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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Patrick Garcia

The Makati City local government received the National Capital Region (NCR) Resilience Champion Award given by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the United Nations Development Programme Philippines (UNDP PH).

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Government leaders, businesses, and civil society organizations gather in the southern Malaysian city of Johor Bahru to enhance cooperation and discuss climate solutions in Asia and the Pacific, one of the regions most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

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By: Gilbert Pardez

At the Pre-COP28 gathering in Abu Dhabi, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the need for heightened collaboration on nature-based solutions to tackle the climate action gap. CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera emphasized the pivotal role of carbon sequestration in nature's contribution to reducing greenhouse gas concentrations.

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[CCC, Nestlé PH, And GMA Network Unite To Address Climate Change](#)

The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms that its impacts are already occurring in every region across the globe, causing widespread damage to ecosystems and communities. Such impacts will escalate with the continued increase in global warming. If greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are not reduced by at least 43 percent by 2030 versus 2019 levels, global warming is projected to hit the 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2035.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC pushes for zero carbon neutrality to achieve climate-positive PH](#)

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has ongoing discussions with an environmental consulting service for possible collaboration to promote the development of carbon emission-reducing projects in the Philippines.

[Nature-based solutions key to addressing climate action gap by 2030](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the importance of enhancing collaboration on nature-based solutions to address the climate action gap.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[ADB loans PH \\$400 million to boost tax collection](#)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is loaning the Philippines \$400 million to boost tax collection.

In a statement, the ADB said the Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) Program Subprogram 1 helps the Philippines improve tax compliance, reduce tax avoidance, and raise more revenues from activities and products that have a major impact on the environment or contribute to climate change.

Under the DRM Program, the Philippines hopes to modernize the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) by offering services like online tax registration, return filing, and payment.

This can potentially increase the ratio of actual tax revenues to tax potential, from 75 percent in 2020 to at least 85 percent by 2026, the ADB said.

The Philippines wants to raise its tax-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio from 15 percent in 2020 to at least 15.9 percent by 2026, according to the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

The country's Asia-Pacific neighbors have a tax-to-GDP ratio of 17.6 percent, ADB noted.

Earlier this year, the ADB also loaned the Philippines \$303 million loan to upgrade and construct flood protection infrastructure in 3 major river basins, and another \$300 million to boost financial inclusion.

BUSINESS WORLD

[\[Opinion\] It's now or never to meet climate goals for the Philippines — and every second counts](#)

By: Kari Punnonen

To achieve our climate targets, we need carbon emissions to peak by 2025 and halve by the end of this decade.

The urgency of the situation is unequivocal, and the solution is equally clear: We need to triple renewable energy and require a seismic change in the level of investment — up to \$5.7 trillion per year by 2030 — to put us on course for the 1.5C Paris Agreement scenario. The final quarter of this year, as we build up to COP28, the UN Climate Change Conference, is the critical moment to shift our focus from targets to implementation at pace.

However, renewables alone are not enough to deliver the change we need. To enable wind and solar to thrive, we need to build flexible energy systems that are reliable and affordable. We cannot delay any longer.

WASTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Around the world, renewables are quickly becoming the cheapest form of new energy generation. Setting ambitious renewable energy targets and deploying wind and solar at scale is essential to enabling rapid decarbonization. However, investing trillions of dollars into wind and solar will waste energy and money if they are built into inflexible power systems.

For generations, we have been reliant upon traditional, inflexible power plants, such as coal and combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGT) to provide baseload power for our energy grids. These traditional power systems now need to adapt, as renewable energy is expected to meet 35% of global power generation by 2025. In the Philippines, the government published the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) 2020-2040, providing the strategic building blocks to decarbonize electricity by increasing renewable energy production and investment. The NREP has set a target of 35% renewable energy by 2030 and 50% by 2040. Although this is an important step in the right direction, lacking a clear net zero commitment is a challenge for the Philippines to join other countries in reaching climate targets.

As wind and solar power are intermittent, running them alongside inflexible baseload power plants, which cannot quickly ramp up and down to match the changing levels of

renewable power, can create significant issues, such as instability or unreliability for our power grids. As the level of renewable power on our grids increases in the coming years, a large share of these inflexible power plants will become obsolete, uneconomical stranded assets in our power grids.

