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By Biena Magbitang

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AP NEWS

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CNN NEWS

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By Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Metro Manila — Filipino environmental advocates have expressed impatience with the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP27), saying no real negotiations have taken place as the meeting enters its second week.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

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By Kelly Macnamara Agence France Presse

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MANILA STANDARD

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Monday welcomed the public's participation to attain climate goals, backing groups, and organizations battling for climate justice.

NIKKEI ASIA

[India, Bangladesh crank up pressure for more climate funding](#)

By: Sayumi Take and Rhyannon Bartlett-Imadegawa

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt/LONDON -- Environmental ministers from India and Bangladesh are pushing industrialized countries for greater action to fight climate change while stressing their own commitments, as the COP27 United Nations climate conference heads toward its Friday finish.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Marcos, Trudeau discuss ways to manage climate change, MSMEs](#)

By Azer Parrocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Sunday met to discuss ways to manage climate change and assist Filipino micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) grow their business.

[APEC Economic Leaders' Week kicks off in Thailand](#)

BANGKOK – The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum Week opens in the Thai capital of Bangkok on Monday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[DENR vows support for One Planet initiative](#)

By: Jane Bautista

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga pledged the country's commitment to support the One Planet initiative and take part in the partnerships of the program during her recent meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in Egypt.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Israel, Philippines exchange agriculture techniques](#)

By: The Manila Times

The Embassy of Israel in the Philippines, through MASHAV — Israel Agency for International Development Cooperation — in partnership with the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the United Nations Development Program in the Philippines through Accelerator Lab, held a learning exchange seminar on November 10 to tackle smart and sustainable agriculture of Israel and how to connect it to the current context and opportunities present in the agricultural sector of the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[ASEAN, US affirm strategic ties as Biden vows to address 'biggest issues of our time'](#)

Franco Luna and Kristine Joy Patag

MANILA, Philippines — Southeast Asian leaders and the United States committed to promoting maritime cooperation based on the universally recognized principles enshrined in international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or the UNCLOS.

[Quezon City backs call for climate justice](#)

By: Elizabeth Marcelo

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government has expressed its support for local advocacy groups and civil society organizations pushing for climate justice as world leaders, including the Philippine delegation, are currently gathered in Egypt for the United Nations 27th Session of Conference of the Parties (COP27).

CCC IN THE NEWS

RAPPLER

[Philippine delegation to COP27 faces leadership shake-up](#)

By: Jhesset Enano

MANILA, Philippines – Whether the Philippines' call for urgent climate action will be heard during high-stakes negotiations at the United Nations (UN) climate summit in Egypt rests on the shoulders of its 29-member delegation.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS-CBN NEWS ONLINE

Hopes high as US-China meet in G20 summit; non-member PH seen to benefit

By Biena Magbitang

BALI, Indonesia – Side events flooded the eve of the opening of the 17th Group of 20 (G20) summit here but all were overshadowed by the meeting between Joe Biden and Xi Jinping, leaders of the world's superpowers, US and China.

All it took was a handshake between the two heads of state to buoy hopes that the leaders of major economies gathered on the Indonesian island will collectively agree on steps to address global crises, among them climate change and sustainable energy transition. Washington and Beijing are the world's top two emitters.

"The global community is breathing a sigh of relief that President Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are restarting joint efforts to tackle climate change. There is simply no time left for geopolitical fault lines to tear the United States and China away from the climate negotiation table," Ani Dasgupta, President and CEO of World Resources Institute said in a statement.

The G20 summit taking place on November 15 to 16 coincides with the second week of the COP27 climate talks in Egypt but United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has traveled to the resort island to heap pressure on G20 nations to work together to slow global warming.

"I am convinced that we need to break the dramatic geopolitical divides and as I said in the COP27, there is no way in which we can address the climate challenge that we face without the cooperation of all G20 members and in particular without the cooperation of the two biggest economies, the United States and China," said Guterres addressing ABS-CBN News at a press conference at the Bali International Convention Center.

"Action – or inaction – by the G20 will determine whether every member of our human family has a chance to live sustainably and peacefully, on a healthy planet," he added.

