



## NEWS ROUNDUP

13 November 2022 [ 08:30 am]

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### ABS CBN

#### [Filipinos most worried about climate change but...](#)

By: Rassel Meigan Rodriguez

Filipinos are the ones most worried about climate change in an ASEAN-wide survey. But they also have the biggest proportion of respondents who mistakenly think that their

country has a target for reaching net-zero emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming

## **BULATLAT.COM**

### **[UN expert urges Philippine government to stop coal fired power plants, address killings of environmental defenders](#)**

By Anne Marxze Umil

MANILA – A United Nations expert called on the Philippine government to make true its promise of protecting the environment.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Anxious about climate change?](#)**

By Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

Climate change is getting more real every day to a greater number of people. It is part of many people's lived experience and it is certainly on almost everyone's mind a lot of the time. Intense heat, food shortages, flooding and extreme weather events, wildfires, deforestation, and species extinction, just to name a few, are some of the climate-related occurrences that are presently doing real damage to people, their property, livelihood, and way of life.

### **[UN climate talks reach halftime with key issues unresolved](#)**

By Frank Jordans / AP

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt—It's half-way time at the UN climate talks in Egypt, with negotiators still working on draft agreements before ministers arrive next week to push for a substantial deal to fight climate change.

## **GMA NEWS ONLINE**

### **[Marcos calls on world leaders to strengthen regional food security](#)**

By Jon Viktor D. Cabuenas

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. called on world leaders to boost food security in the East Asian region, as he cited risks such as climate change which jeopardize the global supply chain.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Legarda bats for climate change-resistant infra projects](#)**

By Mario Casayuran

Infrastructure projects should be designed to withstand natural forces caused by climate change as storms and typhoons are expected to be more intense and frequent.

### **[Marcos back from 'successful, interesting' ASEAN Summit debut](#)**

By: Betheena Unite

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. returned from his “interesting” participation at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit which he said was a success.

### **[Marcos to ASEAN leaders: 'Our people look up to us'](#)**

By: Joseph Pedrajas

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—“Our people look to their leaders, to us, to correctly navigate the uncertain waters of this new world.”

### **[\[Opinion\] Open, connect, balance: PH's APEC ties revitalized in leaders' meeting](#)**

From the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summits in Cambodia, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. proceeds to participate in his first-ever Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on Nov. 16-19, 2022 with the upbeat theme: Open. Connect. Balance.

## **MINDA NEWS**

### **[TURNING POINT: Food Insecurity](#)**

By William R. Adan

NAAWAN, Misamis Oriental (MindaNews / 13 November) — With the fading virulence of the COVID-19 and the economy finally opened after a hiatus of some two years, the nation expected, too, a fading bout with food insecurity. But no, Russia’s aggression war on Ukraine has reeled the country, if not whole world, from a damning energy crisis.

## **ONE NEWS**

### **[Marcos: Make SCS Area Of Peace, Not Conflict](#)**

By Helen Flores

PHNOM PENH – Citing the importance of adhering to international law in managing maritime disputes, President Marcos yesterday called on claimant countries to make the

South China Sea (SCS) “a sea of peace, security, stability and prosperity” and not of political discord.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Bayan slams gov’t report on human rights to UN](#)**

By: Krixia Subingsubing

The government has cited opposing views among civil society groups on what constitutes human rights in its report to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), causing concern in progressive group Bayan that this approach may be used to escape accountability for continued violations in the country.

### **[Climate advocates to gov’t: Stop destructive mining, reclamation projects](#)**

By: Jane Bautista - Reporter

Environmental groups and science advocates have called on President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. to “walk the talk” on climate justice by declaring a moratorium on destructive mining, reclamation, power and infrastructure projects, and stopping the killings of environmental defenders.

### **[Marcos urges world leaders to work together on food security, fight vs climate change](#)**

By: Zacarian Sarao

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Sunday urged several world leaders to work together in boosting food security in East Asia, as well as to act “decisively and immediately” on climate change.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[Canada PM sees big opportunity to work with PBBM admin in economic cooperation, climate change](#)**

By OPS

MANILA -- There is a huge opportunity for the Philippines and Canada to work together in various fields to continue deepening relations between the two countries, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a bilateral meeting with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Sunday.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[Climate disasters put plight of displaced in COP27 focus](#)**

By Reuters

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt – Issack Hassan lives in a migrant camp in Baidoa city in Somalia – one of more than a million people displaced since January after five successive failed rainy seasons.

### **[COP27 climate marchers demand justice despite protest restrictions](#)**

By Reuters

Climate campaign groups marched at the UN climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday, November 12, calling for reparations for rising “loss and damage” caused by global warming, under the watchful eye of security staff who controlled the protest tightly.

### **[SUMMARY: Marcos’ interventions at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia](#)**

By: Bea Cupin

Phnom Penh, Cambodia – Across the different meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) 40th and 41st summits, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. made several interventions that touched on different issues – from the conflict in Myanmar to regional action on climate change.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[\[Opinion\] Climate change and the Philippines](#)**

By Antonio Contreras November 12, 2022 560

THE 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP27 officially started in Sharm El Sheik in Egypt on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. This is 30 years after the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held, and seven years after the Paris Agreement was agreed upon by parties during the COP21 meeting.

### **[The climate crisis hits poor countries the hardest](#)**

By Fr. Shay Cullen

THE Philippines is the hardest-hit country in Asia by the frequency and greater intensity of typhoons indisputably caused by climate change. The World Meteorological Organization says the Philippines’ climate disasters have increased five times more intensely in the past 50 years. What you read here is the truth; it is a painful and self-inflicted pain by humankind, but knowing the truth might set us free.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [\[Opinion\] A Filipina at COP27](#)

By Iris Gonzales

In the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheik, between the desert of the Sinai Peninsula and the Red Sea, as countries gathered to discuss the pressing issue of climate change, a Filipina addressed world leaders to share the situation in our country.

### [\[Opinion\] Climate change](#)

By: Boo Chanco

We have been hearing a lot about climate change being blamed for more killer typhoons and rising sea level. It seems, our planet Earth is becoming warmer and may eventually become too warm for humans to survive.

### [G20 is holding a summit in Bali this week. What that could mean for the Philippines](#)

By Gaea Katreena Cabico

BALI, Indonesia — The G20 summit in Indonesia should result in the delivery of adequate climate financing to developing countries and decarbonization measures as countries like the Philippines bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change.

### [\[Opinion\] Israel's climate of innovation on COP 27](#)

By Ilan Fluss

The world is drastically changing and we are in the midst of a powerful climate crisis that is only getting worse. Widespread floods, devastating typhoons, severe droughts, biodiversity and more pressure on different species – this is only a partial list of the major disasters which UN experts have told us, time and time again, are only likely to increase as we continue to emit greenhouse gases.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **Filipinos most worried about climate change but...**

By: Russel Meigan Rodriguez

Filipinos are the ones most worried about climate change in an ASEAN-wide survey. But they also have the biggest proportion of respondents who mistakenly think that their country has a target for reaching net-zero emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

This mix of perceptions is reflected in the findings of the 2022 Southeast Asia Climate Outlook Survey, which the Singapore-based ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute conducted among 1,386 respondents from ASEAN's 10 member countries in June-July this year.

Filipinos made up the largest group, or 14.9%, of the respondents, followed by Singapore and Malaysia, in the third year of the annual survey.

RepASEAN Infographic Sustainability WRI 9 Oct.png

A total of 64.3% of Filipino respondents said they found climate change to be "a serious and immediate threat to the well-being of my country", followed by 33.3% who found it "an important issue that deserves to be monitored".

Together, these total 97.6% of respondents for whom climate change was a major worry.

After the Philippines, Myanmar had the next highest proportion of respondents who judged climate change to be a serious, immediate threat at 59%, followed by Laos (50.8%).

Likewise, when respondents were asked to what extent they think climate change will "negatively affect your life in 10 years time", those from the Philippines ranked the likelihood of climate impacts in their lives at 8.4 out of a scale of 1-10. This was the highest among all 10 countries in the survey, and showed that Filipinos have "the strongest sense of urgency in addressing the climate threat," the survey report said.

The Philippines' level of concern is far from surprising given that it typically ranks among the highest in the world, and in Southeast Asia, when it comes to disaster risks, due to factors such as its geography, vulnerabilities, a changing climate and challenges in preparing for handling disasters.

Two destructive typhoons roared through the Philippines in the last two months. In late October, "severe tropical storm" Nalgae (named "Paeng" locally) caused 110 deaths, more than 2.4 million people affected and widespread damage, including flooding and landslides, across all 17 of the country's regions. In September, typhoon Noru (Karding) led to the deaths of 12 people and caused agricultural damage of 2.02 billion pesos (34.5 million US dollars).

Supertyphoon Rai (Odette), the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines in 2021, caused 408 deaths and was among the deadliest disasters globally of that year.

In the ASEAN region as a whole, 45.8% of respondents said climate change was a serious and immediate threat and 44.6% described it as an important issue to follow. The top climate impacts they identified are floods, followed by heat waves and rainfall-induced landslides.

However, Southeast Asians' awareness of climate change does not appear to mean they are familiar with the details of their countries' policies and actions.

To the question "Does your country have a net-zero target?", the majority (61.3%) of all respondents were unsure if their country had this in its commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement or the international treaty on climate change. A total of 31.5% of all respondents had correct answers to this question, and 7.1% had incorrect ones.

However, "the Philippines has the highest proportion of incorrect answers: 13.5% wrongly believe that the Philippines has a net-zero target," the survey report said. In addition, 66.2% of respondents were generally unsure about whether the Philippines has a net-zero target in place.

Apart from the Philippines, Myanmar is the only other ASEAN country without a net-zero target. All the others have targets for reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 to 2065, with Cambodia being the latest country to pronounce its commitment.

In its latest Nationally Determined Contributions document dated 15 April 2021, the Philippine government pledged a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Nearly three-fourths of its commitments, or 72.29%, are conditional, dependent on the "support or the means of implementation under the Paris Agreement."

But while their government has not set a net-zero target timeframe, a number of Filipino business conglomerates, such as Nestlé Philippines and Ayala Corp, have gone ahead to commit to carbon neutrality by 2050.

RepASEAN Infographic Sustainability Phils 2 Nov Updated.png  
Awareness about the Philippines' major climate commitments varied among several interviewees for this article.