We therefore need to combine the build out of renewables with a substantial increase in flexible capacity, such as grid balancing engines and energy storage, which can quickly ramp up and down to support wind and solar power. Because this flexible capacity can respond to sudden changes in demand and supply, it can also serve as different ancillary services in the grid. This includes, for example, frequency control, maintaining the stability and reliability of the grid, preventing blackouts and power disruptions.

A lack of flexibility often leads to renewables being switched off, or curtailed, as it is cheaper and easier to stop wind and solar from generating power than it is to switch off or ramp down a baseload power plant.

Flexibility is not an optional addition to our power systems with an increasing amount of renewables — it is an essential part of our future power grids. If we fail to deliver flexibility at scale, it will threaten our ability to provide affordable and reliable power to industry, homes, and businesses — while reaching our decarbonization targets. It will inhibit our ability to deliver reliable renewable power, which could have a significant impact on lives and livelihoods.

BUILDING AFFORDABLE POWER SYSTEMS

Wärtsilä has studied and modelled over 190 energy systems around the world, using energy market simulation software. We have found that anywhere in the world, the most cost-effective approach to reach 100% renewable energy is to combine renewable power with flexibility in the form of grid balancing engines and energy storage. These solutions offer high levels of dispatchability and can ramp up and down quickly in any conditions. This setup delivers reliable renewables at a low levelized cost of electricity, making clean energy affordable for all.

For example, according to the latest modelling work by Wärtsilä for the Philippines³, by investing in renewable-based power systems backed by grid balancing engines and energy storage, the Philippines would be able to reach net zero by 2050, cut its levelized cost of electricity by 23% and avoid nearly \$7 billion per year in forecasted carbon taxes.

FUTURE-PROOFING OUR POWER

The path to net zero is not linear and the last few years have demonstrated that we cannot see exactly what is around the corner. Therefore, policy makers must establish market conditions and policies to enable us to build flexibility into power systems today and ensure they're adaptable for tomorrow.

The balancing of renewables requires both energy storage and grid balancing power plants. They work together to cover sub-second, minute, daily and seasonal variations and ensure a steady supply of electricity when renewable output fluctuates.

Grid balancing engine technology can also be converted to run on hydrogen and other sustainable fuels in the future. These include fuels produced from excess wind and solar power, to enable a closed loop, fully renewable system and avoid stranded assets.

Such flexible engine technology is the optimal choice to supporting our increasingly renewable power systems compared to alternatives like gas turbines. This is because they can quickly ramp up and down an unlimited number of times per day, are highly efficient at any output and can maintain efficiency and power output at different loads and at high ambient conditions. That means they can better match the variability of renewable power to match the energy requirements of the grid.

THREE PRINCIPLES FOR OUR FLEXIBLE FUTURE

Based on our modelling and expertise, Wärtsilä has outlined three crucial principles for policy makers and the wider energy industry to follow when designing our future power systems.

Firstly, we need to ensure that we are choosing the right technologies. The build out of wind and solar power must be matched with flexible grid balancing engines and energy storage to ensure the optimal, lowest cost power mix.

Secondly, we must design our energy markets to support flexibility — for example, creating capacity markets to ensure developers receive a return on their investment, even if a plant runs only intermittently with short hours to balance demand.

Thirdly, there should be proper market mechanisms for the procurement, utilization, and compensation of ancillary services. Assigning a real price to ancillary services and subjecting these services to competitive bidding will increase incentives for generators to make such services available and to invest in flexible technologies.

EVERY SECOND COUNTS

In 1896, a seminal paper by Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius first predicted that changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels could substantially alter the surface temperature through the greenhouse effect. Over 120 years later, we still haven't been able to stop CO2 levels from rising.

Our window to reduce emissions and keep our planet habitable is closing. We have the technologies, expertise and finance available now to create a greener future and there is no time to waste: every second counts.

CNN

[No place in the US is safe from the climate crisis, but a new report shows where it's most severe](#)

By: Ella Nilsen

The effects of a rapidly warming climate are being felt in every corner of the US and will worsen over the next 10 years with continued fossil fuel use, according to a stark new report from federal agencies.

