answer must satisfy the following conditions.

First, the Global South cannot accept the idea that economic development must be given up at least to some extent in order to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Second, climate finance from the North to the South needs to be done without creating further debt sustainability crises, which impoverish debt-stricken countries and thereby make them even more vulnerable.

Many people would say that it is global leaders who can remove mutual distrust and promote cooperation. This is correct. But global leaders cannot afford to make many mistakes if they want to be credible. This requires informed decisions. They also need domestic support, which implies that the people in their own countries need to be informed and supportive as well.

Others would argue that innovative entrepreneurs have a major role in creating change. This, too, is likely correct. But they as well need to make informed decisions. There's even other people, including global financial experts, that say multilateral development banks, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, hold the keys because their professional staff are knowledgeable of developing countries' needs and the latest technologies, and that they are able to catalyze private investments in public goods production. They, too, need to quickly acquire the latest knowledge and local knowledge relevant to climate financing and actions.

It is now clear that all these potential game changers must be supported by suppliers of the latest relevant information on developing countries' local needs, capacity and agency, in both state-of-the-art technical solutions and affordable yet effective strategies for climate mitigation and adaptation.

It is in this area that think tanks can play an important role by using their convening power. Their missions are to support informed decision-making by bridging science and policy. As "track-2 diplomats," they can work together across national borders, even when governments find it hard to talk to each other.

In recent years, think tanks from across the world have been increasing conversations, dialogues, collaborations and cooperation. In September 2024 the Asian Development Bank Institute jointly with the Rockefeller Foundation convened a group of global think tanks on the sidelines of the United Nations Summit of the Future and agreed among

other things that climate change action and sustainable development are intertwined, especially in developing countries.

Many policy briefs from the G20 Brazil think tank engagement group Think20 discuss synergies found between climate and development solutions and actions, as well as climate-debt, climate-gender and climate-health nexuses. There are also plans for Think30 at COP30 in Brazil next year.

Beyond international forums and summits, think tanks also connect and bring together actors from different sectors, moving ideas beyond domestic concerns, sharing best practices and new solutions that can be adapted and developed. Creating global public goods and openly sharing information can also provide a useful sense of peer pressure, encouraging governments to match others or better understand others' domestic situations.

In Baku next week, the ADBI will be convening several events that bring together stakeholders from central banks, governments and academia -- as well as civil society leaders -- from across Asia, the Pacific and Africa to address the climate crisis, particularly in the area of climate solutions and finance for the most vulnerable.

COP29 alone will not provide any silver bullets to the climate crisis, but global leaders must not waste this opportunity to make effective progress on climate finance, and international think tanks can support the multilateral dialogue and solutions for policymakers and other stakeholders in addressing urgent climate crisis needs.

PCO

[PBBM rallies Pinoys to learn from Yolanda](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. emphasized on Friday the need to strengthen efforts to address climate change in the Philippines as the country marks the 11th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda – the strongest typhoon ever recorded to hit the country in 2013.

In a statement, President Marcos said the impact of recent typhoons, such as Kristine and Leon, serves as a reminder to the Philippines and the Filipino people of the lessons learned from Super Typhoon Yolanda.

“Our ongoing crucibles remind us that the powerful lessons brought by the strongest typhoon in history should not be lost with the passage of time. Heeding these is the best way to honor the lives lost,” President Marcos said.

“As the most disaster-prone country in the world, we cannot do otherwise. We do not have the luxury of ignorance, inaction, and complacency. Thus, we must intensify our efforts to mitigate and adapt to the challenges of climate change and urgently abate our vulnerability to disasters,” he added.

President Marcos also underscored the need to empower the communities, strengthen the local government units (LGUs), and ensure the swift delivery of relief and aid to all those in need.

The President emphasized that communities must be better prepared for typhoons and able to rebuild stronger afterward, enhancing resilience beyond previous levels.

“And after making sure that the communities brace better against typhoons, that they can build back better after, by making them more resilient than before. Calamities are teaching moments, and every one that came after Yolanda delivered a payload of lessons that instructed us how to improve our response,” he said.