Dely De Leon, 67, a Filipino rice trader and plantation owner, was initially unfamiliar with what the "net-zero campaign" is, but agreed after it was explained, that it should be part of the country's climate actions.

"I am not aware if there is [a net-zero target], but if that is what every country is doing, especially in Asia, we cannot be left behind. We should also have one, especially since

we are an agricultural country. We should contribute to improving the atmosphere so that global warming would not worsen,” De Leon said, speaking in Filipino.

“I think there is. I’m not sure,” Johanna Lindsey Pasco, a computer engineering student, replied when asked if the Philippines has a net-zero target. She said she did not hear about the Philippine position on this issue in news articles that she gets mostly from environmental pages on social media. Still, she thought there “must be” one.

Darleine Bautista, an international relations major in university, had learned about the Philippines’ climate policies, including its lack of a net-zero year commitment, in an undergraduate environmental law class.

Both Bautista and Pasco recalled while that climate change had been discussed in secondary education, this did not include the country’s climate actions and policies.

“Perhaps this is a rise to the call of re-evaluating the curriculum, in a way where Philippine national policies on the environment can be explained to adolescents in a way that they can truly comprehend,” Bautista said.

A “big international campaign” like carbon neutrality is more “complicated” than initiatives such as coastal cleanups where personal participation is more obvious, says Kairos Dela Cruz, deputy executive director of the non-government Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities.

“I just don’t think it’s (net-zero) a relatable campaign. I don’t think it’s something that you can contribute [to] as an ordinary person,” Dela Cruz said.

Still, 72.5% of the Filipino respondents in the "Climate Outlook Survey" agreed that the country should have a net-zero target. Interestingly too, Filipinos’ top two choices for the “biggest obstacle to decarbonization in my country” are “insufficient financial resources” (56.5%) and “absence of political will” (53.6%).

The latest global report to identify the Philippines as high-risk in disasters, where extreme weather events increasingly play a role, is the World Risk Report 2022. In its World Risk Index, the Philippines has the highest risk of disasters among 193 countries at 46.82 on a scale of 0 to 100.

It was one of four ASEAN countries in the top 12 nations that ranked highest in the index, which calculates risk from exposure and susceptibility to disasters as well as vulnerability and lack of coping strategies.

The Philippine responses in the Southeast Asia climate survey provide insights about public opinion around the responsibility for climate action, obstacles to it, and what they would like the Philippines, and ASEAN countries, to do.

Filipinos appear to support having a carbon tax, cutting reliance on coal and other fossil fuels (which the region will continue to rely heavily on), but also assign more responsibility to the government, business, and other groups instead of to individuals.

How willing are they to accept a carbon tax for the climate, on a scale of 1 to 10? Filipinos expressed the highest level of willingness in the region, at 7.2. Cambodians were the next most agreeable to carbon taxation at 7, followed by Thailand's 6.9.

At the same time, Filipino respondents assigned the biggest responsibility to tackle climate change to the national government (29.1%) as well as the private sector (22.7%). Individual responsibility comes in third at 19.8%.

Asked who should bear the greatest cost of climate change measures, Filipinos chose the national government (38.9%) first, followed by businesses and industries (30.2%).

Climate change or the climate emergency is already a big term whose details and linkages to daily life, apart from international commitments, can be a challenge to follow.

But Dela Cruz says that the Philippines' continued pursuit of fossil fuel as an energy source does not help in making the public aware of climate change impacts.

"You can't put the pressure on people to understand [the] importance of transitioning to better industries, to sustainable energy – and yet you have a government that's actually taking its time and keeps on toying with diesel and coal and natural gas."

He attributes the country's gap in converting policies to implementation to a "fixation" on disaster-centric narratives that can overlook slow-onset events such as sea-level rise, increasing ambient temperature and erratic precipitation levels, thus limiting the understanding of climate change.

"In our view, the biggest campaign that we can take part [in] at this point, nationally, is to make local governments and local communities understand what climate change is and vulnerability itself," Dela Cruz said.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Opinion] [Anxious about climate change?](#)**

By Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

Climate change is getting more real every day to a greater number of people. It is part of many people's lived experience and it is certainly on almost everyone's mind a lot of the time. Intense heat, food shortages, flooding and extreme weather events, wildfires, deforestation, and species extinction, just to name a few, are some of the climate-related occurrences that are presently doing real damage to people, their property, livelihood, and way of life.

As discussions on climate change happen at the ongoing COP27 in Egypt, people all over the world cannot help but feel anxious about the state our planet is in and the results of this conference. The young people, most especially, are getting so worried that it is affecting their physical and mental health because, indeed, being in constant fear for the future of this planet could lead to illness. In fact, experts have come up with a term for it: "eco-anxiety." It is the "intense concern or worry over global warming and humanity's inaction." Climate disasters and headlines carrying worrisome news about the environment contribute to this general form of anxiety.

Related to eco-anxiety is the concept of "ecological or climate grief," another new term that pertains to climate-related loss and mourning. An article in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* defined ecological grief as "grief felt in relation to experienced or anticipated ecological losses, including the loss of species, ecosystems, and meaningful landscapes due to acute or chronic environmental change." This kind of grief also leads to various psychological effects, however, it should not be considered a disorder because it is a rational response to loss. That's according to Caroline Hickman, Ph.D., a lecturer and climate change psychology researcher at the University of Bath in England. Experts warn that climate grief could, however, lead to anxiety.

How then do we cope with this grief? And how can we help our youth as they face this difficult period in our planet's history? The Internet teems with expert advice, but there are a few of the experts' suggestions that I would like to cite in this short column. For example, connecting with other people who are experiencing the same grief or anxiety could help, experts say. Taking simple steps and making changes are also empowering and helpful for people going through grief or anxiety. And finally, there is such a thing now as "climate-aware" mental health care. I am not sure if there are plenty of climate-focused therapists and counselors practicing in the Philippines today, if there are any at all, but there should be. These are professionals who have received special training in addressing climate-related issues—seek them out if you or a loved one is going through this kind of crisis.

## UN climate talks reach halftime with key issues unresolved

By Frank Jordans / AP

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt—It's half-way time at the UN climate talks in Egypt, with negotiators still working on draft agreements before ministers arrive next week to push for a substantial deal to fight climate change.

The two-week meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh started with strong appeals from world leaders for greater efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and help poor nations cope with global warming.

Scientists say the amount of greenhouse gases being pumped into the atmosphere needs to be halved by 2030 to meet the goals of the Paris climate accord. The 2015 pact set a target of ideally limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century, but left it up to countries to decide how they want to do so.

Here is a look at the main issues on the table at the COP27 talks:

### **What about the US and China?**

The top US negotiator suggested that a planned meeting Monday between US President Joe Biden and President Xi Jinping of China on the sideline of the Group of 20 meeting in Bali could also provide an important signal for the climate talks as they go into the home stretch.

With impacts from climate change already felt across the globe, there's been a push for rich polluters to stump up more cash to help developing countries shift to clean energy and adapt to global warming; increasingly there are also calls for compensation to pay for climate-related losses.

China is the biggest polluter by far right now, but the US has the most historical pollution over time.

### **Keeping cool**

A group of major emerging countries that includes oil-and-gas exporting nations has pushed back against explicit references to keeping the target of limiting global warming to under 1.5 degrees Celsius. Egypt, which is chairing the talks, convened a three-hour meeting Saturday in which the issue was raised several times.

"1.5 is a substantive issue," said Wael Aboulmagd, a senior Egyptian negotiator, adding that it was "not just China" which had raised questions about the language used to refer to the target. Still, he was hopeful of finding a way of securing a "maximum possible advance" on reducing emissions by the meeting's close.

## **Cutting emissions**

Negotiators are trying to put together a mitigation program that would capture the different measures countries have committed to in order to reduce emissions, including for specific sectors like energy and transport. Many of these pledges are not formally part of the UN process, meaning they cannot easily be scrutinized at the annual meeting. A draft agreement circulated early Saturday had more than 200 square brackets, meaning large sections were still unresolved. Some countries want the plan to be valid only for one year, while others say a longer-term roadmap is needed. Expect fireworks in the days ahead.

## **US-China relations**

While all countries are equal at the UN meeting, in practice little gets done without the approval of the world's two biggest emitters, China and the United States. Beijing canceled formal dialogue on climate following Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan and relations have been frosty since. US climate envoy John Kerry said Saturday that he had only held informal discussions with his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua lately. "I think we're both waiting to see how things go with the G-20 and hopefully we can return," he told reporters.

## **Shunning fossil fuels**

Last year's meeting almost collapsed over a demand for the final agreement to state that coal should be phased out. In the end, countries agreed on several loopholes, and there are concerns among climate activists that negotiators from nations that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels might try to roll back previous commitments.

## **Money matters**

Rich countries have fallen short on a pledge to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020 in climate financing for poor nations. This has opened up a rift of distrust that negotiators are hoping to close with fresh pledges. But needs are growing and a new, higher target needs to be set from 2025 onward.

Aminath Shauna, the environment minister of the Maldives, said her island nation conservatively estimates that it will need \$8 billion for coastal adaptation. And even that may not be enough, if sea levels rise too much. "It is very disheartening to see that it may be too late for the Maldives, but we still need to address [the issue of finance]," she said.

## **Compensation**

The subject of climate compensation was once considered taboo, due to concerns from rich countries that they might be on the hook for vast sums. But intense pressure from

developing countries forced the issue of “loss and damage” onto the formal agenda at the talks for the first time this year. Whether there will be a deal to promote further technical work or the creation of an actual fund remains to be seen.

John Kerry said the United States is hopeful of getting an agreement “before 2024” but suggested this might not come to pass in Egypt. But he made it clear where the US red line lies for Washington: “The United States and many other countries will not establish some...legal structure that is tied to compensation or liability.” That doesn’t mean money won’t flow, eventually. But it might be branded as aid, tied into existing funds and require contributions from all major emitters if it’s to pass.

### **More donors**

One way to raise additional cash and resolve the thorny issue of polluter payment would be for those countries that have seen an economic boom in the past three decades to step up. The focus is chiefly on China, the world’s biggest emitter, but others could be asked to open their purses too.