The Fifth National Climate Assessment, a congressionally mandated report due roughly every five years, warned that even though planet-warming pollution in the US is slowly decreasing, it is not happening nearly fast enough to meet the nation's targets, nor is it in line with the UN-sanctioned goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius – a threshold beyond which scientists warn life on Earth will struggle to cope.

This year's assessment reflects the reality that Americans can increasingly see and feel climate impacts in their own communities, said Katharine Hayhoe, a distinguished climate scientist at Texas Tech University and contributor to the report.

"Climate change is affecting every aspect of our lives," Hayhoe told CNN.

Some of the report's sweeping conclusions remain painfully familiar: No part of the US is truly safe from climate disasters; slashing fossil fuel use is critical to limit the consequences, but we're not doing it fast enough; and every fraction of a degree of warming leads to more intense impacts.

But there are some important new additions: Scientists can now say with more confidence when the climate crisis has made rainstorms, hurricanes and wildfires stronger or more frequent, long-term drought more severe and heat more deadly.

This summer alone, the Phoenix area baked through a record 31 consecutive days above 110 degrees, a shocking heatwave that was partly responsible for more than 500 heat-related deaths in Maricopa County in 2023 – its deadliest year for heat on record.

In July, a torrential rainstorm deluged parts of Vermont in deadly floodwaters. Then in August, Maui was devastated by a fast-moving wildfire and Florida's Gulf Coast was slammed by its second major hurricane in two years.

President Joe Biden will deliver remarks on Tuesday and is expected to unveil more than \$6 billion in funding to strengthen climate resilience "by bolstering America's

electric grid, investing in water infrastructure upgrades, reducing flood risk to communities, and advancing environmental justice for all,” an administration official said.

The US needs “a transformation of the global economy on a size and scale that’s never occurred in human history” to “create a livable future for ourselves and our children,” White House senior climate adviser John Podesta told reporters.

Here are five significant takeaways from the federal government’s sweeping climate report.

It’s easier to pinpoint which disasters were made worse by climate change

The latest report contains an important advancement in what’s called “attribution science” – scientists can more definitively show how climate change is affecting extreme events, like heatwaves, droughts to hurricanes and severe rainstorms.

Climate change doesn’t cause things like hurricanes or wildfires, but it can make them more intense or more frequent.

For instance, warmer oceans and air temperatures mean hurricanes are getting stronger faster and dumping more rainfall when they slam ashore. And hotter and drier conditions from climate change can help vegetation and trees become tinderboxes, turning wildfires into megafires that spin out of control.

“Now thanks to the field of attribution, we can make specific statements,” Hayhoe said, saying attribution can help pinpoint certain areas of a city that are now more likely to flood due to the effects of climate change. “The field of attribution has advanced significantly over the last five years, and that really helps people connect the dots.”

All regions are feeling climate change, but some more severely

There is no place immune from climate change, Biden administration officials and the report’s scientists emphasized, and this summer’s extreme weather was a deadly reminder.

Some states – including California, Florida, Louisiana and Texas – are facing more significant storms and extreme swings in precipitation.

Landlocked states won’t have to adapt to sea level rise, though some – including Appalachian states like Kentucky and West Virginia – have seen devastating flooding from rainstorms.

And states in the north are grappling with an increase in tick-borne diseases, less snow, and stronger rainstorms.

“There is no place that is not at risk, but there are some that are more or less at risk,” Hayhoe told CNN. “That is a factor of both the increasingly frequent and severe weather and climate extremes you’re exposed to, as well as how prepared (cities and states) are.”

Climate change is exacting a massive economic toll

Climate shocks on the economy are happening more frequently, the report said, evidenced by the new record this year for the number of extreme weather disasters costing at least \$1 billion. And disaster experts have spent the last year warning the US is only beginning to see the economic fallout of the climate crisis.

Climate risks are hitting the housing market in the form of skyrocketing homeowners’ insurance rates. Some insurers have pulled out of high-risk states altogether.

Stronger storms wiping out certain crops or extreme heat killing livestock can send food prices soaring. And in the Southwest, the report’s researchers found that hotter temperatures in the future could lead to a 25% loss of physical work capacity for agricultural workers from July to September.

The US is cutting planet-warming pollution, but not nearly fast enough

Unlike the world’s other top polluters – China and India – planet-warming pollution in the US is declining. But it’s not happening nearly fast enough to stabilize the planet’s warming or meet the United States’ international climate commitments, the report explains.