“Since then, we have strengthened institutional bulwarks against calamities, which our countrymen have matched with increasing care and compassion for those affected. It is also because of this bayanihan of our race that the pain of victims is assuaged and the rebuilding of homes and livelihoods is accelerated,” he added.

The Chief Executive expressed gratitude to international communities and various organizations for their kindness and generous support for the victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda, which helped restore normalcy to their lives after the devastation.

“Their response reaffirmed a tenet civilization must uphold when one nation faces an emergency or an existential threat—that no man is an island, indeed. All unfulfilled commitments made in the past for Yolanda rehabilitation are responsibilities we fully assume,” he said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Classes suspended on Monday due to Severe Tropical Storm Nika

Several local government units (LGUs) in Luzon have announced the class suspension on Monday due to Severe Tropical Storm Nika.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Nika is forecast to reach the typhoon category prior to landfall over Isabela province or northern Aurora on Monday morning.

The weather bureau also said the Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) no. 4 may be declared throughout the forecast period.

At present, the highest TCWS is no. 3 over the southeastern portion of Isabela (Dinapigue, Palanan) and the northern portion of Aurora (Dilasag, Casiguran, Dinalungan).

The following LGUs have declared class suspension:

National Capital Region:

- Caloocan - All levels, public and private
- Las Piñas - All levels, public and private
- Makati - Kindergarten to senior high school, public and private
- Malabon - All levels, public and private
- Mandaluyong - All levels, public and private
- Manila - All levels, public and private (shift to online classes in college shall be at the discretion of school administrators)
- Marikina - All levels, public and private
- Muntinlupa - All levels, public and private, including ECED and Alternative Learning System
- Parañaque - All levels, public and private
- Quezon City - All levels, public and private
- Valenzuela - All levels, public and private (but only classes in college will proceed)

Abra:

- All levels, public and private

Aurora:

- All levels, public and private

Batangas:

--Calaca - All levels, public and private

--Laurel - All levels, public and private

Benguet:

--All levels, public and private

Bulacan:

--Baliwag - All levels, public and private

--Norzagaray - All levels, public and private

--Obando - All levels, public and private

--Plaridel - All levels, public and private

--San Jose Del Monte - Kindergarten to Grade 12, public and private

--Santa Maria - All levels, public and private

Cagayan:

--Santo Niño - Pre-school to senior high school, public and private

Camarines Sur:

--Naga - All levels, public and private

Catanduanes:

--Virac - All levels, public and private

Ilocos Sur

--All levels, public and private

Isabela

--Echague - All levels, public and private; work in private and government offices

La Union:

--All levels, public and private

Laguna

--All levels, public and private

Mountain Province

--Bontoc - Kindergarten to senior high school, public and private

--Paracelis - All levels, public and private

Nueva Ecija

--All levels, public and private

Pampanga:

--Mabalacat - All levels, public and private

Pangasinan

--Mangaldan - All levels, public and private

Quezon:

--Catanauan - Pre-school to senior high school, public and private

--Calauag - All levels, public and private

--Gumaca - Kinder to senior high school, public and private

Rizal:

--Jalajala - All levels, public and private

--Morong - All levels, public and private

Tarlac:

--Concepcion - Pre-school to senior high school, public and private

--Pura - Pre-school to senior high school, public and private

--Tarlac City - Kinder to senior high school, public and private

--Victoria - Pre-school to senior high school, public and private

Baguio City:

--All levels, public and private

[PH to raise financing gaps in climate action at COP29](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Philippine delegation to the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will highlight the urgent need to address financing gaps in climate action.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga will lead the Philippine delegation to COP29 or the 2024 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan from Nov. 11 to 22.

In a news release Friday, Loyzaga said the delegation would seek to follow up on previous commitments and set a new global climate finance target for 2025 onwards, working from the USD100 billion per year commitment, which the parties have previously agreed on.

“Limited fiscal space in climate-vulnerable developing countries means we need urgent access to the best science, along with new, additional, and appropriate financing and innovative mechanisms and instruments from public and private sources,” Loyzaga said.