### **Side deals**

Last year’s meeting saw a raft of agreements signed which weren’t formally part of the talks. Some have also been unveiled in Egypt, though hopes for a series of announcements on Just Transition Partnerships —where developed countries help poorer nations wean themselves off fossil fuels—aren’t likely to bear fruit until after COP27.

### **Hope till the end**

Jennifer Morgan, a former head of Greenpeace who recently became Germany’s climate envoy, called the talks this year “challenging.”

“But I can promise you we will be working until the very last second to ensure that we can reach an ambitious and equitable outcome,” she said. “We are reaching for the stars while keeping our feet on the ground.”

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Legarda bats for climate change-resistant infra projects](#)

By Mario Casayuran

Infrastructure projects should be designed to withstand natural forces caused by climate change as storms and typhoons are expected to be more intense and frequent.

Senator Loren Legarda, an environmentalist, made the call after a 51-meter section of the 300-meter Paliwan bridge in Panay collapsed, isolating two towns.

“Yung mayor ng dalawang bayan nagtulongan na footbridge na gawa sa kawayan, ginagawa na at hindi magaanay ng bagong taon na budget ang reconstruction (The mayors of the two towns are helping each other put up a footbridge made of bamboo as they could not wait for next year’s budget, which carries funds for reconstruction),” she said.

Legarda did not mention the names of the two towns having jurisdiction over the Paliwan bridge during a DWIZ radio interview Saturday, Nov. 12.

She said there were funds for the retrofitting of Paliwan bridge to be used right after severe storm “Paeng” hit the Visayas and Mindanao.

The lady legislator said Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) district office and Region 6 met with DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan on the bridge issue.

Legarda said she promised that she would work for the setting aside of P300 million for a new bridge in the DPWH 2023 budget.

She stressed that the Paliwan bridge is old.

Legarda said the structural strength of bridges should be assessed and prioritized by the DPWH.

Asked on long term solutions, Legarda recalled having stated that storms or typhoons from 1998 onward would be more intense and more frequent.

In Pilipino, Legarda said: “Ano dapat gawin tawag dyan adaptation (What should be done is adaptation), paggawa ng infra dapat maayos paggawa kanal, dike, proteksyon ng slopes, di nagpuputol punong kahoy (infrastructure projects should be done correctly), kailangan din mangroves o bakawan natural na seawall para coastal municipalities at barangay (We need mangroves which are natural seawalls for coastal municipalities and barangays), ito po ang natural solutions (these are natural solutions). Magtanim ng marami, wag putulin punungkahoy.ang ating mga daluyan ng tubig para di madaling magbaha wag tatapunan ng dumi na plastic at kung anu ano pa, ihiwalay ang basura (Plant more, don’t cut trees, clear waterways to avoid flooding and don’t make

waterways as garbage dumps), magtanim ng gulay o pagkain o puno na maaaring pagkunan ng pagkain sa backyard, eskwelahan barangay para meron tayong source of foods at makakanegosyo tayo (plant vegetables or food or trees at backyards as source of food and business).”

“Early warning system na dumarating naman many days before translate sa dialect o lenggwahe na naiintindihan ng tao.(Early warning system comes days before in a dialect or language that people understand). Dapat seryosohin ang mga warning ng coast guard (Warnings of the Coast Guard must be heeded). Mga magsasaka magharvest earlier (Farmers should harvest earlier). Maraming tubig pwede magtatag ng rain water catchment. Sayang ang tubig (Waters could be stored in water catchments). Mitigation pagbabawas ng greenhouse gas emission gawin ng malalaking bansa kailangan makiisa tayo (Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions should be done by big countries. And we should do the same). From fossil to renewable energy, ilan lang po yan sa alituntunin na ating inaadbokasiya (From fossil to renewable energy is but one of my advocacies),” she added.

## Marcos back from 'successful, interesting' ASEAN Summit debut

By: Betheena Unite

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. returned from his “interesting” participation at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit which he said was a success.

Marcos arrived at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City at past midnight Monday, Nov. 14, from his four-day stay in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and other related summits.

“My visit to Cambodia for the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits was successful,” he said as he shared the multiple meetings he had with various counterparts and business leaders during his maiden participation in the summit.

He concluded his visit in the foreign country with a meeting with the Filipino community there, he added.

The President further said that his first ASEAN participation was “interesting”, as all the ASEAN member states were able to engage in dialogue with leaders even outside Asia.

“For me, it was a very interesting experience because it’s the first one that I’ve been to. I’ve been to the Summit before but certainly not as President,” he said.

He stressed that the ASEAN Summit gave him and his counterparts the opportunity ” to give their positions, which gives you a very good idea of where things stand, what are the concerns, what is the situation in other places.”

“Tayo sa Pilipinas (We, in the Philippines), we also got the opportunity to put forward our position, our plans, and to find ways where we can help each other, where we can coordinate and all that,” Marcos said.

The Chief Executive noted that it was “quite gratifying” to see that there was “very large consensus” among the ASEAN member states, stressing that they are going through the same issues in food supply, prices of fertilizer and surging oil prices.

He also said that the “most important takeaway” from his trip was that all member states reach a consensus that no country can do it all, they must work together and help each other.

After recapping the business meetings and bilateral talks he undertook in Cambodia, the President said he is looking forward to the next ASEAN Summit that will be hosted by Indonesia.

“We look forward now to working with Indonesia as they are the incoming chair of ASEAN next year,” he said.

## Marcos to ASEAN leaders: 'Our people look up to us'

By: Joseph Pedrajas

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—"Our people look to their leaders, to us, to correctly navigate the uncertain waters of this new world."

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. made this assertion on Sunday as he urged his fellow leaders to "act decisively and immediately" on world's pressing concerns: climate change and food security.

At the 17th East Asia Summit here, Marcos said partnership of world leaders in terms of addressing such concerns "will make us strong."

"Our partnerships will give us wisdom. The future awaits," he said before Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, US President Joe Biden, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, India Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol and Australia Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese.

In terms of post-pandemic economic recovery, Marcos said stakeholders in ASEAN and East Asia must build on and improve existing strategies towards holistic and green, and sustainable development to ensure environmentally-sound economic progress.

"It has become glaringly clear that there is a dire need to strengthen food security towards self-sufficiency in our region, to increase adaptability and resilience in the face of threats to the global supply chain," he said.

"It is incumbent upon us, for our sake and that of future generations, to act decisively and immediately on climate change," he added.

Meanwhile, Marcos also put his expectations on leaders he faced with, who he said have "a moral and legal obligation to work towards finding resolutions and not resort to inciting conflicts" amid tensions in the South China Sea.

"Let us be guided by the universal principles of peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation as laid out in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia," he said.

The Philippines, as an archipelagic country with porous maritime borders, considers maritime cooperation as a key priority in bilateral and multilateral cooperation and engagements, specifically in the South China Sea," Marcos noted.

## [\[Opinion\] Open, connect, balance: PH's APEC ties revitalized in leaders' meeting](#)

From the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summits in Cambodia, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. proceeds to participate in his first-ever Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on Nov. 16-19, 2022 with the upbeat theme: Open. Connect. Balance

“Open to all opportunities” underlines the Covid recovery scenario. APEC is well-poised to provide propulsion in jump-starting the resumption of open trade and investment, enhancing the business environment, advancing regional economic integration, and advancing regional economic cooperation by leveraging on digital acceleration and technology-driven innovation.

“Connect” is the most urgent imperative. APEC’s major challenge is to restore connectivity by resuming safe and seamless cross-border travel. This will reinvigorate the tourism and services sectors, facilitate business mobility and increase investments in health security.

“Balance” is the third focal point. The Asia-Pacific region has been “unbalanced” during the past two years. APEC’s member-economies have become more vulnerable to shocks. The harmful effects of global inequality and continuing climate change have become even more glaring. Hence, inclusivity and sustainability have risen to the top of the APEC agenda.

Home to more than 2.9 billion people and making up 60 percent of global gross domestic product, APEC’s significance in the global economy could not be overemphasized.

As President Marcos makes his debut on the APEC stage, he will propose forward pathways on tackling challenges on food security, energy, and climate change.

Since becoming president, he has highlighted the primacy of ensuring domestic food sufficiency in light of disruptions in the global supply chains. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Marcos will call for the need to “future proof” the region in responding to disruptions around the world.

Climate change is also at the forefront of his agenda, considering that the Philippines is one of the leading climate-vulnerable countries (CVCs) that bear the brunt of destructive typhoons and floods. While the APEC member-countries may have reaffirmed their commitment to COP 27, the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, it is hoped that climate change concerns will be given adequate consideration in Bangkok. Significantly, there seems to be forward movement on fulfilling the commitment to provide compensatory relief assistance to CVCs like the Philippines.

On the whole, APEC initiatives enable the Philippines to enhance the competitiveness of domestic producers and sectors. These opportunities could be optimized by upgrading domestic facilities and aligning domestic regulations to meet global standards. These include behind-the-border barriers that limit the flow of goods and services and expand the coverage of businesses to overseas markets. Trade agreements in APEC also help firms gain access to cheaper inputs and more advanced technologies, which foster competition and increased productivity and growth.

Finally, President Marcos will also be meeting with the Filipino community in Thailand, numbering less than 20,000, but composed mainly of professionals who are able to contribute to the strengthening of people-to-people ties between Thais and Filipinos.

## **MINDA NEWS**

### **TURNING POINT: Food Insecurity**

By William R. Adan

NAAWAN, Misamis Oriental (MindaNews / 13 November) — With the fading virulence of the COVID-19 and the economy finally opened after a hiatus of some two years, the nation expected, too, a fading bout with food insecurity. But no, Russia's aggression war on Ukraine has reeled the country, if not whole world, from a damning energy crisis.

As a result, the prices of basic and prime commodities have spiraled sky high getting farther away from the reach of many. As if the punishment is not yet enough, the value of the peso over the dollar plummeted to a record low of P60, triggering a killing inflation, worsening further the plight of the people.

When it rains, it pours. With Typhoon Paeng, it's not simply a matter of rain pouring; the typhoon dropped vicious rain bombs across the archipelago, causing devastating floods and landslides, snuffing a number of lives, wasting crops, and destroying roads and bridges.

At no time has the Filipino people suffered this much from an aggregate of disastrous events. We are, thus, facing a looming food crisis never before experienced after WW II.