The country’s annual greenhouse gas emissions fell 12% between 2005 and 2019, driven in large part by the electricity sector moving away from coal and toward renewable energy and methane gas, the latter of which is still a fossil fuel that has a significant global warming effect.

The decline is good news for the climate crisis, but look at the fine print and the picture is mixed.

The report finds US planet-warming emissions “remain substantial” and would have to sharply decline by 6% annually on average to be in line with the international 1.5-degree

goal. To put that cut into perspective, US emissions decreased by less than 1% per year between 2005 and 2019 – a tiny annual drop.

Water – too much and not enough – is a huge problem for the US

One of the report's biggest takeaways centers on the precarious future of water in the US, and how parts of the country are facing a future with either extreme drought and water insecurity, or more flooding and sea level rise.

Drought and less snowpack are huge threats to Southwest communities in particular. The report's Southwest chapter, led by Arizona State University climate scientist Dave White, found the region was significantly drier from 1991 to 2020 than the three decades before.

White said that's an ominous sign as the planet continues to warm, with significant threats to snowpack in California's Sierra Nevada mountains and the Rockies – both of which provide crucial freshwater in the West.

White added that a lack of freshwater in the region also has significant economic and agricultural impacts, as it supports cities, farms, and Native American tribes.

"Mountains are our natural reservoirs in the region," White told CNN. "Climate impacts on that mountain snowpack have really significant negative effects for the way our infrastructure operates. It's just critical for us to protect those resources."

GMA NEWS

[Air pollution may increase lung cancer risk, says pulmonologist](#)

By: Giselle Ombay

People exposed to air pollution for long periods of time are more likely to develop lung cancer, an expert from the Philippine College of Chest Physicians said Tuesday.

Citing 2019 data from the World Health Organization, Dr. Albert Rafanan said that air pollution is one of the greatest environmental risks to people's health, causing 4.2 million premature deaths worldwide every year.

Evidently, air pollution poses effects on people's respiratory systems. Rafanan said it can exacerbate pre-existing conditions, increase risk of respiratory infections, develop chronic respiratory diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and even increase risk of lung cancer.

"Long-term exposure to air pollution can induce DNA damage, mutations, and abnormal cell growth in the lungs leading to development of lung cancer," he said during a health forum hosted by the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP).

Air pollution, he added, may also affect the heart and may possibly aggravate pre-existing conditions such as coronary artery disease and heart failure.

It is also linked to a higher risk of stroke, and may contribute to the development of atherosclerosis, which is the hardening of the arteries, and cause inflammation in the blood vessels.

"Ultra fine particles can go into the lung and can cross and enter the bloodstream through inhalation or translocation and can eventually cause systemic inflammation and damage to the heart and blood vessels," Rafanan said.

In March, the Philippines placed 69th out of 131 countries in the World Air Quality Report for 2022 from Swiss research firm IQair.

The report showed that based on its average PM2.5 concentration, air quality in the country slightly improved to 14.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ from 15.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2021. However, this number was still three times higher than the annual air quality guideline value set by the WHO.

"Smog is almost constantly hanging over [Manila], exacerbated by the 2.2 million vehicles that clog the streets on a daily basis. According to reports published by the

WHO, levels of airborne particles of lead (Pb) are three times than the acceptable figure. Concentrations of PM2.5 have also found to be unacceptably high, too," IQAir said.

To mitigate climate change in the country, Rafanan advised the public to save energy at home; walk, cycle, or take public transport; consider travel; change home's source of energy; and reduce, reuse, recycle.

Marcos leaves for APEC in San Francisco

By: Sherilyn Untalan and Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. left Manila on Tuesday night to attend the 30th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit in the United States, saying he will pursue the Philippines' agenda on food and energy security, inclusion of small businesses and digitalization.

In his departure speech at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City, Marcos said this year's summit theme of 'Creating a Sustainable and Resilient Future for All' "aligns with our national and economic interest to transform the Philippines toward a sustainable future para ang lahat ng Pilipino ay magkaroon ng matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay."

