



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### ABS CBN

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### FINANCIAL TIMES

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## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

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## **RAPPLER**

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**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **[Greta Thunberg joins climate protest in Tbilisi](#)**

Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg joined protesters in Tbilisi, Georgia, on Monday (November 11), taking a stand against what she termed as greenwashing by Azerbaijan at the COP29 conference in Baku.

Thunberg criticized the lack of meaningful climate changes and expressed support for the Georgian struggle for democracy and justice.

Thunberg became a prominent climate campaigner after staging weekly protests in front of the Swedish parliament in 2018.

Earlier on Monday Thunberg stood in front of the Azerbaijan embassy in Tbilisi to support Azerbaijani journalist Afgan Sadigov, joining protesters in a demonstration organized by his family.

## Nika leaves Philippine area as Ofel churns closer

Severe tropical storm Nika left the Philippine area of responsibility on Tuesday afternoon, as another cyclone bore down on Luzon.

Nika left PAR at 2 p.m., days after it prompted the evacuation of some 32,000 people in vulnerable areas.

While the government reported no casualties from Nika, it said around 15,000 people were still sheltering at mainly government-run evacuation centers.

Typhoon Nika evacuees in Cordillera told to stay put ahead of Ofel

Utility workers on Tuesday repaired damaged bridges, restored electricity and cleared roads blocked by landslides, fallen trees and power pylons, the civil defense office said.

The full extent of the damage to private homes was not immediately known, but 29 towns and cities were still without power even as ports reopened and young people in nearly 600 towns and cities began returning to class.

Typhoon Nika brings heavy rains, damage to northern Philippines

"A small number of people were preemptively evacuated but they have since returned home. Classes at the collegiate level have resumed," civil defense official Randy Nicolas of Ilocos Norte province on Luzon's South China Sea coast told AFP.

Meanwhile, PAGASA warned that northern Luzon was "at risk of heavy rainfall, severe wind, and, possibly, storm surge inundation from Ofel which may cause considerable impacts."

Fifth cyclone in under a month bears down on Philippines

Ofel, which is now a severe tropical storm, has strengthened to 95 kilometers per hour and may start affecting the region late in the day and reach typhoon category by Wednesday, a day ahead of landfall, it added.

Ofel is forecast to make landfall along the east coast of Cagayan or Isabela on Thursday afternoon or evening.

Coastal waters will be rough and "mariners of small seacraft... are advised not to venture out to sea under these conditions".

After Ofel, the weather service said Tropical Storm Man-yi, currently near the Northern Mariana Islands, could also threaten the Philippines.

About 20 big storms and typhoons hit the archipelago nation or its surrounding waters each year, killing scores of people and keeping millions in enduring poverty.

A recent study showed that storms in the Asia-Pacific region are increasingly forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change.

## AL JAZEERA

### [Refugees on front lines of global climate crisis, warns UN](#)

Climate change is helping to drive a rising refugee crisis, adding to the huge numbers already displaced by conflict, according to a United Nations report.

Three-quarters of the world's forcibly displaced people live in countries heavily affected by climate hazards, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said in the document released on Tuesday.

The number of people fleeing conflict doubled to more than 120 million over the past decade, 90 million of them in countries with high-to-extreme exposure to climate-related hazards, it reported.

Half of displaced people are in locations affected by both conflict and serious climate hazards, such as Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Syria.

"For the world's most vulnerable people, climate change is a harsh reality that profoundly affects their lives," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. "The climate crisis is driving displacement in regions already hosting large numbers of people uprooted by conflict and insecurity, compounding their plight and leaving them with nowhere safe to go."

About 700,000 people were forced to flee war in Sudan crossing into neighbouring Chad. The country has hosted refugees for years, but is highly exposed to climate change. Those who remain in Sudan are at risk of further displacement due to severe flooding, the report says.

More than 70 percent of refugees from Myanmar have sought safety in Bangladesh, where cyclones and flooding are classified as extreme.

"In our region, where so many people have been displaced for so many years, we see the effects of climate change before our very eyes," said Grace Dorong, a climate activist and former refugee living in South Sudan.

"I hope the voices of the people in this report help decision-makers to understand that if not addressed, forced displacement – and the multiplying effect of climate change – will get worse. But if they listen to us, we can be part of the solution, too."

The UN report was released at the COP29 climate meeting in Azerbaijan. Delegates from nearly 200 countries are gathering this week to discuss climate change-related

challenges, although larger ones, such as the United States and China, have not sent top-level delegations.