As always, the poor takes the brunt during food scarcity,

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, poverty incidence in the Philippines rose to 18.1 percent in 2021, equivalent to 19.99 million poor Filipinos.

And the proportion of Filipinos whose income is not enough to meet even the basic food needs, was registered at 9.9 percent or about 10.94 million Filipinos in the first semester of 2021.

The staggering figures may have likely ballooned considering the recent whammy of calamities hitting the country.

Indeed, the latest survey of the Social Weather Stations in the second quarter of 2022 says that 12.2 million Filipino families consider themselves poor in terms of food.

Surveys on food poor, which is often based on access and purchasing power of an individual, are usually carried out with people who have job or regular sources of incomes, not with the unemployed or those without any purchasing power in blighted communities or among the homeless in the metro and the unskilled labor and climate-change farmer victims in the countryside.

Who are considered as food poor? The food poor are those who are as poor as the church rats, so to speak.

They have no access to food sources, or the opportunity to consume an adequate quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways for economic and other reasons.

How do the food poor cope with food unavailability?

In Metro Manila, many scavenge the trash of restaurants, especially in fast food establishments. The food items in the trash are then segregated from the rest, washed and recooked and become the family meals. Many survive this way, how hazardous to one's health it may be.

The recycled trash food is known as Pagpag (from pagpagan, meaning to dust off the dirt). They who have more than enough pagpag for the day share or sell them to the neighbors.

On the other hand, the food poor in the countryside hunt and survive on field rats, wild root crops, and on coconuts that "fall from heaven," that they took the liberty of bringing home as finders' keepers, sans the knowledge or permission of tree owners.

Food poverty has multiple negative impacts on individual and community health and wellbeing. It's imperative and crucial that the government increase the food assistance to the poor by realigning budget on confidential and intelligent funds. After all, there is no more need to spend huge amount of money looking for the enemy. The enemy is right here before us: Food insecurity. (MindaViews is the opinion section of MindaNews. William R. Adan, Ph.D., is retired professor and former chancellor of Mindanao State University at Naawan, Misamis Oriental, Philippines.)

## ONE NEWS

### Marcos: Make SCS Area Of Peace, Not Conflict

By Helen Flores

PHNOM PENH – Citing the importance of adhering to international law in managing maritime disputes, President Marcos yesterday called on claimant countries to make the South China Sea (SCS) “a sea of peace, security, stability and prosperity” and not of political discord.

The President made the remark during the 17th East Asia Summit here attended by world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

“We must ensure that the South China Sea remains a sea of peace, a sea of security and stability, and of prosperity. With the UNCLOS and international law as our basis, the South China Sea will be a nexus of vibrant economic engagements and interactions, not an epicenter of armed conflict or geopolitical maneuverings,” Marcos said, referring to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The UNCLOS is currently the most relevant, legally binding agreement governing the SCS.

Other leaders present at the summit were India Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, South Korea President Yoon Sukyeol and Australia Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese.

The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and China have overlapping claims over the SCS, which is believed to hold large reserves of oil and natural gas.

Marcos also urged countries to abide by the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which was established in 1976 and embodies universal principles of peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation among states in Southeast Asia.

“As High Contracting Parties to the Treaty, we have a moral and legal obligation to work toward finding resolutions and not resort to inciting conflicts. That path leads us only to perdition,” he said.

In a media interview, Marcos cited the high value of trade that passes through the SCS.

“The trade that passes through the South China Sea is so important not just for Asia but for the entire world,” he said.

An estimated \$5.3 trillion worth of trade passes through the SCS annually.

During the 25th ASEAN-China Summit on Friday, Marcos called for the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea between ASEAN member states and China, which he said has been stalled for years.

The President is expected to bring up the COC with Chinese President Xi Jinping when he makes a state visit to China in January next year.

“It’s impossible for me to talk to China without mentioning that,” Marcos told reporters in an interview on Wednesday.

On July 12, 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration affirmed the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea and nullified China’s claims over almost the entire SCS.

Beijing continues to ignore the arbitral award.

Meanwhile, Marcos rallied world leaders to act “decisively and immediately” on pressing global issues, primarily climate change and food security in his intervention during the 17th East Asia Summit.

“It has become glaringly clear that there is a dire need to strengthen food security toward self-sufficiency in our region, to increase adaptability and resilience in the face of threats to the global supply chain,” the President said.

“It is incumbent upon us, for our sake and that of future generations, to act decisively and immediately on climate change,” Marcos said.

Marcos said he also looks forward to working closely with Indonesia, the incoming ASEAN chair for 2023, in continuing community-building efforts.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Demands of climate finance pushed in COP27 homestretch](#)

By: Imelda Abaña

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt—As leaders from 196 countries wrap up this week the United Nations global climate negotiations, many issues are still at stake over policies to deal with devastating floods, fiercer typhoons, widespread deforestation, rising temperatures, droughts and other catastrophic climate impacts.

The first week of the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change started with a flurry of promises and announcements from government leaders to step up efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and help poor countries adapt to climate crisis.

In the coming days, the Philippines and other climate-vulnerable countries will step up their demands for finance mechanism with the creation of a loss and damage finance facility that has been adopted in the conference agenda.

But so far, only these countries have pledged loss and damage finance—\$2.5 million from Belgium, \$50 million from Austria, \$12 million from New Zealand, \$18 million from Canada, and \$10 million from Ireland.

United States President Joe Biden also announced new funding initiatives, including \$100 million for climate adaptation and \$150 million for disaster emergency response across Africa.

The United States is one of the largest greenhouse gas emitters, along with China, India and South Africa.

### **Climate justice**

Perhaps this year, more than ever, negotiators haggling over the deal in conference rooms at this small Egyptian resort city know their decision will be watched closely by civil society groups and climate activists.

Yeb Saño, Greenpeace Southeast Asia executive director, told the Inquirer: “This is game on for agreeing [to] the loss and damage finance facility so urgently needed to support climate justice for developing countries, particularly the most impacted....The fight is far from over.”

He added: “The blatant attempt of rich countries to push this item off the agenda of the COP27 table gives us a hint of some of the delay and diversion tactics that can be anticipated ahead.”

Saño, a former Philippine climate commissioner and negotiator in the conference, said countries must insist on the formation of a dedicated loss and damage finance facility to collect and distribute compensation money to worst-hit nations coping with unavoidable impacts of the climate crisis.

“Countries like the Philippines now live in an era where the limits for adaptation have been realized, ...[which is why] wealthy countries must pay their fair share for a crisis they are most responsible for causing. The rich countries should act on these demands and make sure fossil fuel polluters are made to pay for damage they have caused,” he said.

As in previous climate talks, vulnerable poorer countries that contributed the least to warming temperatures have pushed for the \$100 billion target set in 2009 for climate action. The longstanding pledge to provide the money was pushed back from 2020 to 2025.

### **Dangerous warming levels**

Despite the legally binding Paris Climate Change Agreement among countries to prevent average temperatures rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the world is still on track for dangerous levels of warming, making every heat wave, sea level rise and glacier melting more intense and life-threatening, according to the provisional State of Global Climate Report of the World Meteorological Organization released at COP27.

This finding was echoed by a new report by the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) showing that major emitting countries need to strengthen their climate plans for 2030 to avert catastrophe.

“The Glasgow Climate Pact is broken because rich and big polluting countries did not act to save 1.5 degrees as we all agreed only a year ago at COP26 climate talks in Glasgow. These countries are far off from a fair-share effort to limit warming to within the crucial 1.5 degrees goal, which we consider as a survival threshold,” said Henry Kokofu, special envoy of the CVF presidency of Ghana.

The CVF is an organization of 58 nations, including the Philippines, that are most threatened by climate change representing some 1.5 billion people worldwide.

The Philippines has committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030.

Young Filipino climate activists at the conference are also leading the call for the rapid phaseout of coal, oil and natural gas and helping poor countries make the transition to clean energy.

“We condemn the continued avoidance of developed countries to owe [up] to their historical responsibility. We demand that they scale up their commitments to reduce

emissions that will limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. We cannot imagine a warmer world beyond that,” said Gerry Arances, executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development.

### **Left out**

Meanwhile, civil society groups and grassroots organizations were being “pushed to the sidelines” and “out of negotiation rooms” at the conference, said Ivan Enrile of Ibon Foundation International.

Speaking at a side event at COP27, Enrile pointed out that grassroots voices were being “marginalized” in many ways—from deprivation of access to resources, exclusion from policymaking, to “outright repression” and killing of environmental land and human rights defenders.

“Polluting companies continue to shape and define COP agenda, allowing them to plunder our lands, water and forests and pollute the air we breathe,” he said.

Dinda Yunda of Indonesia criticized how big forums like G-20 and COP kept bragging about energy transitions, yet in her country, investments and funds for energy initiatives have led to the destruction of people’s livelihoods and culture.

“The climate solution has to be community-oriented, where women have to be at the heart of the decisions and solution[s],” Yunda said.

## [Bayan slams gov't report on human rights to UN](#)

By: Krixia Subingsubing

The government has cited opposing views among civil society groups on what constitutes human rights in its report to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), causing concern in progressive group Bayan that this approach may be used to escape accountability for continued violations in the country.

In the 23-page advanced, unedited national report submitted by its Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat to the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) working group, the Philippine government noted an “emerging trend whereby conflicts arise in human rights discussions as a result of nongovernment and civil society organizations having opposing ... positions.”

One of the “hotly contested issues,” it said, was of human rights as a form of defense but only for “those who do not advocate or resort to violent extremism to reform society.”

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes, who is in Geneva as part of a Philippine delegation taking part in the fifth UPR cycle, said the government might be citing the competing views to “justify the rights violations committed in the drug war and counter-insurgency drive [as] necessary to ‘protect’ the public from illegal drugs and terrorism or at least say that there is a gray area involving human rights.”

“Does the PH government subscribe to the thinking that those accused of “violent extremism” and “terrorism” are not entitled to human rights? Is this why it engages in indiscriminate bombings of communities suspected of supporting rebels? Is this why many revolutionaries have been summarily executed instead of being taken as prisoners of war and hors de combat?” he asked.

Reyes urged the public to remain vigilant and critical of the government’s report, particularly on Nov. 14, the start of the fifth UPR cycle which reviews the rights record of UN member states every four and a half years.