"We will be engaging with the leaders of economies of the Asia-Pacific region to agree on how we can achieve food and energy security, economic inclusion of our micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), women, indigenous people, and other segments whose economic potential remains to be unlocked through digitalization and innovation, and sustainable development and addressing the climate change crisis," said Marcos, who left with a contingent of government officials, lawmakers and business executives.

Marcos said the trip, his third in the US since becoming president, was at the invitation of President Joe Biden, who chairs this year's summit known as a vital platform for trade, investment and economic cooperation.

At the APEC CEO Summit, an annual gathering of top CEOs from across the APEC region, Marcos said he will deliver the keynote remarks on "intentional equity in sustainability" to share the Philippine experience in ensuring inclusivity on our path to greening the economy.

He will meet with business leaders and conduct roundtable discussions on the summit's sidelines to invite investments and seek business opportunities, promote Philippine exports, and discuss his administration's economic agenda.

"Our APEC work has been focused to prioritize and secure beneficial trade and investment, quality and green jobs, and human development and poverty alleviation," he said.

There will also be several engagements with private sector representatives from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) to discuss how the Philippines can use

public-private partnership for the country's agenda in innovative and sustainable development, finance, and economic and business reform.

Marcos said he also expects to witness the signing of a number of government-to-government, public-private, and business agreements, "which have been under negotiation over the past several months."

The deals will cover priority sectors, such as nuclear energy; artificial intelligence to support weather forecasting; health sciences, particularly cancer research, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention; pharmaceutical manufacturing; and satellite connectivity."

From San Francisco, Marcos will fly to Los Angeles and to Honolulu, Hawaii. He said he will meet with Filipino communities in the areas.

California and Hawaii have the largest concentrations of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans, home to almost half of the 4.2 million Filipinos in the US.

"I bring with me your hopes and aspirations for a peaceful and prosperous Asia-Pacific region where we live. This year, the U.S. chairmanship of APEC set the cross-cutting themes of sustainability, inclusiveness, and resilience as our priority work so that we can build a resilient and interconnected region that advances broad-based economic prosperity, enable an innovative environment to foster a sustainable future, and affirm an equitable and inclusive future for all. For every single Filipino," he said.

The APEC region hosts 38% of the world's population, 48% of its trade, and 62% of its gross domestic product.

MANILA BULLETIN

Makati receives NCR Resilience Champion Award

By: Patrick Garcia

The Makati City local government received the National Capital Region (NCR) Resilience Champion Award given by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the United Nations Development Programme Philippines (UNDP PH).

According to Makati City Mayor Abby Binay, the award symbolizes the agencies' recognition of Makati's effective planning and dedication in mainstreaming its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (DRRM-CCAM) of the Comprehensive Development Plan of Makati.

"Ang UNDP ay may apat na dekada na sa Pilipinas. Isa sa kani-lang- papel ay ang tulungan ang bansa sa capacity building- at pala-wigin ang democratic governance, sustainable management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, at resilience and peacebuilding (UNDP has been in the Philippines for four decades already. One of their roles is to help the country improve its democratic governance, sustainable management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, resilience, and peacebuilding)," she added.

The mayor lauded Makati's outstanding Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation plan which also serves as a role model of other cities in the creation of their own programs.

In September of 2022, Makati City was proclaimed as the first-ever Resilience Hub in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia by the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

The UNDRR defines resilience hubs as cities, municipalities, or local authorities that have political and technical commitment to take actions to address disaster and climate risks.

It said that in order to qualify as a resilience hub, a city must have reached a high level of resilience building commitments, showed sustained mechanism for DRR/resilience investments, and with an expertise and interest in disseminating best practices to other cities joining the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative. The position is renewable every three years.

MCR2030 resilience hubs may also host international events related to the MCR2030; coordinate study tours to showcase practical examples and share experience; team up with other cities to provide support in the expertise area; provide technical assistance and support training to enhance resilience awareness and in the development and implementation of the DRR/Resilience strategies; publish and disseminate knowledge products, lessons learned and good practices; provide access to partners who can support the journey of twinned cities along the Resilience Roadmap; inject seed financing; and provide assistance with credit ratings and development of municipal bond markets.

Makati's best practices in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) have also been shared in a number of international platforms joined by cities all over the region.

In 2017, Makati City enhanced its resilience roadmap – the Makati Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan – using the Disaster Resilience Scorecard, an MCR tool.