She said Asia-Pacific nations host many islands that remain among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

“We are heading into COP29 inextricably linking Paris to the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) under UN auspices and the Plastics Treaty, as well as other international commitments. All these must be linked because they rely on human and largely political decisions and actions and are truly interdependent,” Loyzaga said.

The team, she said, would also focus on issues vital to sustainable climate action, including ocean and land biodiversity, food and water security, climate-driven migration, urban resilience, and developments in carbon and biodiversity markets.

In addition to COP29, the Philippines is also preparing to host the fourth meeting of the Board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage in Manila from Dec. 2 to 5.

In August, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed into law Republic Act 12019 known as the Loss and Damage Fund Board Act, granting juridical personality and legal capacity to the Philippines’ hosting of the Board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

The law empowers the Board of the Fund to respond to and recover loss and damage arising from climate change and mobilize broad and innovative sources of climate financing for this purpose.

“I have met with the co-chairs, and together with the newly elected executive director, we hope to explore ways that the Philippines and the Fund can work together to accelerate operationalization so that we can contribute to achieving the goals of the Fund,” Loyzaga said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC, CSOs dialogue ahead UN Conference](#)

By: Vivienne Angeles

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with civil society organizations (CSOs) in a consultation dialogue to strengthen the Philippines' stance ahead of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The consultation focused on key climate workstreams, including Mitigation (Article 6), Adaptation, Global Stocktake, Climate Finance, and Just Transition. These areas are central to the Philippines' participation in COP29, scheduled from 11 to 22 November 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

CSOs such as Aksyon Klima, Oxfam, Reboot PH, Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme, Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law, Ecowaste, Miriam College ESI, and Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities played a pivotal role in shaping positions for the Philippine Delegation (PhilDel) to COP29.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, emphasized the importance of inclusivity in these efforts.

"Our goal is to ensure that every voice—especially from the most vulnerable communities—is represented and heard," he said.

The CCC held a separate media interface to further discuss the Philippines' participation in COP29, key developments in national climate action, and the observance of the 17th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on 19 to 25 November 2024 which covered key topics such as the localization of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the need for a unified approach to build climate resilience.

UN Women, a development partner of the CCC for Climate Consciousness Week, underscored the importance of integrating gender perspectives into climate policies.

"It's essential to integrate gender into climate initiatives to raise widespread understanding and drive inclusive action," Jonas Gregory Perez, UN Women National Program Officer, said.

He also pointed out the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and children, noting that four out of five people displaced by the impacts of climate change are women and girls.

"During extreme weather disasters, they are 14 times more likely to die than men, mostly due to limited access to information, limited resources, decision-making, and mobility," Perez added.

Other key partners, such as Save the Children Philippines, Manila Observatory, Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology, Parabukas, Ibon International, and Move as One, also joined the dialogue.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Climate agency, civil society meet ahead of COP29

By: Bella Cariaso

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) meet ahead with civil society organizations in a consultation dialogue to strengthen the Philippines' stance in the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan today.

"Our goal is to ensure that every voice, especially from the most vulnerable communities, is represented and heard," CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert Borje said.

Among those present during the consultation were Aksyon Klima, Oxfam, Reboot PH, Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme, Center for Energy, Ecology and Development, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law, Ecowaste, Miriam College ESI and Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities.

Borje said that the country needs to ramp up efforts toward disaster risk readiness and preparedness amid the devastation of Typhoon Kristine in the Bicol region and Batangas.

UN Women national program officer Jonas Gregory Perez underscored the importance of integrating gender perspectives in climate policies.

"It's essential to integrate gender into climate initiatives to raise widespread understanding and drive inclusive action," Perez said.

Perez cited the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and children.

"Four out of five people displaced by the impacts of climate change are women and girls. And during extreme weather disasters, they are 14 times more likely to die than men, mostly due to limited access to information, limited resources, decision-making, and mobility," he added.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga will lead the Philippine delegation to COP29.

She emphasized the importance of COP29 to help address financing gaps in climate action.

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