### **No specifics**

The Philippines also told the UNHRC that it had already “fully implemented” at least 103 recommendations but “noted or rejected” 33 others made following the fourth UPR cycle in 2017.

The government, however, did not clearly indicate which recommendations it had merely noted or rejected. Nevertheless it promised to continue implementing the UN Joint Programme (UNJP) and to “sustain its human rights advocacy in a democratic system of governance.”

“Under the new administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, who won the May 2022 presidential elections by an overwhelming majority of 55.8 percent, or 31 million

votes out of the 55.5 million who voted, inroads in socioeconomic development anchored on social justice are enriching the human rights environment in our country,” the report said.

“In the same manner that the President won on a platform that called for a United Team, or Uniteam, so shall human rights in this new chapter of Philippine history be pursued—a government working in unity with the people,” it added.

### **Subdued scale**

According to the report, the government, under President Marcos, was already “pursuing a human rights-based approach to drug control” with the support of the UNJP providing technical support and capacity-building to the country.

Mr. Marcos earlier promised to continue the drug war albeit on a more subdued scale compared to his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte’s take no prisoners approach, which led to the country being investigated by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity.

The Philippines, in its report, also stood by the passage of the antiterrorism law, despite a recent UN Human Rights Committee report asking the government to review its provisions for overbreadth.

The government maintained that the 2020 law was crafted “to ensure [the country’s] adherence to and respect for human rights as found in the Philippine Constitution and international human rights standards, and that it shall not be subject to abuse or misinterpretation.”

It also affirmed its commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change by, among others, reexamining current mining practices and reinforcing the implementation of air, water and waste management laws and policies. INQ

## Marcos urges world leaders to work together on food security, fight vs climate change

By: Zacarian Sarao

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Sunday urged several world leaders to work together in boosting food security in East Asia, as well as to act “decisively and immediately” on climate change.

“It has become glaringly clear that there is a dire need to strengthen food security towards self-sufficiency in our region, to increase adaptability and resilience in the face of threats to the global supply chain,” Marcos said during the 17th East Asia Summit (EAS).

“It is incumbent upon us, for our sake and that of future generations, to act decisively and immediately on climate change,” he added.

Marcos made the call during his intervention at the said summit among global leaders which included Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, US President Joe Biden, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Kate Ardern, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, India Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol and Australia Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese.

“Our people look to their leaders, to us, to correctly navigate the uncertain waters of this new world. Our partnerships will make us strong. Our partnerships will give us wisdom. The future awaits,” Marcos said.

According to Marcos, apart from working together, stakeholders in the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and East Asia must also improve existing strategies towards holistic and sustainable development to ensure environmentally-sound economic progress.

He then expressed support for EAS initiatives, which included promoting women’s economic empowerment, energy security, and volunteerism for sustainable development.

Marcos also said he was looking forward to working closely together with Indonesia, the incoming ASEAN Chair for the year 2023, in continuing community-building efforts.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [Canada PM sees big opportunity to work with PBBM admin in economic cooperation, climate change](#)

By OPS

MANILA -- There is a huge opportunity for the Philippines and Canada to work together in various fields to continue deepening relations between the two countries, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a bilateral meeting with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Sunday.

“I know there’s a tremendous opportunity to work together, and I’m looking forward to doing just that,” Trudeau said.

“We have some very strong Philippine Canadian members of parliament and members of my team who are very happy that we’re able to launch a new area in our friendship and our partnership and I’m very much looking forward to it,” Trudeau told President Marcos.

According to Trudeau, the Philippines and Canada can collaborate to strengthen economic cooperation, build a better future, stand up for women’s opportunities, protect human rights and fight climate change.

With deep people-to-people ties, both countries can work bilaterally to do more in the region, the Canadian leader said.

As a response, President Marcos said the integration of Filipinos in Canada serves as a strong foundation for Philippine-Canada relations.

“They all seem to have become part of the workforce, become part of society. They have found their place and they had been given that place by the Canadians, and for that, they are grateful, and we are grateful. And I think it is — it serves as a very good foundation for whatever else that we feel that we can do together,” Marcos said, referring to Filipinos living and working in Canada.

The President expressed elation over the meeting, which was arranged despite the very tight itineraries as they both attended the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits in Cambodia. (PND)

## RAPPLER

### [Climate disasters put plight of displaced in COP27 focus](#)

By Reuters

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt – Issack Hassan lives in a migrant camp in Baidoa city in Somalia – one of more than a million people displaced since January after five successive failed rainy seasons.

With Somalia in the grips of its worst drought in 40 years, “people became weak because of hunger, so we had to flee for our lives,” 82-year-old Hassan said. But he couldn’t escape tragedy.

“My wife died of hunger here, and I became helpless,” he said, speaking in a video interview distributed by the UN refugee agency.

There are some 22 million people like Hassan displaced every year in climate-fueled disasters, according to the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Some had lived along coastlines or on islands that are losing land to rising seas. Others in the Arctic fled crumbling cliffs as permafrost thaws.

Uprooted, they become more vulnerable to violence, hunger, and disease, experts say. And with climate change fueling increasingly extreme weather worldwide, the number displaced is expected to grow to about 143 million by mid-century.

Given the growing need, developing countries at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt this month are demanding that wealthy nations offer more in the way of help.

Some are seeking more financing for adapting to weather extremes. They also want rich nations to pay for losses and damages being seen now.

“Each government impacted by climate change migrants can raise the subject” at the UN summit, said Caroline Dumas, the IOM’s special envoy for migration and climate action.

Most of those displaced stay within their country of origin, so can be represented as citizens by their governments. But those who cross an international border can end up with no safety net, as climate migrants do not qualify for refugee status under the UN’s Refugee Convention.

“I’m a refugee, former refugee,” said Emtithal Mahmoud, a goodwill ambassador for the UN refugee agency UNHCR. The Sudanese-American poet, whose family was driven by war from Sudan, told Reuters she also experienced the wreckage that extreme weather can deliver.

“There’s something that I know about drought,” she said. “For us drought kills the plants, it kills everything, and then the rain comes washes away your homes,” she said.

## COP27 climate marchers demand justice despite protest restrictions

By Reuters

Climate campaign groups marched at the UN climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday, November 12, calling for reparations for rising “loss and damage” caused by global warming, under the watchful eye of security staff who controlled the protest tightly.

The activists, including many Africans, insisted there could be “no climate justice without human rights” – and lamented that they had not been permitted to demonstrate outside the sprawling convention center where the two-week talks are being held.

After marching down a road between two buildings packed with “pavilions” where countries and organizations are showcasing the measures they are taking to tackle climate change, about 600 protesters gathered in the desert sun for a rally.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, an environmental and indigenous rights activist from Chad who is also a UN climate “champion”, said her people were dying because of floods and droughts, while indigenous people in the Pacific were losing their homelands.

“We cannot accept any decision here without loss and damage reparations,” she told the crowd, adding that keeping to the 1.5 degrees-Celsius global warming limit in the Paris Agreement “is not negotiable”.

The issue of “loss and damage” has climbed to the top of the political agenda at UN climate talks as the harm being done to frontline communities by extreme weather and rising seas have accelerated and spread in all parts of the world in recent years.

Developing nations are pushing hard at the COP27 summit in Egypt for a new fund to repair “loss and damage” from climate disasters – and for separate finance to try to prevent them from happening.

But while wealthy nations have now recognized the problem, they remain reluctant to dig into their own pockets.

Tasneem Essop, executive director of Climate Action Network, which unites more than 1,900 non-governmental groups, told the rally people are suffering worldwide because of climate impacts, but also because of an “unjust and oppressive” economic system.

“The governments who have caused the climate crisis and made those who are least responsible for this crisis pay for it through their lives, their livelihoods, their homes, and cultures – they owe us these reparations and they need to pay up now,” she said.

## **SUMMARY: Marcos' interventions at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia**

By: Bea Cupin

Phnom Penh, Cambodia – Across the different meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) 40th and 41st summits, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. made several interventions that touched on different issues – from the conflict in Myanmar to regional action on climate change.

Here's a summary of the positions Marcos has made on various topics during the different summits, according to releases from the Philippines' Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) on the interventions made by the President during closed door meetings.

### **Access to medicine, vaccines**

At the 19th ASEAN-India Summit, Marcos called on ASEAN to tap the “pharmacy of the world”: “ASEAN friends, let us not miss the opportunity of having the ‘pharmacy of the world’ as our close neighbor and dialogue partner. The high cost of life-saving medicines and vaccines are barriers to a healthy population.”

“Let us work closely with India in ensuring that our region has access to a sufficient volume of affordable, high-quality medicines and vaccines.”

### **Maritime security, transnational crime**

At the ASEAN-US summit, Marcos talked about the need for the bloc and the western superpower to continue working together, particularly in “maritime security issues and transnational crime.”

“Let us continue our cooperation in fighting against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and also in combating marine plastic debris and marine pollution,” he said, according to a release from the OPS.

### **‘ASEAN centrality’**

At the 40th ASEAN Summit Plenary, Marcos said: “It is imperative that we reassert ASEAN Centrality. This [is] in the face of geopolitical dynamics and tensions in the region and the proliferation of Indo-Pacific engagements including the requests of our dialogue partners for closer partnerships.”

“ASEAN’s response to this is the forward-looking ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, with its essential element of ASEAN Centrality in the implementation of ASEAN-led mechanisms, projects, and initiatives for our community-building efforts,” he added.

Marcos, who is also the Philippines’ agriculture chief, called for enhanced ASEAN food security cooperation “through strengthened initiatives and expanded projects under the

ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and other related mechanisms” – an effort that will also include the regional bloc’s dialogue partners.

“We need to solidify our food resilience and promote food self-sufficiency, through the use of new agricultural technologies, in order to protect the region and our countries from shocks to the global food value chain, as well as against adverse effects of climate change,” he said.

“ASEAN Centrality” was also something US President Joe Biden highlighted during the ASEAN-US Summit, noting that the bloc was key in his country’s strategies in this part of the world.

In his intervention, Marcos said the Philippines was “fully committed” to regional peace and security via the idea of centrality.

“We regard as of primary import Quad’s assurance of unwavering support for ASEAN unity and Centrality with the view that such minilateral mechanisms should complement the ASEAN-centered regional security architecture,” said Marcos.