'Backtrack' fears

Last week, Guterres also urged G20 leaders to take the lead in climate action, warning that humanity is on a 'highway to climate hell'.

"We are in the fight of our lives and we are losing ... And our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible," he told world leaders at the opening of COP27.

The UN chief's urgent calls are amid fears the G20 leaders are backtracking on their climate pledges. Last year, they committed to the key Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Concerns however arose after the G20 climate talks in August failed to agree on a joint communique. Instead, the members had backed the non-binding 'Bali Compact' which details a plan to speed up a clean energy transition.

Some experts remain hopeful but they are cautiously optimistic.

For Fabby Tumiwa, Executive Director of the Institute for Essential Services Reform, "the Bali Compact and Bali Energy Transition roadmap could ignite a strong Global South collaboration".

"Although we know the chance is slim, the (G20) Presidency still has two days to reach an agreement," he added.

"The reality is, geopolitical situations and each country's own agenda could hinder a meaningful message from the G20," said Giovanni Maurice Pradipta, Policy Advisor at Germanwatch.

Joshua Kurlantzick, senior fellow for Southeast Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations, meanwhile echoes the fears of some advocates, said that the G20 "probably will release a communique but it may be watered down."

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

G20's success to benefit PH

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.

Indonesia, this year's host and the only Southeast Asian nation in the bloc, will hold the Chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year, while India, another Asian nation will be given the G20 Presidency.

That is why Tumiwa believes the Philippines, despite not being a member of the group, will benefit should G20 leaders agree to "transform their energy systems" which could

not just reduce the risk of climate change but open up investment opportunities for the region as well.

UN climate talks enter home stretch split over money

Civil society organizations also acknowledge the role of the summit for the Philippines.

For Avril de Torres of the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, the country “must make its effort to pressure the summit’s attendees towards decarbonization and the access of most vulnerable peoples to resources that will move forward an equitable energy transition.”

They plan to gather on Wednesday to urge global leaders to deliver solutions to the climate crisis.

AP NEWS

[Climate confab heads into final week, warming goal uncertain yesterday](#)

Tens of thousands of delegates from nearly 200 countries, observers, experts, activists and journalists, returned to the conference zone in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh after a one day break.

The U.N.'s top climate official appealed for constructive diplomacy to match the high-flying rhetoric heard during the opening days of the talks.

“Let me remind negotiators that people and planet are relying on this process to deliver,” U.N. Climate Secretary Simon Stiell said.

“Let’s use our remaining time in Egypt to build the bridges needed to make progress,” he added, citing the goals of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) as agreed in the Paris climate accord, adapting to climate change, and providing financial aid to vulnerable nations trying to cope with its impacts.

What happens at the G-20 in Bali, as well as the Xi-Biden meetings, will be crucial to what happens at the climate summit. If the G-20 makes progress on climate, it will be easier in Egypt, but if they backslide, especially on the 1.5 goal, it will undermine the climate summit, said Alden Meyer, a long-time observer of U.N. climate meetings with the environmental think tank E3G.

“What the two presidents decide in Bali will play directly into the endgame here in Sharm El-Sheikh,” he said.

One key issue is if the G-20 continues last year’s agreement to make the 1.5 degree climate goal an aim of the G-20 too. If there’s a push to drop it, it would be a setback for climate change fighting, Meyer said.

The “cover decision,” which lays out the political goals, will be key and “discussions of them started late,” Meyer said. Some nations don’t even want one of these all-encompassing documents that often get named after the city they were written, like the Glasgow Climate Pact, while others are pushing for a strong one, he said.

“The negotiators’ job is to not make any concessions until ministers come,” he said.

Some delegates were already talking about the possibility of a walkout by developing nations unless key demands for more aid to poor countries are met during the talks.

A key theme at the COP27 meeting is a call for wealthy industrialized nations that benefited most from industrial activities that contributed to global warming to do more to help poor countries who have contributed little to global emissions. Their demands

include compensation for loss and damage from extreme floods, storms and other effects of climate change suffered by developing countries.

The Group of Seven leading economies launched a new insurance system Monday to provide swift financial aid when nations are hit by devastating effects of climate change.