In 2020, the city used the Disaster Resilience Scorecard Public Health Addendum in coming up with its DRRM-Health Plan that integrates public health emergencies to mitigate their impact on all sectors.

On Sept. 26, the city was chosen as the Disaster Cluster leader of CityNet, the largest association of urban stakeholders aiming to promote sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[From Johor Bahru to COP28: Why Asia Pacific Climate Week matters](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Government leaders, businesses, and civil society organizations gather in the southern Malaysian city of Johor Bahru to enhance cooperation and discuss climate solutions in Asia and the Pacific, one of the regions most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The Asia Pacific region—home to 4.3 billion people—is already grappling with various climate-related challenges, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and threats to its rich biodiversity and water resources.

“These challenges are not only limited to one nation but ripple across borders, thus emphasizing the need for regional collaboration and global solidarity,” Nik Nazmi Nik Ahman, Malaysia’s minister of natural resources, environment and climate change, said during the opening ceremony of the Asia Pacific Climate Week 2023 Monday.

Participants at APCW 2023 will explore innovative approaches and sustainable solutions to the climate crisis. The outcomes of the week-long talks will feed into the crucial COP28 climate talks in Dubai, building momentum for progress on issues such as energy transition, climate finance, and loss and damage from extreme events.

APCW 2023 will also contribute to the “global stocktake” of the world’s progress in achieving the goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

A technical report released in September concluded that the world was off track on its pledge to curb global warming and that “much more is needed now on all fronts.”

“The urgency of addressing climate change cannot be overstated. We are already experiencing the consequences, and the window of opportunity to mitigate its effects is closing rapidly,” Nik Nazmi said.

Collective efforts

The climate week serves as an opportunity for countries in the Asia Pacific region to refine and align positions ahead of COP28.

Debates over the phasing out of planet-warming fossil fuels as well as the fundamentals of the loss and damage fund, which was set up to help vulnerable countries cope with

the consequences of the climate crisis, are expected to take center stage in the climate negotiations later this month.

This year is “virtually certain” to be the warmest year in history, Europe’s climate monitor said last week. With temperatures exceeding previous averages by massive margins, scientists stressed that the need for ambitious climate actions has never been more urgent.

“In order to be most effective when one is addressing issues at the COP, you and your neighbors need to come with the same message, Donald Cooper, director of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s transparency division, said in a briefing Monday.

“The regional climate week here is an opportunity for those countries to discuss with each other and solidify their approach,” he added.

Nik Nazmi, the Malaysian environment minister, called on nations in Asia and the Pacific to “come together as a united front” to drive forward climate action at COP28.

Chance for Philippines

APCW 2023 presents an opportunity for the Philippine government to strengthen existing partnerships, particularly in scaling up adaptation efforts and facilitating a just transition to clean energy, and identify gaps in policy and implementation, according to John Leo Algo, the national coordinator of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas.

“It is also a chance for non-government stakeholders to influence their nation’s negotiating positions, make a collective call for climate justice and action, and share best practices on grassroots-led solutions,” Algo told Philstar.com.

In Johor Bahru, discussions will focus on decarbonizing energy systems and industries, creating more sustainable cities, settlements, infrastructure and transportation, conserving biodiversity and ecosystems, protecting human health, and greening economies.

“This is an opportunity for countries to present what they did well, what they did poorly, and ask how you got around those things,” UNFCCC’s Cooper said.

APCW is the final regional climate week following the completion of the Africa Climate Week in Kenya, the Middle East and North Africa Climate Week in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Caribbean Climate Week in Panama.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

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[PH advocates nature-based solutions: bridging the climate action gap at pre-COP28](#)

By: Gilbert Pardez

At the Pre-COP28 gathering in Abu Dhabi, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the need for heightened collaboration on nature-based solutions to tackle the climate action gap. CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera emphasized the pivotal role of carbon sequestration in nature's contribution to reducing greenhouse gas concentrations.

"Ecosystems, like forests and wetlands, function as crucial carbon reservoirs, sequestering carbon and serving as protective buffers against increasingly perilous storm surges due to rising sea levels. They also act as sanctuaries for fish spawning, ensuring food security. Recognizing and valuing these ecosystem services could generate financial flows through carbon and biodiversity credit systems, effectively managing climate risks on both local and global scales," Commissioner Herrera explained.