## **On Myanmar**

Ahead of an ASEAN Leaders statement on Myanmar and the Five-Point Consensus, Marcos spoke before the 41st ASEAN Summit Retreat, where he emphasized the “need for the speedy implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, which Myanmar agreed to in the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting held in Jakarta in April 2021.”

He added: “While the Philippines adheres to the ASEAN principles of non-interference and consensus, the protracted suffering of the people in Myanmar, in part due to the lack of progress in the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, also challenges the ASEAN-honored principles of democracy and the respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.”

ASEAN leaders would later issue a statement urging the ruling military junta in Myanmar to adhere to their previous commitments to ASEAN and to address concerns of violence and human rights violations in the country.

## **Climate change**

Also during the leaders’ retreat, Marcos brought up the climate crisis and pointed out that it’s developing countries that are the most vulnerable to changes brought about by climate change.

“Addressing climate change is our collective responsibility and developed countries should play a bigger role in global efforts to mitigate its risks, its effects, its damage and loss. Developing countries are more vulnerable, lose more when these climate shocks hit and have fewer resources to cope with the adverse effects of these shocks,” he said.

“We need to shift our paradigm from the old, traditional farming methods to climate-smart agricultural systems, to better shield us against the ongoing adverse effects of climate change,” he added.

Marcos told his ASEAN counterparts that climate change is among the top agendas of his administration. “The measures we seek to undertake hopefully will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do,” he said.

At the 2nd ASEAN Global Dialogue, Marcos once again brought up the climate crisis. Said Marcos, “We must recognize that climate change is a very clear and very present danger, not only to our national security, but to our food supply, our healthcare systems, shelter, our very lives. The Philippines urges ASEAN colleagues to support the fast conclusion of the Global Goal on Adaptation work program. Through these adaptation measures, the increasing losses and damages from climate change may be mitigated or hopefully even prevented.”

“The global goal should not only focus on enhancing capacity and sharing of information, but the time has come for actual implementation,” he added.

### **North Korea**

Speaking at the 41st Summit Retreat as well, Marcos urged North Korea to comply with the United Nations (UN) Security Council’s resolutions.

Said Marcos: “The Philippines reiterates its grave concerns over the series of missile launches conducted by the DPRK this year. We call on the DPRK to comply with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and we encourage the continuation of dialogue and engagement among concerned parties with the aim of stabilizing the situation in the region.”

“Our greatest fear is that if nuclear weapons become conventional weapons by the use of another country, for example by Russia in Ukraine, and it becomes a conventional weapon. It will encourage others to unleash their nuclear weapons. This will be the end of us all,” he added.

### **Peace between Ukraine, Russia**

At the same retreat, Marcos said in relation to the Russia-Ukraine crisis, “We are also concerned with the severe and disruptive international economic ramifications of this ongoing conflict, particularly on global food and energy security and commodity supply chains.”

“We always urge peace in the resolution of these conflicts,” he added.

## **On the South China Sea**

Prior to arriving in Phnom Penh, Marcos told media that he hoped to bring up the long-awaited Code of Conduct on the South China Sea between ASEAN and China. He also said he intends to raise this should he talk to Chinese President Xi Jinping, who was not at Phnom Penh.

The ASEAN and China signed 20 years ago the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, a non-binding agreement that states that ASEAN members and China agree to craft a binding Code of Conduct over the sea. Four ASEAN members, including the Philippines, have territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea.

At the ASEAN-China summit, Marcos said: “It shall be an example of how states manage their differences: through reason and through right. I, therefore, welcome the progress on textual negotiations on the COC this past year and hopefully an approved Code of Conduct in the very near future.”

At the ASEAN Plus Three summit, he said: “Inasmuch as our region is primarily maritime in character and concerns, we must put a premium in strengthening the multifaceted nature of our maritime cooperation. Let us continue to work with our APT partners through activities such as safety and freedom of navigation, with the end view of promoting peace, stability, security, and prosperity in accordance with the relevant international and regional treaties and agreements, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).”

## **On renewable energy**

Speaking at the ASEAN-South Korea summit, Marcos said, “Given the ROK’s expertise in harnessing renewable energies, let us explore opportunities for technological cooperation aimed at securing reliable electricity supply sourced from renewable sources.”

## **On food security**

Said Marcos at the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, “Attaining food self-sufficiency and security by seeking innovative solutions through adoption of new technologies and enhanced connectivity to national, regional and global value supply chains – this must be one of our utmost priorities in the region.”

“The Philippines reaffirms our commitment to actively engage in the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve or APTERR. APTERR is extremely beneficial to our countries. We are vulnerable to many hazards and natural calamities due to topography and geographic location,” he added.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [\[Opinion\] Climate change and the Philippines](#)

By Antonio Contreras November 12, 2022 560

THE 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP27 officially started in Sharm El Sheik in Egypt on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. This is 30 years after the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held, and seven years after the Paris Agreement was agreed upon by parties during the COP21 meeting.

All throughout these conferences of parties and meetings, there are three key themes that have consistently propelled the discussions. These are mitigation, or limiting the changes in climate; adaptation, or adjusting to current and future impacts of climate change; and financing the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions and adopting climate-resilient development.

The scientific premise of climate change is that the increase in the amount of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere leads to global warming that alters both biological and physical earth processes which, in turn, have serious consequences, from sea-level rise to more severe climate episodes, that would in turn threaten food security, lead to more virulent disease outbreaks and even species extinction. Island nation-states and coastal cities are being threatened to be wiped out and inundated by sea water.

The Philippines is technically not a net emitter of greenhouse gases, considering that we are not an industrialized country, but we are certainly most vulnerable, considering our archipelagic nature, as well as our geographical location along the usual pathway of typhoons that have become stronger and more destructive. Thus, it would be in order for our government to prioritize climate adaptation in our climate change strategy. As a country that is frequented by fierce weather events, we have to begin going beyond post-disaster management, and get really serious in disaster risk reduction. This would entail not only investing in human and physical capital for weather forecasting, but making sweeping reforms in governance processes, and moving away from reactive and into more proactive ways. As recent typhoons showed, floods are often caused by blocked waterways. These can all be remedied both by engineering measures, as well as by simple old foresight by local and national government agencies.

Adaptation will have to also entail formulating radical measures to alter our human settlements design, from the houses we build, to the location of our communities in areas that are perennially flooded. There has to be political will and proper incentives that would force people to move into safer zones.

Our contribution to mitigation is focused more on the fact that we are, in fact, a possible carbon sink. The main pathway for greenhouse gas emissions is through actions associated with certain human activity, directly through the use of fossil fuels and other activities that emit carbon, or indirectly by relying on resources the production of which

entail processes that emit carbon. While we can certainly contribute to the lowering of carbon emissions by altering our production and consumption practices, our impact would be more strategic by engaging in activities that would instead sequester or trap carbon from the atmosphere, instead of emitting them.

It is here that we have to correct the impression that the more forest cover we have, the more we can contribute to climate change mitigation efforts, and the concomitant urge to peddle the mantra that cutting of trees is bad for the environment. People should be informed that a mature forest is no longer an efficient carbon sink. Science points to the fact that carbon is sequestered more in plantations where a naturally growing stock would become sinks that take in the carbon in the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide. Conscious of the adverse impacts of planting single species, and taking action to mitigate these, the plantation cycle of planting and cutting trees when they are mature is a more effective and efficient way of turning forest into carbon sinks, compared to just leaving them untouched, which is what preservationists are advocating for.

Logging has always been seen by many as the harbinger of environmental destruction. Indeed, irresponsible and unscientific logging practices can lead to the erosion of biodiversity and can lead to floods and landslides. But the cutting of plantation crop, as well as the cutting of decaying tree parts and the removal of mature and over-mature trees in natural forests, when done properly using principles in silviculture, would provide more environmental benefits, particularly to climate change mitigation efforts, by preventing methane gas emissions by decaying organic matter.

In addition, the harvesting of mature and over-mature trees and turning these into construction materials and furniture are technically turning the carbon in trees into inert carbon. This is for all intents and purposes an act of carbon sequestration. Dead wood that is not decaying is nothing but carbon that is no longer in the atmosphere.

Beyond adaptation and mitigation, one of the sore points in global climate change negotiation is the issue of climate justice, where richer countries are the ones primarily responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, while poorer countries like the Philippines are the ones bearing the brunt of adverse climate change impacts. Climate change financing from developed economies should go beyond carbon trading mechanism where they provide funds for developing economies to become carbon sinks by financing, for example, reforestation programs and cleaner technologies. They should also finance climate adaptation measures.

But more fundamentally, richer countries should really be serious in capping their emissions and be more zealous in their own measures to reduce their greenhouse gas contributions. They cannot continue to use their monies to buy carbon quotas from developed economies, to enable them to continue engaging in activities that would continue to emit carbon. The goal is not to make countries like the Philippines sequester carbon for them which, in fact, and in some instances, may even have the effect of constraining our own development trajectories.

It is good that as we face the new challenges of COP 27, that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has openly declared and adopted a climate change agenda that includes a well-articulated call for climate justice.

## [The climate crisis hits poor countries the hardest](#)

By Fr. Shay Cullen

THE Philippines is the hardest-hit country in Asia by the frequency and greater intensity of typhoons indisputably caused by climate change. The World Meteorological Organization says the Philippines' climate disasters have increased five times more intensely in the past 50 years. What you read here is the truth; it is a painful and self-inflicted pain by humankind, but knowing the truth might set us free.

Heating of oceans and rising sea levels all impact the Philippines. Roxas Boulevard will be underwater in 20 years. The mango and banana harvests have been badly affected with a decline in mango production by 4 percent, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in 2022.

The 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is ongoing in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt until Nov. 18, 2022, and over 100 heads of state have attended. For the past 10 years, the rich countries have promised to reduce greenhouse gases, move away from fossil fuels and compensate the poor countries but most never did. In fact, carbon dioxide emissions have increased, a record of shameful lies. Corporations have lied, too, by "green-washing" their CO<sub>2</sub>-polluting projects. Al Gore reveals at COP27 "...that the top 14 individual polluters are all gas and oil fields and their associated facilities, despite their emissions being "significantly underreported" by 50 percent.

Methane leaks and flaring was found to be three times more than what they reported to the UN. Methane is 80 times worse for the atmosphere than CO<sub>2</sub>.