The so-called Global Shield is backed by the V20 group of 58 climate-vulnerable nations and will initially receive more than 200 million euros (dollars) in funding, mostly from Germany. Initial recipients include Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegal.

Ghana's Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta called it "a path-breaking effort" that would help protect communities when lives and livelihoods are lost.

But civil society groups were skeptical, warning that the program should not be used as a way to distract from the much broader effort to get big polluters to pay for the loss and damage they've already caused with their greenhouse gases.

Poorer, vulnerable nations also want financing to help them shift to clean energy and for projects to adapt to global warming.

The talks are due to wrap up on Friday but could extend into the weekend if negotiators need more time to reach an agreement.

CNN PHILIPPINES

[COP27 first week: Filipino advocates demand bold climate commitments from global leaders](#)

By Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring, CNN Philippines

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 14) — Filipino environmental advocates have expressed impatience with the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP27), saying no real negotiations have taken place as the meeting enters its second week.

Youth groups from the country submitted a statement at the conference, calling on the Global North to immediately end its pollution and to urgently deliver its responsibilities to the Global South.

The Global North refers to rich and powerful regions like North America, Europe and Australia. The Global South groups poorer areas in Asia, Latin America, Africa and Oceania, where most of the climate-vulnerable countries are located.

"We remind you that the 1.5 °C goal is non-negotiable. In playing the blame game and pretending we have time we truly don't, you are taking away our hope for a livable future," the declaration read.

The Glasgow climate pact negotiated at the COP 26 in 2021 agreed to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 °C, beyond which climate change effects will be irreversible.

The groups, represented by a delegation led by Krishna Arriola of the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), said they are also supporting the Philippine government and delegation in holding Global North leaders accountable.

"But these demands will prove toothless if we fail to also recognize that massive action is needed in every part of the world, and that the reign of fossil fuels must be abolished — even in the Philippines," they added.

Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga is leading the country's delegation and has already met with various leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron.

According to a statement, Lozaga also held a bilateral meeting with Christophe Béchu, French Minister for Ecological Transition and Cohesion of the Territories, during which Béchu expressed France's desire to explore further areas for cooperation such as technical assistance on natural parks management, ecological transition, and plastics management.

Lozaga also co-moderated a high-level ministerial dialogue on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance where select leaders shared how climate funding will help developing nations.

But while COP27 convenes the global community to stress the need for climate action, groups in the Philippines said such a conference will only be a "big public relations move," so they continued on Saturday their calls to stop land conversion, reclamation projects, and destructive mining, among others.

Chuckie Calsado, national chairperson of Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham), said he expects that global leaders will just be "business as usual" once the conference ends on Nov. 18.

"They will still maintain na alam naman nila na 'yong pagri-release ng carbon dioxide at iba pang greenhouse gases ay magpapalala sa usapin ng klima pero ipapasok at ipapasok pa rin nila as much as possible kung paano sila magpo-profit dito," Calsado said.

"Kung usapin na magtatagumpay ba ang COP, siguro sa pinakamakitid na definition ng mga imperyalistang bansa, pero para sa benepisyo ng mamamayan ay hindi ito maaabot," he added.

[Translation: They will still maintain that they know that releasing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases will worsen the climate but they will still insert as much as possible ways to profit from this. On the question if COP will succeed in its goals, they might if based on the narrowest definition of imperialist countries, but if for the benefits of people, it will not.]

Various artists exhibit their artworks in a local fair in Intramuros on Nov. 13 to highlight the need of using culture and the arts to address the climate crisis.

For their part, art collective Agam Agenda gathered various artists and advocates in Intramuros on Nov. 13 to conduct an art fair where they shared books, artworks, and performances that influence climate action.

Agam Agenda said climate movements must use art and storytelling to help in envisioning collective realities, highlighting that culture must have a central role in building resilient futures.

"Culture lives outside any walls. Outside any conference. But there is a responsibility that comes with occupying spaces of power as well," it said. "As world leaders and decision-makers meet to determine the fate of many communities, the contributions of culture need to be spotlighted as valuable knowledge sources for collectively reimagining and creating paths towards regenerative planetary relationships."