The climate summit opened on Monday amid new warnings that 2024 is on track to break temperature records, adding urgency to a fractious debate over climate funding as poorer countries seek an increase in the \$100bn-a-year target at the forum.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Damilola Ogunbiyi, UN special representative on sustainable energy, said one of her “key expectations is on the role of climate finance”.

“We have a record-breaking year of investments in clean renewable energy. However, only 15 percent of that goes to the Global South,” she said.

The recent election of Donald Trump as the US president has added a sense of renewed urgency to the event. Trump has repeatedly threatened to pull the US out of the landmark Paris Agreement to limit global warming.

## FINANCIAL TIMES

### [China urges 'constructive dialogue' on climate change under Donald Trump](#)

By: Attracta Mooney

China has called for the US to engage in “constructive dialogue” to tackle climate change in future, in a thinly veiled swipe at the incoming Donald Trump administration during the UN COP29 summit in Baku.

Liu Zhenmin, China’s climate envoy, said he hoped “co-operation on global climate action will continue to be enhanced” between the world’s two biggest economies, as he joined US President Joe Biden’s top climate diplomat in urging action on methane and other super-pollutants.

In contrast with the stance of the incoming US president Trump, who has described climate change as a hoax, Zhenmin said China was “firmly committed” to improving its controls over methane and other non-carbon dioxide pollutants.

“Climate change is now a pressing global challenge that demands a collective response from the international community,” Zhenmin told the assembled dignitaries, drawing a round of applause.

Tackling escaped or flared methane emissions, the main component of gas, nitrous oxides and hydrofluorocarbons, is the quickest way to limit global warming as the molecules hold more heat than CO<sub>2</sub> though over a shorter lifespan.

Trump has threatened to reverse decades of US progress on climate change, including by removing the US again from the UN’s Paris agreement, the accord that drives global climate co-operation between countries, and overhauling Biden-era rules to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Zhenmin, who took on the role earlier this year after the retirement of his predecessor, said US-China “co-operation on enhancing climate action had been effective over the past year”, and thanked his counterpart John Podesta.

Podesta confirmed the US had finalised a rule for a new methane levy in the US that applies to big oil and gas producers, although there are concerns it could come under pressure from the incoming Trump administration as it seeks to weaken the remit of the Environmental Protection Agency.

But Podesta said: “The global momentum behind cutting non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases is strong and growing. It’s bigger than any one country and it will take collective co-operation to get it right. For our sake and for our children’s sake, failure, of course, is not an option.”



Zhenmin's comments laid bare the shift in geopolitics as national responses to climate change diverge. During his keynote address as host of the summit, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said his country was a victim of a "well-orchestrated campaign of slander and blackmail".

Aliyev has previously described his country's oil and gas reserves as a "gift from god", but told COP29 delegates he would be a "strong advocate for the green transition".

China, as the world's largest emitter alongside the US, is under pressure to take up a leadership role on climate action following the US election results. The country, which in past years has come in for criticism for being obstructive during global negotiations on climate change, is building up renewable energy and rolling out measures to tackle emissions.

The country is expected to have more than half of the world's renewable energy by the end of the decade.

In 2023, China rolled out as much solar power as the entire world did the year before, while also building up wind energy, according to the International Energy Agency. Expectations are rising that the country's emissions may peak years sooner than its 2030 goal.

Zhenmin said China had been "relatively late" in its efforts to address methane emissions compared to developed countries, but added Beijing was now "actively looking" to do so. It had engaged in "extensive efforts" over the past year in monitoring equipment, he added.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [PH inspires global action on climate risks at SF Tech Week 2024](#)

The Philippines took center stage at this year's San Francisco (SF) Tech Week, where cutting-edge solutions aimed at mitigating climate risks were unveiled.

Filipino American-founded startups Talino Venture Studios and BayaniPay hosted an event entitled "Climate Resilience by Design: Opportunities in Deep Tech and AI to Mitigate Climate Risk" during SF Tech Week 2024.

"The Philippines is uniquely positioned to lead in climate resilience innovations, having experienced the impacts of climate change firsthand," said Winston Damarillo, CEO and founder of Talino Venture Studios and BayaniPay.

"Developing solutions to anticipate future challenges is crucial, and by integrating technology, education, and government initiatives, we are creating scalable solutions that can benefit both the Philippines and the world."