In fact, all the oil companies lied again and again and still lie to the world and make billions of extra profits from selling oil and gas at exaggerated prices upon which the world economy depends. The European Union passed a law forcing them to pay an extra "windfall" tax.

The general secretary of the UN, Antonio Guterres, said the world is on the road to a fatal crash with its foot on the accelerator for not stopping the burning of fossil fuel. In fact, the world has increased its output of deadly CO<sub>2</sub> by 14 percent. Governments of rich nations continue to give financial subsidies to oil exploration companies. "The fossil fuel industry is killing us," Guterres also said, "and leaders are out of step with their people, who are crying out for urgent climate action." This increase in emissions means that holding the global temperature below a 1.5-degree increase will not be possible. The planet has warmed continually for the past eight years and will continue to get hotter. We can expect more disastrous climatic events.

The climate crisis is getting worse, not better, and the planet is in convulsions. If you have doubts about it, consider the following. Thousands of experts and scientists report that 2022 is the worst year for climate disasters. The Philippines has had the worst series of super typhoons in living memory, bringing floods and devastation.

Pakistan had a massive drought with 62 percent less rain and endured temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius. Then the non-stop rains came and 33 million people had to flee as one-third of the country was underwater. About 1,500 people died. China, the worst producer of CO2 in the world, had temperatures over 40 degrees as well that lasted for 70 days, followed by floods. Massive floods also devastated parts of South Korea with twice the average rainfall and the worst floods in 80 years.

India had temperatures as high as 49 degrees. Many died on the hottest days in 122 years since records began. There was 71 percent lower rainfall and drought. Huge wildfires raged in Europe with the worst drought in 500 years. Siberia and the United States also had their worst droughts in living memory. Australia lost \$3.5 billion to massive floods. Somalia is suffering four years of devastating drought, and thousands are enduring famine. Low-lying South Pacific Islands are going underwater.

Despite the call at COP27 for trillions of dollars to be paid by way of justice for the damage caused by the rich countries to the poor, the rich give mostly promises but little money despite the fact that they are causing the climate crisis. There is little chance that the Philippines will be compensated for the disasters and losses by the more intense typhoons. The Philippines is adding CO2 to global warming from its present 28 coal-fired power generation plants. These supply 44.5 percent of the total energy supply since 2015. Twenty-two new plants are approved by the government but are on hold over public outcry against them and the commitments of the Philippines to the Paris Agreement to reduce CO2 emissions.

There are just a few alternative renewable power generation projects supplying electric power. Renewable and totally free power sources are available in the Philippines — hydropower, solar panels, wind turbine, geothermal and biomass — that can replace oil and coal so investors should focus on more renewable energy sources.

Guterres called for climate justice and said the promises of the 2015 Paris agreement for rich developed nations to give \$100 billion to the poor as compensation and to mitigate the disasters of climate change have not happened. "I emphasized the need to double [the] adaptation support to \$40 billion a year by 2025," as was agreed in Glasgow COP26 last year. "Climate destruction is happening now. People are suffering now."

What people everywhere can do is organize their communities to get everyone to start tree nurseries in their backyards and when the rainy season starts, they have community planting in reserved areas or with the Indigenous people. The Preda Foundation has records showing it planted (with the help of the Aeta Indigenous people of Zambales) a total of 49,150 mango saplings and other fruit trees on their ancestral lands since 2002 and many more planted before that date. Those trees absorb at least 8.3 tons of CO2 every year. Anyone can join this ongoing project. Email to [predainfo@gmail.com](mailto:predainfo@gmail.com)

The Indigenous people are lovers of nature and the forest. They are living in harmony with what is left of it. They were the hunters and gatherers before the political logging families cut down the rainforests, exported raw logs, and sold them to rebuild Europe and Japan. The powerful families then claimed ownership of the denuded ancestral lands of Indigenous people and planted 3.2 million hectares with 325 million coconut trees that made them incredibly rich and powerful enough to rule the Philippines.

The destruction of the Philippine rainforests is a crime against the indigenous people but also against a stable climate for Filipinos. Greater harm is coming to the Philippines as the planet grows warmer and temperatures increase and rural areas become poorer for millions of small tenant farmers. The Philippines must phase out coal plants and go for renewable sources of power.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [\[Opinion\] A Filipina at COP27](#)

By Iris Gonzales

In the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheik, between the desert of the Sinai Peninsula and the Red Sea, as countries gathered to discuss the pressing issue of climate change, a Filipina addressed world leaders to share the situation in our country.

At the ongoing 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly known as COP27, Ann Adeline Dumaliang, managing trustee of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, shared what her group is doing as she brought to the world's attention the situation of deforestation in the Philippines and our overall climate situation.

Ann makes all of us proud – a small, lone voice speaking on the world stage and sharing the success of Masungi, a story of fighting the good fight despite threats from land grabbers and greedy developers.

#### **What is the Masungi Georeserve?**

To those not familiar with this piece of paradise somewhere in the Sierra Madre mountain range, Masungi is a conservation area and rustic limestone landscape tucked in the rainforests of Rizal.

Here, the air is crisp and fresh; wildlife and plant species abound. It's a community rich with heritage and life but threatened by modern-day developments.

One could see the cityscape of Metro Manila, a panoramic view of towering buildings glistening under the golden Philippine sun.

There's a breathtaking view of the skyline; of skyscrapers kissing the clouds and of towering buildings casting shadows on a mirage of the fast-moving and dynamic life in the sprawling world down below.

The group behind it is the Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. (MGF), a non-profit organization.

#### **Climate awakening**

Shared Ann during the COP27:

"My climate awakening really happened when I was about 18 years old when Typhoon Ketsana (Ondoy) came. More than 600 lives were lost. More than a billion dollars in damage; lots of floods and landslides that have inundated towns and cities.

“Unfortunately, the forests kept on dwindling. In 2008, the Manila Observatory reported that the forest cover was at 19 percent. Come 2021, it went down to 11 percent. So in 2017, when then secretary Gina Lopez invited us and challenged us to participate in the reforestation of this area, we took on the challenge. Then the Masungi Geopark Project was born.

“This is basically a youth-led initiative spanning 3,000 hectares or so that is all about landscape restoration, which is a nature-based solution. In this project, we are doing things at no cost to the government. We are financing it through low-volume, nature-based conservation-based experiences. We were meant to collaborate with this at the national level directly, which was done basically to overcome the number and the multitude of vested interests on the ground.”

Masungi, says the Foundation, is a microcosm of the environmental situation in a highly sensitive karst landscape which serves as a natural filter for vital waterways.

As it is now, surrounding mountains remain desperately threatened by land trafficking, slash-and-burn farming, quarrying, illegal logging and resort developments, practices that continue because of government neglect and corruption among law enforcement officials.

As such, the Foundation strives to protect the area, comprising 430 hectares of secondary forest and 2,270 of grasslands from deforestation and which currently stores an estimate of 160,000 tons of carbon or the equivalent of 66 million gallons of gasoline consumed.

The Foundation seeks to restore nearby forests to protect the natural ability of the watershed to regulate water. Watersheds are important because they provide many ecosystem services including carbon and water storage, erosion and flood control, increased biodiversity and many more.

### **The Philippine delegation**

Ann Dumaliang of course isn't the only Filipina in the ongoing conference in Egypt. But her presence there is important because it means that civil society has become more aggressive in making the Philippines heard.

Heading the Philippine delegation is Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, who assured Filipinos that the country will continue to assert its entitlement to support and assistance as a country vulnerable to climate change.

The delegation, says Sec. Loyzaga, will reiterate calls for bolder climate action and demand the delivery of what is due for the developing countries which hardly produce any greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, yet suffer the most and continue to bear the brunt of the adverse impacts of climate change.

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

COP27 opened a week after Severe Tropical Storm Paeng ripped through the country, leaving over a hundred people dead and causing devastating damage. This is a stark reminder that the fight against climate change must continue.

Indeed, for governments, the time for pledges is over. The time for honesty, delivery and accountability is long overdue.

As Sec. Loyzaga said, we must continue pressing developed countries for bigger climate action such as assistance to countries like ours.

Here at home, we must drastically protect our forests and other protected areas at all costs. The Masungi Foundation shows us that it can be done.

Individually, we must also change our usual ways; we must be more conscious with our respective environmental footprints and our daily consumption – from food to energy.

And if you still don't know where to start, find time to visit Masungi and see for yourself why we must all do our part in protecting the world we live in.

## [Opinion] Climate change

By: Boo Chanco

We have been hearing a lot about climate change being blamed for more killer typhoons and rising sea level. It seems, our planet Earth is becoming warmer and may eventually become too warm for humans to survive.

Much of the blame is on the use of fossil fuels, petroleum and coal, that powered the growth of the industrial economies. Global fossil fuel emissions will probably reach record highs this year and not show signs of declining.

Countries like ours are responsible for only a tiny bit of the global warming gasses spewed into the atmosphere, but suffer the consequences most.

An international conference is regularly held to talk about how to deal with global warming. The rich industrial economies have promised to help Third World countries cope with the impact of climate change. But it has been mostly talk since the first climate change agreement was signed in Paris.

The Paris agreement is supposed to be a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris on Dec. 12, 2015 and entered into force on Nov. 4, 2016.

The agreement was supposed to limit global warming to below two degrees, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Countries must aim to limit greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050.

The talking continues. This time the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is ongoing in Sharm El Sheikh, a resort town in Egypt. Hopefully, something happens to help us cope.

We just had a few strong typhoons that destroyed agricultural produce, infrastructure, and killed a number of people. The Philippines is the third most vulnerable country to climate change, according to a 2017 world risk report. We suspected as much out of experience.

Climate change is making typhoons wetter, windier, and more intense. As the storms travel across warm oceans, they pull in more water vapor and heat. That means stronger wind, heavier rainfall, and more flooding when the storms hit land.

There is also evidence that climate change is causing storms to travel more slowly, meaning they can dump more water in one place. Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 and Typhoon Paeng last month, for example.

The impact of climate change in the Philippines are immense, including: annual losses in GDP, changes in rainfall patterns and distribution, droughts, threats to biodiversity

and food security, sea level rise, public health risks, and endangerment of vulnerable groups.

No wonder Congress passed Republic Act 9729, which created a Climate Change Commission. It now has a database known as the National Integrated Climate Change Database Information and Exchange System (NICCDIES) that tells us how badly we are affected.