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Climate disaster aid scheme 'Global Shield' launched at COP27](#)

By Kelly Macnamara Agence France Presse

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt - A scheme to give speedy financial support to communities battered by climate disasters was launched Monday by a group of rich and developing nations at the UN COP27 summit in Egypt.

The "Global Shield against Climate Risks" comes as many of the most vulnerable nations are also demanding wider compensation for the "loss and damage" they have already suffered from a heating planet.

The initiative, backed by the G7 and launched with initial funding of more than \$200 million, aims to provide "pre-arranged financial support designed to be quickly deployed in times of climate disasters".

The Global Shield project "is long overdue", said Ken Ofori-Atta, Ghana's finance minister and chair of the V20 group of nations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

"It has never been a question of who pays for loss and damage, because we are paying for it," he said in recorded remarks at the summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh.

"Our economies pay for it in lost growth prospects, our enterprises pay for it in business disruption, and our communities pay for it in lives and livelihoods lost."

He said he hoped the project would help the most vulnerable communities but also aid wider understanding of the challenges emerging economies face as they are being hammered by climate-induced floods, heatwaves or droughts.

A first group of nations that will benefit from the scheme includes Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegal.

'Need protection now'

Nations at the COP27 agreed this year for the first time to include the thorny topic of loss and damage on the formal agenda, after years of reluctance from richer polluters wary of creating open-ended liability.

Germany said the Global Shield scheme, largely in the form of insurance that pays out immediately after -- or even before -- a climate disaster, would be part of a broader effort to respond to loss and damage.

Svenja Schulze, Germany's minister of economic cooperation and development, stressed that the scheme was not "a tactic" to sidestep calls for a specific loss and damage funding mechanism.

"The Global Shield isn't the one and only solution for loss and damage, certainly not," she said, adding that more funding will be needed to cover more countries.

"Those most affected by climate impacts need practical action now."

The Global Shield is designed to provide a range of financial, social and credit protection and insurance for loss of crops, livestock, property and other goods.

It also promises to support the swift delivery of funds for humanitarian agencies responding to disasters.

'Life and death'

A formal loss and damage funding stream would likely go further, also covering longer-onset climate impacts such as sea level rise and threats to cultural heritage.

Besides \$170 million from Germany, funding includes \$20 million from France, \$10 million from Ireland, \$7 million from Canada and \$4.7 million from Denmark.

France later said its total commitment would be \$60 million over three years.

The V20 bloc, made up of 58 developing nations, released research this year that estimated countries had lost some \$525 billion to climate impacts since 2000.

Ninety-eight percent of the nearly 1.5 billion people in V20 countries do not have financial protection, it said.

"We're talking about people living under the poverty line, they're not going to be buying insurance," said Rachel Cleetus, lead economist at the Union of Concerned Scientists' climate program.

"Insurance can help you up to a point but climate change is now creating conditions in many parts of the world that are beyond the bounds of what's insurable," she told AFP, referring to sea level rise, desertification and the mass displacement of populations.

Teresa Anderson of ActionAid International said the scheme showed that the global community recognized the need to act on loss and damage, but said it was a "distraction" from negotiations on a dedicated funding mechanism for climate damages.

"Everyone knows that insurance companies, by their very nature, are either reluctant to provide coverage, or reluctant to pay out," she said. "But when it comes to loss and damage, this is a matter of life and death." -- Agence France-Presse

MANILA STANDARD

[Belmonte welcomes people's participation vs. climate change](#)

By Rio N. Arajaby

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Monday welcomed the public's participation to attain climate goals, backing groups, and organizations battling for climate justice.

"We welcome all forms of freedom of expression, especially in our advocacy in promoting our climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The city is strongly encouraging people's participation in this cause as everyone, regardless of their age or economic status, is affected by global climate change," she said.

Various civil society organizations are set to gather at the Quezon Memorial Circle for a "March for Climate Justice" to call on decision-makers to deliver solutions to the global climate and economic crises while they are attending this year's COP 27 (2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference) in Egypt and G20 summit in Indonesia.

The city government is known as one of the leading localities in the Philippines pushing for climate justice.

In 2019, the city declared a climate emergency that initiated the establishment of clean, sustainable and environment-friendly programs for the QCitizens.