The Philippines is taking strides toward sustainable development by establishing a geospatial database to support a new system of natural capital accounting, acknowledging the genuine economic and social contributions of its ecosystems.

Within the National Adaptation Plan, a comprehensive strategy outlining the country's climate change challenges, the scaling up of nature-based solutions is highlighted as a key adaptation measure. To gauge progress, the Philippines advocates for standardized metrics and Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems for nature-based solutions, underpinned by rigorous scientific research, data transparency, and accessibility to assess their performance and impact.

Commissioner Herrera concluded by stressing the importance of recognizing the interconnectedness of human, natural, and engineered systems to collectively instigate transformative change and close the climate action gap by 2030.

The pivotal event, "Accelerating Collaboration on Nature to Close the Climate Action Gap to 2030," hosted in Abu Dhabi from October 30-31, was presided over by UN Climate Change High-Level Champion H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, who also serves as President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The Philippine Delegation to the event, led by Ambassador H.E. Alfonso Ferdinand A. Ver and featuring officials such as DENR Secretary and Official Representative of the CCC Chairperson Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, and Commissioner Herrera, actively participated in discussions aimed at fostering global collaboration on nature-based solutions.

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[CCC, Nestlé PH, And GMA Network Unite To Address Climate Change](#)

The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms that its impacts are already occurring in every region across the globe, causing widespread damage to ecosystems and communities. Such impacts will escalate with the continued increase in global warming. If greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are not reduced by at least 43 percent by 2030 versus 2019 levels, global warming is projected to hit the 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2035.

In the Philippines, one among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, severe weather has become more frequent and catastrophic, with greater loss of life and property.

Given the urgency of fast-tracking climate change mitigation and adaptation, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Nestlé PH, with the support of the GMA Network, today hosted “CLIMACTION Towards A Net Zero Philippines.” CLIMACTION involved multi-stakeholder exchanges on implementing the Philippine National Adaptation Plan (PNAP) and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for reducing GHGs.

As the world gears up for COP 28, the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Dubai, CLIMACTION offered a crucial opportunity for discussions on climate action and collaboration in the country. For companies participating in the landmark event, understanding the PNAP and NDC is necessary to ensure positive participation from the private sector, a key enabler in the race to net zero. For the youth sector, a design thinking workshop served to empower them to contribute ideas and spur action.

CLIMACTION with its two parts was attended by government, business, agriculture, and youth representatives, with talks by public and private sector leaders.

Participants put together action plans towards developing a framework to help achieve identified NAP priority outcomes in agriculture, fisheries, and food security; ecosystems and biodiversity; and stakeholder engagement, information, education, communications, and advocacy to support the National Determined Contribution Implementation Plan. With CCC as the lead government policy-making agency on climate change.

“Our event today is one product of the collaboration of the CCC with the private sector. And as we further strengthen our partnerships such as this with Nestlé, we will be able to further enhance our systems and strategies in developing and updating climate policies, and implementing programs and activities that are aligned with the low-carbon,

climate-smart, climate-resilient, and sustainable development pathways, said Secretary Robert Borje, Climate Change Commission.

Businesses, in mitigating GHG emissions towards net zero, are responsible for aligning their climate and sustainability goals with the PNAP and NDC. Agriculture is a sector that will be most affected by climate change due to its adverse impacts on food productivity, quality, quantity, and where it can be grown. Conversely, regenerative agriculture, which sequesters carbon, can play a significant role in mitigating climate change. Meanwhile, young people have the most substantial stake in addressing climate change, as they will be left to deal with its impacts.

For its part, the GMA Network, the country's leading broadcast organization, is engaged in a continuing environmental advocacy with Nestlé PH to raise awareness about the country's plastic waste problem, while calling on people to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

"For decades, GMA Network has been at the forefront of informing and educating Filipinos about the climate. From documentaries to news coverage, our teams are often in the eye of extreme weather disturbances, witnessing the impact to millions of Filipinos. This year, we are deepening our commitment to the environment through Climaction, a partnership among GMA, Nestle Philippines, and the Climate Change Commission. Through this pioneering collaboration, we hope to inspire current and future generations of leaders across various sectors to protect our common home", said Angela Javier Cruz, Vice President and Head Corporate Affairs and Communications of GMA Network.

Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki of Nestlé PH, co-organizer of CLIMACTION, said that as the largest food and beverage manufacturer worldwide and in the country, the company's raw materials come from nature, and are dependent on a healthy planet. With climate change as the greatest environmental challenge, he stressed that Nestlé has the most compelling motivation and obligation to take a frontline role in confronting it.

"One of the most important lessons from our sustainability initiatives at Nestlé is that participation by all sectors is an imperative. We stand shoulder to shoulder with all of you in the business community who are driving initiatives for environmental sustainability and in particular, climate change mitigation and adaptation," he said. Citing the need for mutually supportive linkages and partnerships, Mr. Marzouki added, "With our collective will and the synergy of our strengths, we can overcome the challenges to the Earth's climate and even improve it. Then life on the planet will survive and thrive into the future."

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC pushes for zero carbon neutrality to achieve climate-positive PH](#)

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has ongoing discussions with an environmental consulting service for possible collaboration to promote the development of carbon emission-reducing projects in the Philippines.

In a news release Tuesday, the CCC reported that Guangzhou Iceberg Environmental Consulting Services general manager Ji Bao made a courtesy call to Commissioner Albert dela Cruz to propose possible partnerships that would enhance the country's initiatives in carbon reduction.

Ji said these could be achieved through projects like forestry carbon sinks, hydropower and wind power stations and biogas utilization.

He cited that the model of promoting global carbon reduction through market mechanisms has been gradually established over the past three decades from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, to the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, and then to the Paris Agreement in 2015.

"After the government officially announced the dual carbon goals last year, 'carbon emissions trading' quickly became a buzzword and before that, a number of pioneers had already started to practice it, including Guangzhou," he said.

Dela Cruz welcomed the idea of promoting carbon emission-reducing projects as they run in parallel with the Philippine government's target of achieving net zero carbon neutrality.

Zero carbon neutrality refers to the emission of zero carbon by companies from the beginning, hence, there is no carbon to be offset.

One example of this is company buildings transitioning to solar energy sources.

This helps the country achieve a climate-positive environment where additional carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere.

"While much of the global economy has committed to reaching net-zero emissions, a closer look has yet to be done on how Philippine businesses can take concrete actions and veer away from potential green wash," dela Cruz said.

“This can be done by forging partnerships and the exchange of know-how and technologies as well as financial sources that would accelerate our private sector in its net-zero journey of achieving carbon neutrality as a transition to net zero by 2050,” he added.

[Nature-based solutions key to addressing climate action gap by 2030](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the importance of enhancing collaboration on nature-based solutions to address the climate action gap.

During the Pre-COP28 event “Accelerating Collaboration on Nature to Close the Climate Action Gap to 2030” in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on Oct. 30 to 31, CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera highlighted the importance of carbon sequestration as a fundamental aspect of nature’s climate role in reducing greenhouse gas concentrations.

“Ecosystems, including forests and wetlands, act as vital carbon reservoirs that stock and sequester carbon. They also serve as buffers for storm surges made more dangerous by the rising sea level and as havens for the spawning of fish to ensure food security. By accounting for and valuing these ecosystem services, new financial flows may be generated from carbon and biodiversity credit systems that also manage climate risks locally and globally,” she said.

The Philippines is developing a geospatial database in support of a new system of natural capital accounting to recognize its real economic and social contributions to sustainable development.

In the National Adaptation Plan, which provides a clear picture of the gaps and needs and the actions it needs to take to minimize climate change losses and damage, scaling up of nature-based solutions is a key adaptation strategy.

Measuring progress will require the use of standardized metrics and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems for nature-based solutions, including robust scientific research, data transparency and accessibility to assess the performance and impact of these solutions.

“It is only by recognizing the interconnectedness of human, natural and engineered systems that we can collectively drive transformative change and close the climate action gap by 2030,” Herrera said.

The Pre-COP28 event was hosted by UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, who also serves as president of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The Philippine delegation to the event is composed of Philippine Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Alfonso Ferdinand Ver, Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR) Secretary and Official Representative of the Chairperson to the CCC Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh and Herrera.

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