In the meantime, there is this assessment report that says climate change will create new poor people between now and 2100, as if we need to have more. Poverty breeds disaster vulnerability, after all.

There will be major changes in rainfall patterns and distribution. Extreme rainfall is expected to increase with global warming by about now.

We will also have more intense periods of droughts. Global warming exacerbates the effects of El Niño, the most recent of which was experienced in the country from 2015 to 2016.

There will also be threats to natural ecosystems. There will be loss of coral. The 2016 Low Carbon Monitor Report foresees that 98 percent of coral reefs in Southeast Asia will die by 2050, practically an extinction by the end of the century if current global warming trends continue.

By 2051 to 2060, the maximum fish catch potential of Philippine seas will decrease by as much as 50 percent compared to 2001-2010 levels. Just now, it was announced we are importing 25,000 metric tons of frozen fish, including galunggong.

The Department of Agriculture estimated that 413,456 farmers have been directly affected by El Niño-associated droughts and dry spells.

Our rice yields will decline. An analysis of temperature trends and irrigated field experiments at the International Rice Research Institute shows that grain yield decreased by at least 10 percent for each 1°C increase in growing-season minimum temperature in the dry season.

A decline in mango production by four percent was reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) this year.

Climate change also causes sea level to rise. Observed sea level rise is remarkably highest at 60 centimeters in the Philippines, about three times that of the global average of 19 centimeters.

This puts at risk 60 percent of LGUs covering 64 coastal provinces, 822 coastal municipalities, 25 major coastal cities, and an estimated 13.6 million Filipinos that will need relocation.

Water scarcity is already one of our major problems arising from rapid urbanization. Climate change is pushing it to crisis level. A study by the World Resources Institute predicts that the Philippines will experience a 'high' degree of water shortage by the year 2040.

The country ranked 57th as the most water stressed country in 2040 out of 167 countries. The sector that will bear the brunt of water shortage by that year is agriculture, a major component of the country's economy and which currently employs most of the country's workforce.

Of course, Metro Manila's 20 million plus population is very vulnerable to a water shortage. It is over 90 percent dependent on Angat Dam and previous droughts caused the dam's water to go near critical level.

Where do we go from here? Our DENR Secretary is a world class expert on climate change. If she is given proper political support, she should be able to do much to contain the abuses of our environment from politicians and other vested interests.

But a big problem is energy. We are now largely dependent on coal. We need a credible program that shifts our dependence from coal to renewable energy sources.

Problem is financing the transition to clean energy. The World Economic Forum observed that developing countries need assistance to fund technology transfer to enable rapid, wide-scale development and deployment of renewable energy infrastructure.

So far, it is still all talk... our poor grandchildren!

## [G20 is holding a summit in Bali this week. What that could mean for the Philippines](#)

By Gaea Katreena Cabico

BALI, Indonesia — The G20 summit in Indonesia should result in the delivery of adequate climate financing to developing countries and decarbonization measures as countries like the Philippines bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change.

Leaders of G20, or Group of 20 industrialized nations, will gather in Bali, Indonesia this week against the backdrop of extreme weather events across the world, an energy crisis resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and continued China-US tensions.

Philippines urged to call for climate reparations from rich nations  
Indonesia, this year's host and Southeast Asia's only G20 member state, seeks to frame the summit's agenda around global health architecture, sustainable energy transition, and digital transformation.

"Indonesia's G20 presidency holds significance in terms of at least two things. One, it is one of the most vital countries in the urgent task of a swift, equitable and just transition out of fossil fuels in order to limit global warming to below 1.5°C," Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development, told Philstar.com.

Indonesia is dubbed as coal's last bastion as it is heavily reliant on the planet-warming fossil fuel. The Southeast Asian country is also the world's largest exporter of coal, and the Philippines imports most of its supply from Indonesia.

Indonesia should also lead in demanding full delivery of climate finance obligations that developed countries have made, Nacpil added. The financing is meant to cover the costs of mitigation and adaptation for poorer countries, as well as for loss and damage to vulnerable nations.

"The G20 summit must deliver on urgent climate actions, especially at this time as intensifying climate impacts are hitting many countries in Asia," she said.

### **Why it matters**

The G20 is composed of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

Seventeen G20 heads of state, including US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, will convene on the Indonesian resort island on November 14 and 15.

The Philippines, while not a G20 nation, has a lot at stake at the summit.

"[It] is among the countries most impacted by issues that are truly global in nature—such as the climate and energy crises from massive dependence on fossil fuels," Avril De Torres, deputy executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, told Philstar.com.

"The policy and development directions put forward by global powers gathering next week in Indonesia can dictate how these crises will or not be addressed," she added.

### **Crucial results not expected**

APMDD's Nacpil said groups are not expecting "significant" outcomes from the summit in Bali, noting that G20 gatherings have always been dominated by the interests of Group of Seven or G7 governments and hijacked by geopolitics.

G7 is an informal bloc of the world's advanced economies such as Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

"G7 governments have been making many promises—on climate finance, on ending fossil fuel subsidies this year, on the rapid phase out of fossil fuels. But they have been very short on implementation, the promises are riddled with exceptions and loopholes," Nacpil said.

Last year's G20 summit in Rome urged for "meaningful and effective" action to limit global warming, but climate activists criticized the bloc for offering few concrete pledges. They committed to stop financing coal power overseas, but set no timetable for phasing it out in their home countries.

The G20 Leaders' Summit will take place on November 15 to 16, coinciding with the second week of the COP27 climate talks in Egypt. The financing for loss and damage is a major topic for conversation at the summit in the resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh.

"What's the sure thing is that the climate vulnerable group, the V20s, the finance ministers, and the G7 will be launching their climate shield against climate risks," Sara Jane Ahmed, finance advisor of the Vulnerable Group of Twenty, told ABS-CBN News Channel.

"[T]his is one way to move forward on the loss and damage agenda in order to ensure that there is prearranged and trigger-based financing made available for countries, enterprises, and communities."

## [\[Opinion\] Israel's climate of innovation on COP 27](#)

By Ilan Fluss

The world is drastically changing and we are in the midst of a powerful climate crisis that is only getting worse. Widespread floods, devastating typhoons, severe droughts, biodiversity and more pressure on different species – this is only a partial list of the major disasters which UN experts have told us, time and time again, are only likely to increase as we continue to emit greenhouse gases.

The climate crisis spares no one. The Philippines, for example, is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. In my more than a year of residing here as a diplomat, I have experienced a number of typhoons and have seen the damages they brought to the livelihood, infrastructure, agriculture and lives of Filipinos. The climate crisis that the world is going through today is making typhoons worse, which is more challenging not only for the Philippines but also for the whole world.

Israel, on the other hand, is a country located in an arid region and facing chronic water shortages and droughts, high temperatures, changing patterns of rainfall and a difficult environment for agricultural development. Israel has had to invent innovative solutions to address these challenges.

Through decades of knowledge and experience, Israel has found practical solutions to climate challenges, which it wishes to share in the ongoing COP 27 annual climate conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. World leaders, government and private sector representatives, experts and policy formulators gather around to discuss ways to prevent the climate crisis. Participating from Israel is a high-ranking delegation led by the president and joined by representatives from all sectors.

Israel's efforts and investments are towards research and development of innovations, technologies and practices that involve areas essential to handling the climate crisis. Israel has established a community of innovation called planetech, it includes all relevant stakeholders and looks into developing innovation good for the planet. Some of the areas we are looking at are efficiency of water resources and creation of new water sources, drought-resistant and precision agriculture, invention of animal protein substitutes and sustainable crops, energy efficiency and energy storage, restoration and preservation of forests in arid areas, circular economy and the production of new materials that are environment-friendly. Many ideas also come from an active and aware civil society, which contributes to the climate-environmental discourse and activities that are often integrated into government action.

Evidence of Israel's desire to share information and experience is the establishment, for the first time, of an Israeli pavilion at a COP conference. The pavilion will focus on climate innovation and solutions, and dozens of events aimed at creating international and regional cooperation in the Middle East. Regional and international cooperation is

critical to dealing with the climate crisis; therefore, our goal is that every event at the Israeli pavilion will create a long-term partnership and process.

Speaking of partnership, here in the Philippines, the embassy of Israel continues to collaborate with the relevant government agencies and private sector to exchange knowledge and experience, as well as assist in the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, especially to achieve food security. Israel is collaborating with TESDA for an 11-month agriculture internship program in Israel. Filipino interns learn from Israel's advanced techniques and methods of smart agriculture, with the goal that they would apply the learnings once they go back to the Philippines. An estimated number of 10,000 Filipino professionals has benefited from this program.

Another example is MASHAV – Israel's agency for international development cooperation, which is active here in the Philippines. Filipino scholars attend MASHAV training courses to immerse in Israel's environmental management, climate change initiatives, renewable energy management and more.

As the Ambassador of Israel to the Philippines, I am eager to introduce Israeli innovation and technology to the Philippines that could help prevent the climate crisis.

In fact, the embassy is initiating an exhibit at the Philippine Senate of Israeli technologies present in the Philippines. The said technologies address the challenges for smart agriculture, water shortage and more. Aside from the exhibit, a series of roundtable discussions between relevant Philippine government officials and Israeli experts will be conducted to bring more Israeli innovation and technology to the Philippines, especially on climate innovation.

International cooperation in the field of climate innovation provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the economy for the benefit of all, create new jobs and advance human prosperity, while preserving nature, the climate and ecological diversity. One example of such collaboration is the triangular project where solar technology will produce energy in the desert in Jordan. This will be channeled to a water desalination plant in Israel that will supply potable drinking water back to Jordan. This is supported by investment from the UAE. It's a private sector led initiative supported by the government. This project is a reflection of the new Middle East collaboration on critical issues of sustainability and for the survival of the people and countries of the region.

The success of the COP 27 conference is of the utmost importance, as well as the advancement of all the issues it will focus on: the continuation of global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adoption of a global goal for adaptation and adjustment to the climate crisis, development of technologies, international cooperation mechanisms and more.

Israel, as a climate of innovation, is proud to join countries around the world in the COP27 and to share creative Israeli solutions, which are contributing to the fight against

climate change. Israel hopes that the Sharm el-Sheikh conference will mark a positive turning point in the future of humanity. Come and see us at the Israeli pavilion at COP 27!

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