QC is also the only Philippine city in the C40 Cities, a global network of mayors taking urgent action to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone can thrive.

During the C40 Cities World Mayors Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October, Belmonte reiterated her call on international climate financing institutions to work with cities to support the implementation of their climate action plans for them to achieve their mitigation and adaptation targets as soon as possible.

"The city's programs for climate change will not come to fruition without the efforts of the public. We encourage a whole-of-city approach to ensure that the city's initiatives are truly sustainable and responsive to the communities' needs, without risking the lives and livelihood of the residents."

"Everyone is affected by global climate change. Every action, suggestions, and concerns of stakeholders are important for the further development of our programs," Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department chief Andrea Villaroman said.

NIKKEI ASIA

[India, Bangladesh crank up pressure for more climate funding](#)

By: Sayumi Take and Rhyannon Bartlett-Imadegawa

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt/LONDON -- Environmental ministers from India and Bangladesh are pushing industrialized countries for greater action to fight climate change while stressing their own commitments, as the COP27 United Nations climate conference heads toward its Friday finish.

"Bangladesh feels disappointed with the progress on climate finance" at the conference, Environment Minister Shahab Uddin told reporters in Sharm El-Sheikh on Monday.

Developing countries have long accused industrialized nations -- which benefited economically from their historically heavy emissions of greenhouse gases -- of not paying their fair share for damages linked to climate change. Climate finance refers to funding to reduce carbon emissions and compensate developing countries for economic losses tied to climate hazards and disasters.

All COP27 participants say an agreement needs to be reached at this conference, but their positions remain far apart.

"The global community still lacks the feeling of urgency and true commitment" to combat global warming, Uddin said.

Uddin called for steadfast commitment from developed nations, while noting that his country was working to cut its emissions despite being one of the smallest emitters of greenhouse gases worldwide.

India expressed similar sentiments as it announced on the sidelines of COP27 its new long-term strategy for reducing emissions, highlighting the use of cleaner resources like hydrogen and enhancing forestry to shift away from fossil fuels.

India's plan is estimated to cost trillions of dollars by 2050, with "a very significant role" to be played by climate finance from developed nations, the country said in a statement released on Monday.

Speaking at an event touting the new strategy, Bhupender Yadav, India's environmental minister, criticized developed nations, saying they were prioritizing their energy security "above" their "duty" to work harder on cutting emissions.

Developed nations such as Germany are working to respond to this distrust. The Group of Seven leading industrialized economies launched an initiative during the conference to quickly provide insurance and disaster protection to countries especially vulnerable to climate damage.

Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines are among the first recipients of the finance package to be implemented "immediately" after COP27. At least 210 million euros (\$217.2 million) has been added to fund the initiative by Germany and others.

Germany is "convinced" this can provide "effective support" for countries suffering from climate change, said Svenja Schulze, the nation's development minister, while acknowledging this is "only one part of the answer."

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Marcos, Trudeau discuss ways to manage climate change, MSMEs](#)

By Azer Parrocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Sunday met to discuss ways to manage climate change and assist Filipino micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) grow their business.

In a bilateral meeting at the Sokha Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Marcos cited the Philippines' experience in dealing with Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (international name Nalgae) as among the direct effects of climate change.

"It was a very strange one because it was the very first one in our history where every single part of the country was affected by one typhoon. From up in the northern part, the northern island of Luzon, all the way down to the southern part of the Philippines. Everybody felt it and felt it badly," he told Trudeau.

Marcos explained that the consequences of climate change greatly affect the Philippines, which is very vulnerable due to its geography.

He described the Philippines as a sink that absorbs carbon dioxide (CO₂).

"...This is how it developed and this is how it has evolved. We have to manage it and we have to deal with it so... these are the consequences of that neglect," Marcos said.

Trudeau, for his part, said Canada had the same experience after the country was hit by recent hurricanes on the East Coast, forest fires, droughts and floods.

"Unfortunately over the past decade as we -- as people still talk about global warming, rather than climate change, there are a number of Canadians who went around saying, 'Oh global warming that will be good for us...,'" the Canadian leader said.

Although some failed to realize the unpredictability and consequences of climate change in the past, Trudeau said it was a "big step" that more people are now aware of the reality of the effects of climate change. However, he said there is still "a lot of work" to do.