The SF Tech Week event brought together a diverse group of policymakers, climate tech entrepreneurs, impact investors, and sustainability experts to discuss how deep technology and artificial intelligence (AI) can mitigate climate risks—particularly in the Philippines, the world's most climate-vulnerable country.

Two fireside chats were featured, focusing on strategies and actionable steps for climate risks and technology commercialization.

The first discussion, "Macro Strategies for Climate Resilience: Effective Approaches and Solutions," explored the intersection of innovation, policy, and community engagement to drive climate risk mitigation.

Moderated by climate advocate Kristy Drutman, the panel included Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Sancho Mabborang; De La Salle University (DLSU) President Br. Bernie Oca; Chemonics International's Senior Vice President for Impact Saeed Uri; Kiana Kazemi, co-founder and CEO of Beaker, a climate-tech startup; and ABS-CBN Foundation US Managing Director Lisa Cabahug, all discussing policy frameworks and capacity building for resilient communities.

"We must prioritize climate resilience across all regions in the Philippines, not just urban centers. By focusing on vulnerable communities nationwide, we can ensure that our climate adaptation strategies are inclusive and far-reaching, safeguarding both rural and urban areas from the increasing impacts of climate change," said DOST Undersecretary Sancho Mabborang.

The second panel, “Productizing Innovations: Turning Ideas into Marketable Solutions” centered on turning climate tech ideas into scalable, market-ready solutions.

The discussion featured Damarillo, Chemonics board member Gunjan Bhow, DOST Asec Dr. Napoleon K. Juanillo, Jr., and DLSU Animo Labs Executive Director Atty. Mike David, who provided insights into commercialization and the role of interdisciplinary partnerships in climate tech development.

Jamey Butcher, President and CEO of Chemonics International, delivered a keynote address underscoring the critical role of global collaboration in combating climate change.

“The climate crisis is one that all of humanity faces,” Butcher said. “And to address it we have to bring the brightest minds and substantial resources to find and implement solutions that have sustainable global impact.”

The event also showcased the recently announced pioneering partnership between the Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST), De La Salle University (DLSU), and DEVCON Philippines (DEVCON).

This collaboration, which will develop the Climate Resilience Technology (CResT) platform, aims to accelerate climate tech innovations through scientific research, advanced technology, and commercialization efforts.

Building on the momentum of SF Tech Week, the Climate Resilience Innovation Summit is scheduled for February 27-28, 2025 in the Philippines, with events at De La Salle University Manila and Verde Island, a marine biodiversity hotspot in Batangas.

This summit will convene innovators, policymakers, and investors to further drive climate action.

Damarillo extended an invitation, saying, “We are at the cusp of groundbreaking climate solutions, and the upcoming summit will be a platform for the world to come together and turn ideas into impactful actions.”

## RAPPLER

### [Biden's climate diplomat reaffirms US commitment to climate action](#)

By: Iya Gozum

John Podesta, America's top climate negotiator, reaffirmed to world leaders at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), that the United States remains committed to climate action after Donald Trump's election victory.

"For those of us dedicated to climate action, last week's outcome in the United States is obviously bitterly disappointing," Podesta said on Monday, November 11.

Trump's win cast a shadow over the global climate negotiations happening in Baku, Azerbaijan. The US president-elect has referred to climate change as a hoax. In his first term, Trump pulled out the US from the historic Paris accord.

"But what I want to tell you today is that while the United States federal government under Donald Trump may put climate action on the back-burner, the work to contain climate change is going to continue in the United States with commitment and passion and belief," said Podesta.

This year's summit is focused on ensuring a new climate finance target to help poor nations deal with the impacts of climate change.

"Facts are still facts. Science is still science. The fight is bigger than one election, one political cycle in one country," said Podesta.

#### Faith outside Washington

After Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 agreement, leaders from cities, states, colleges and universities, tribes and businesses rallied together to tell the international community that they still support climate action.

"In the absence of leadership from Washington, states, cities, counties, tribes, colleges and universities, healthcare organizations, businesses and investors, representing a sizeable percentage of the US economy will pursue ambitious climate goals, working together to take forceful action and to ensure that the US remains a global leader in reducing emissions," read the open letter of the coalition named We Are Still In.

The movement considers itself the largest coalition for climate action that cuts across different sectors. Podesta seems to put hope on this precedent.

"We will continue to need subnational actors in the US and globally to lead the way," the climate envoy said. "In the wake of COP22 in Marrakesh and President Trump's decision in 2017 to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement, the We Are Still In movement was born in the United States."