Trudeau likewise extended his sympathies to the Philippines following the devastation caused by Paeng which resulted in casualties and damage to agriculture, properties and infrastructure.

Doing business, MSMEs

Meanwhile, Marcos welcomed Trudeau's offer to collaborate to simplify the process of allowing Canadian infrastructure builders to secure projects in the country and help Filipino micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) develop.

He said that one of the thrusts of his administration is to assist MSMEs in recovering from the pandemic.

"They are 99.8 percent of our businesses, our MSMEs. They are 62.63 percent of our employment. [They] are employed in MSMEs. And it took a big hit in the pandemic. And so that's what we've been trying to do -- is to try to support them, and it has a very large multiplier effect," he said.

Trudeau said there were "a number of things" that can be done to make it easier for Canadian investors to establish infrastructure in the Philippines.

"We should make sure we're accelerating our works so that we can be much more active partners on that," he said.

He said there were a number of programs he could share that would help MSMEs, particularly those that are women-owned and run, succeed. (PNA)

[APEC Economic Leaders' Week kicks off in Thailand](#)

BANGKOK – The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum Week opens in the Thai capital of Bangkok on Monday.

From Nov. 14 to 19, the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center will host meetings of senior APEC officials, ministerial meetings, plenary sessions, exhibitions and a number of other events related to the forum.

It will end with a meeting of APEC Economic Leaders' meeting on Nov. 18-19, which will be attended by representatives of 21 economies.

The opening ceremony of the series of events will be chaired by Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

The authorities of the kingdom will present the biocircular green economy model developed and adopted as a national strategy for sustainable development in the post-Covid period.

The initiative focuses on economic growth based on efficient use of resources, reduction of waste, and carbon emissions.

It combines socio-economic tasks that all countries are solving and the goals of environmental protection, combating climate change, the green transition, and the development of renewable energy sources.

Forum members

The Thai government repeatedly stressed its full readiness to host the APEC forum.

In late October, the authorities, including the Prime Minister, reported that all economies accepted the invitation of the kingdom.

Every country was free to decide on the level of delegation, which would represent it at the forum depending on its internal situation.

As a result, the leaders of Australia, Vietnam, Brunei, Indonesia, Canada, China, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the Philippines, Chile and Japan, as well as the head of the administration of Hong Kong, confirmed their personal presence.

However, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, United States, Taiwan and South Korea chose for lower-level representation.

The Russian Federation will be represented by First Deputy Prime Minister Andrey Belousov, and the United States by Vice President Kamala Harris.

Three representatives of countries that are not members of the forum will also come to APEC at the invitation of the Prime Minister: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Saudi Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

The leaders of China, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam, in addition to visiting the APEC forum, will meet with the Prime Minister of Thailand at the Government House, where they will hold bilateral talks.

About APEC

APEC consists of 19 countries and two territories. In particular these are 12 founders: Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, USA, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea and Japan.

Other participants include China (entered in 1991), Mexico and Papua New Guinea (1993), Chile (1994), Russia, Vietnam and Peru (1998).

In 1991, two Chinese territories joined APEC: Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Thailand has taken over the chairmanship of the organization from New Zealand and will hand it over to the US. (TASS)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[DENR vows support for One Planet initiative](#)

By: Jane Bautista

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga pledged the country's commitment to support the One Planet initiative and take part in the partnerships of the program during her recent meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in Egypt.

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Launched in 2017, the One Planet movement is intended to promote and develop "tangible" solutions for a transition to a low-carbon economy that would help in climate change adaptation and the protection of biodiversity.

"Secretary Loyzaga indicated the Philippines' support for the One Planet Initiative and willingness to engage in these partnerships to explore ways on how the parties can work together to achieve the goals of this program," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said in a recent news release.

Loyzaga met with Macron at the One Planet High-Level Summit on vital reserves of carbon and biodiversity during the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties.

Before the summit, the environment chief also had a bilateral meeting with Christophe Bechu, French minister for ecological transition and cohesion of the territories, wherein Loyzaga reaffirmed the Philippines' participation in the UN Biodiversity Conference that will take place in Canada in December. INQ

THE MANILA TIMES

[Israel, Philippines exchange agriculture techniques](#)

By: The Manila Times

The Embassy of Israel in the Philippines, through MASHAV — Israel Agency for International Development Cooperation — in partnership with the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the United Nations Development Program in the Philippines through Accelerator Lab, held a learning exchange seminar on November 10 to tackle smart and sustainable agriculture of Israel and how to connect it to the current context and opportunities present in the agricultural sector of the Philippines.

"As the Ambassador of Israel to the Philippines, I look forward to materializing the visions for the agriculture sector of the Philippines to address the request of President Marcos," Ambassador Ilan Fluss said.

The Israeli Ambassador elaborated that Israel is ready to assist the Philippines to move from traditional subsistence farming to modern smart agriculture, which is based in agronomy, Science, technology, economics, and sustainability.

Three Israeli experts on agriculture shared their experiences and insights with the key agricultural stakeholders of the Philippines on the following topics: Global challenges, sharing Israel's agricultural experience by Nina Lehmann; Crop management - strategies in dealing with the new pest and unexpected challenges based on the case study of the mango pest called cecid fly (locally known as kurikong) by Eli Simenski; and Improving irrigation efficiency and resource management as a leading measure in dealing with climate change and market demands by Moshe Broner.

The seminar focused on the challenges in the Philippines and how Israel's approach can be adapted in the Philippine context. Also discussed were the strategies on how to deal with the effects of climate change, new ways of working in the sector while collaborating with the private sector, commercial farming, Science-based approach to agriculture and water management, among others.

In attendance during the discussions were UNDP RR Selva Ramachandran, Assistant Secretary Agnes Catherine Miranda of the Department of Agriculture, and Mayor Frolibar Bautista of Malay, Aklan. Also featured was Jackie Go, a Filipino entrepreneur who shared her experience and the promising results after using the Israeli approach in her cacao farm here in the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[ASEAN, US affirm strategic ties as Biden vows to address 'biggest issues of our time'](#)

By: Franco Luna and Kristine Joy Patag

MANILA, Philippines — Southeast Asian leaders and the United States committed to promoting maritime cooperation based on the universally recognized principles enshrined in international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or the UNCLOS.

This was among the declarations made by heads of nations at the 10th ASEAN-United States (U.S.) Summit and the commemoration of the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, on November 12.

ASEAN leaders and US President Joe Biden vowed they will “[uphold] freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of dispute... through heightened cooperation and coordination among maritime law enforcement agencies.”

"The Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership outlines our shared commitments under ASEAN’s political-security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars, and its priorities for cooperation," the leaders said in a joint statement issued through the White House.

Among the commitments they signed is advancing efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals “by promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

They stressed a focus on “eradicating poverty, promoting the conservation of natural resources and the environment, and promoting peace and prosperity through equitable development and sustainable economic growth, including in the fields of energy resilience [and] enhance partnerships in economic and technological cooperation, catalyze investments in high-standard, transparent, and climate-resilient infrastructure.”

The heads of government also vowed "practical cooperation" in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, humanitarian mine action, and cyber security through the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus framework.

They also committed to building "people-to-people connectivity within the region and beyond" by enhancing economic and socio-cultural cooperation, focusing on good governance and the rule of law, investing in human capital development, empowering youth and vulnerable or marginalized groups, advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, investing in education, promoting and protecting cultural heritage, and empowering women and girls and promoting gender equity and equality.

South China Sea among 'biggest issues of our time'

US President Biden has earlier said he will discuss "the biggest issues of our time" in his first visit to Southeast Asia as president, saying the region was "at the heart of our Indo-Pacific strategy ."

"Together, we will tackle the biggest issues of our time, from climate change to health security; defend against the significant threats of rules-based order — to rules-based order and to the — threats to the rule of law; and to build an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, stable and prosperous, resilient and secure," Biden said in his remarks at the Summit.

"We're putting real resources behind our approach, not just rhetoric. Over the last year, my administration has announced more than \$250 million in new initiatives with ASEAN," the US president added.