Besides support from subnational actors, Podesta banks on the “bipartisan support” for clean energy. Around 57% of new clean energy jobs are located in Republican congressional districts, he said.

Trump previously said that he will repeal Biden’s landmark climate law which puts billions of dollars for clean energy.

In COP28 held in Dubai, countries agreed to triple renewable energy capacity in a bid to cut down emissions fast.

## REUTERS

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This year's U.N. climate summit - COP29 - is being held during yet another record-breaking year of higher global temperatures, adding pressure to negotiations aimed at curbing climate change.

The last global scientific consensus on climate change was released in 2021 through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, however scientists say that evidence shows global warming and its impacts are unfolding faster than expected.

Here is some of the latest climate research:

#### 1.5C BREACHED?

The world may already have hit 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 F) of warming above the average pre-industrial temperature - a critical threshold beyond which it is at risk of irreversible and extreme climate change, scientists say.

A group of researchers made the suggestion in a study released on Monday based on an analysis of 2,000 years of atmospheric gases trapped in Antarctic ice cores that extends the understanding of pre-industrial temperature trends.

Scientists have typically measured today's temperatures against a baseline temperature average for 1850-1900. By that measure, the world is now at nearly 1.3 C (2.4 F) of warming.

But the new data suggests a longer pre-industrial baseline, based on temperature data spanning the year 13 to 1700, the study published in the journal Nature Geoscience said.

Either way, 2024 is certain to be the warmest year on record.

#### SUPERCHARGED HURRICANES

Not only is ocean warming fuelling stronger Atlantic storms, it is also causing them to intensify more rapidly, for example, jumping from a Category 1 to a Category 3 storm in just hours.

Growing evidence shows this is true of other ocean basins.

Hurricane Milton needed only one day in the Gulf of Mexico in October to go from tropical storm to the Gulf's second-most powerful hurricane on record, slamming Florida's west coast.

Warmer air can also hold more moisture, helping storms carry and eventually release more rain. As a result, hurricanes are delivering flooding even in mountain towns like Asheville, North Carolina, inundated in September by Hurricane Helene.

## WILDFIRE DEATHS

Global warming is drying waterways and sapping moisture from forests, creating conditions for bigger and hotter wildfires from the U.S. West and Canada to southern Europe and Russia's Far East creating more damaging smoke.

Research published last month in Nature Climate Change calculated that about 13% of deaths associated with toxic wildfire smoke, roughly 12,000 deaths, opens new tab, during the 2010s could be attributed to the climate effect on wildfires.

## CORAL BLEACHING

With the world in the throes of a fourth mass coral bleaching event — the largest on record — scientists fear the world's reefs have passed a point of no return.

Scientists will be studying bleached reefs from Australia to Brazil for signs of recovery over the next few years if temperatures fall.

## AMAZON ALARM

Brazil's Amazon is in the grips of its worst and most widespread drought since records began in 1950. River levels sank to all-time lows this year, while fires ravaged the rainforest.

This adds concern to scientific findings earlier this year that between 10% and 47% of the Amazon will face combined stresses of heat and drought from climate change, as well as other threats, by 2050.

This could push the Amazon past a tipping point, with the jungle no longer able to produce enough moisture to quench its own trees, at which point the ecosystem could transition to degraded forests or sandy savannas.

Globally, forests appear to be struggling.

A July study found that forests overall last year failed to absorb as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as in the past, due largely to the Amazon drought and wildfires in Canada.

That means a record amount of CO<sub>2</sub> entered the atmosphere.

## VOLCANIC SURGE

Scientists fear climate change could even boost volcanic eruptions.

In Iceland, volcanoes appear to be responding to rapid glacier retreat. As ice melts, less pressure is exerted on the Earth's crust and mantle.

Volcanologists worry this could destabilize magma reservoirs and appears to be leading to more magma being created, building up pressure underground.

Some 245 volcanoes across the world lie under or near ice and could be at risk.

## OCEAN SLOWDOWN

The warming of the Atlantic could hasten the collapse of a key current system, which scientists warn could already be sputtering.

The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), which transports warm water from the tropics to the North Atlantic, has helped to keep European winters milder for centuries.

Research in 2018 showed that AMOC has weakened by about 15% since 1950, while research published in February in the journal Science Advances, suggested, opens new tab that it could be closer to a critical slowdown than previously thought.

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