For next year, Biden said he already requested \$825 million in assistance for Southeast Asia. "We're continuing to build on that progress, following through on our commitments and launching concrete new initiatives that further strengthen ASEAN and increase — increase connectivity across Southeast Asia," he continued.

In a statement, the White House said that both the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States share relevant fundamental principles in promoting an open, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture, in which ASEAN is central, alongside partners who share in these goals.

According to Biden, Washington is pushing for a U.S.-ASEAN Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Initiative and a U.S.-ASEAN Platform for Infrastructure and Connectivity to develop an electric vehicle ecosystem in Southeast Asia and bring the benefits of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment to the ASEAN countries.

"Through this platform, we'll develop projects together, based on the needs you identify, to create sustainable, high-standard infrastructure that supports the people of the region. We will build a better future — the better future we all say we want to see and we're going to see for all but — all one billion people in our countries," he said.

Quezon City backs call for climate justice

By: Elizabeth Marcelo

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government has expressed its support for local advocacy groups and civil society organizations pushing for climate justice as world leaders, including the Philippine delegation, are currently gathered in Egypt for the United Nations 27th Session of Conference of the Parties (COP27).

“We welcome all forms of freedom of expression, especially in our advocacy in promoting climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The city is strongly encouraging people’s participation for this cause as everyone, regardless of their age or economic status, is affected by global climate change,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

Belmonte issued the statement as advocacy groups and civil society organizations are set to gather at the Quezon City Memorial Circle tomorrow to urge government officials attending the COP27 in Egypt as well as the 17th Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Indonesia to “deliver solutions to the global climate and economic crises.”

Quezon City is known as one of the leading cities in the Philippines pushing for climate resilience and use of clean energy.

In 2019, the city declared a climate emergency, which initiated the establishment of clean, sustainable and environment-friendly programs.

It is also the only city in the Philippines which belongs to the C40 Cities, a global network of mayors taking urgent action to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone can thrive.

During the C40 Cities World Mayors Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October, Belmonte reiterated her call on international climate financing institutions to work with cities to support the implementation of their climate action plans for them to achieve their mitigation and adaptation targets.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

RAPPLER

[Philippine delegation to COP27 faces leadership shake-up](#)

By: Jhesset Enano

MANILA, Philippines – Whether the Philippines' call for urgent climate action will be heard during high-stakes negotiations at the United Nations (UN) climate summit in Egypt rests on the shoulders of its 29-member delegation.

As the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) wrapped up its first week and enters the more tense second week of negotiations, however, the Philippine team finds itself without its original head of delegation as well as top officials of the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, who was appointed CCC chairperson-designate by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., returned to the country last week to attend the deliberation of the 2023 budget in the Senate, according to several Filipino civil society representatives observing the negotiations in Sharm El Sheikh.

For the same reason, Secretary Robert Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director, also flew back home after only a few days in the conference. He was present in the Senate last Thursday, November 10, for the scheduled deliberation of the commission's proposed P128-million budget in 2023.

The hearing was deferred to this week, however, after Senate Pro Tempore Loren Legarda questioned the absence of CCC commissioners Rachel Anne Herrera and Albert dela Cruz Sr. Both officials are also part of the delegation in Egypt.

“They are not negotiators, I know that very well,” Legarda told the Senate plenary. “If Secretary Borje – the vice chair – is here, why are Rachel and Albert there?”

Legarda said she would reserve her questions for the CCC until the return of the two commissioners to the country.

The Senate is expected to finish deliberations on the 2023 National Expenditure Program by November 16. COP27 is scheduled to end two days after, on November 18.

“The two commissioners must come home.... They need to come home this weekend,” Legarda said, adding that the CCC must be ready to present a report about their work in COP27 to the Senate plenary.

Rappler reached out to members of the Philippine delegation to ask about their next move following the developments, but none have responded as of writing.

In this year's COP, Filipino climate delegates and negotiators are expected to represent and forward the country's interests and demands on climate finance, climate adaptation, loss and damage, and technology transfer, which are the priorities outlined in a statement by Loyzaga as head of delegation.

According to Filipino observers present at COP27, Philippine ambassador to Egypt Ezzedin Tago is the new head of the Philippine delegation. He was initially designated deputy head. A career diplomat, Tago has no known prior experience in climate negotiations.

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