



NEWS ROUNDUP

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GMA NEWS

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By: Lou Albano

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INTERAKSYON

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MANILA BULLETIN

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President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. renewed his call for a whole-of-nation approach to mitigate the effects of climate change in the Philippines.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Manila Water champions sustainability with climate change policy](#)

At the 30th edition of the Philippine Water Works Association (PWWA) International Conference and Exhibition, Manila Water and its Non-East Zone (NEZ) operating unit, Manila Water Infratech Solutions (MWIS), joined hundreds of major companies and players in the global water sector to share best practices, innovations, and services.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

['Philippines seen as test case for loss, damage fund'](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

President Marcos sees the Philippines as a test case for the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FrLD) following the four successive tropical cyclones that hit the country in the past three weeks, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said at the 29th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

COP29: Climate disaster fund for poor countries 'ready'

A long-sought disaster relief fund to help vulnerable countries weather the storm of climate change will start handing out aid next year, officials at COP29 in Baku said Tuesday.

"The fund for responding to loss and damage is ready to disburse funding," said executive director Ibrahima Cheikh Diong of Senegal as it was officially signed off in the Azerbaijan capital.

Its launch shows progress amid the tussle at COP29 between global North and South over climate finance.

The fund was agreed in a historic first at the last United Nations climate summit in Dubai last year to help developing countries rebuild in the wake of climate disasters.

Human-driven climate change is making floods, hurricanes and extreme weather events more ferocious and more frequent, scientists say. The nations of the South say they are the most impacted by the disasters, yet are the least responsible.

Fifth cyclone in under a month bears down on Philippines

Mainly wealthy countries including Germany, France, the United Arab Emirates and Denmark have pledged to donate \$722 million so far. Sweden was the latest nation to chip in, promising \$20 million on Tuesday.

But the amount "doesn't come close to righting the wrong inflicted on the vulnerable" and "is roughly the annual earnings of the world's 10 best-paid footballers", said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"It does not even account for a quarter of the damage in Vietnam caused by Hurricane Yagi in September," he said.

The damage from climate disasters can run into the billions and there is barely enough cash set aside for loss and damage at present to cover just one such event, experts say.

Developing nations had been pushing for a disaster relief fund to recover from climate impacts for the last 30 years, and the agreement struck last year was hailed as a major diplomatic breakthrough.

The fund now has a director and a board -- where developing countries enjoy greater representation than other international funds -- and is headquartered in the Philippines' capital Manila.

It is temporarily under the aegis of the World Bank, a move many poorer countries opposed.

Some estimates suggest developing countries need over \$400 billion annually to rebuild after climate-related disasters. One study said the global bill could rise to between \$290 billion and \$580 billion a year by 2030 and keep rising.

GMA NEWS

COP29 must deliver the money, Philippine civil society organizations say

By: Lou Albano

The 29th Conference of Parties, or COP29, is already underway in Baku, Azerbaijan, where world leaders are meeting and negotiating to agree on many things, chief of which is the new finance goal that will help developing countries cope with the climate crisis and support their climate action.

Called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), the amount, which is based on a needs-assessment report of developing and the most vulnerable countries including the Philippines, is reportedly running up into trillions.

Previously, under the Paris Agreement of 2015, developed nations agreed to deliver an annual \$100B by 2020, after which they will need to replace the amount by 2025. That means parties will need to agree on a new amount this year.

At the press conference of Philippine Civic Society Organizations on Thursday, Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive director and former Climate Change Commissioner Yeb Saño leaned on the battery of storms the country is currently facing and said, "We cannot leave Baku without clarity of scale, quantum, structure and scope of finance."

Saying it is "imperative" for world leaders to recognize the dire nature of the climate crisis and the urgency by which the world needs to act, Saño said money is the key that will unlock mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as the ability to respond to loss and damage.

The Philippines is host to the board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), which was operationalized earlier this week. For Saño, all that will only be "lip service if we can't fight for the actual amount that will come into the fund."

"Hindi lang itulak sa board [Not just to push to the board] but to ensure that in the NCQG, Loss and Damage won't drop off the table."

For Ian C. Rivera of the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development, COP29 should deliver public financing. "It's not just to address energy transition but also to address loss and damage, adaptation, and just transition, particularly for developing countries," he said.

"We don't only need climate finance for energy transition, we need it for the rapid shift to clean renewables and to phase out fossil fuels," Rivera said, adding, "Patuloy pa rin ang pagpapatayo ng mga fossil fuel structures."

(The putting up of fossil fuel structures continues.)

Developing countries have put forward US\$1.3 trillion in public finance but Rivera emphasized this is not enough. “The global campaign to demand climate justice, we are calling for \$5 trillion so that itong mga dapat matugunan na results ng climate crisis, ay matugunan [the results of the climate crisis are addressed],” he said.

“Sana the Philippine government will hold the line and will not give in to the divide and conquer tactics of the northern governments,” he added.

Echoing Rivera and pointing out the newly passed bill on natural gas development, Avril De Torres, deputy executive director of CEED, said among the group's demands at COP29 should also be the participation of Northern and East Asian firms “that have historically contributed to fossil fuel dependencies in our region” to help Southeast Asia in its mitigation and adaptation efforts and that reparations for loss and damage be paid.

CEED earlier released a report that showed Southeast Asia as very ambitious when it comes to renewable energy expansion. “As a region we are very ambitious and we have political will to advance it but when we look at who's developing and who is advancing, it's domestic players,” De Torres said., emphasizing the absence of foreign firms

“Any success here should translate into the flowing of renewable energy and related infrastructures,” she said.

While Tebtebba Foundation's Helen Magata supports the increased targets for climate finance, she also voiced out the importance of looking at the quality of finance, as well.

Pointing out how the UNFCCC says there is an increasing flow of climate finance to developing countries, she said Indigenous Peoples (IP) have been “lost in aggregates.”

“Where is the money going? How is it disbursed? What is direct access?” she asked, pointing out how financial mechanisms “continue to be very restrictive, complicated, insufficient, and project based and short term” for IPs.

Considering that significant remaining biodiversity is being stewarded by IPs, “We think that is not responding to climate justice,” she said.

“IPs need direct access to money,” Magata emphasized.

“This is what we're calling for in the NCQG,” she said.

Meanwhile, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Toni Yulo-Loyzaga told GMA News Online that she remains hopeful.

"I'm always hopeful but we have to be realistic and understand what's really going on in terms of the amount that is really needed and where it has gotten us in the number of years we've been talking about the quantum," she said.

"The recent estimates as far as what developing countries, the vulnerable need are already in the trillions annually," she said. "So here's where we really need to buckle down and decide what's going to be the coverage in terms of the scope of the fund and who's going to be able to contribute and who should contribute."

"I have faith that our delegation will be able to put forward what the Philippines really needs. How the others will position themselves, this is what we will have to wait and see."

Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella meanwhile has a firmer stance saying "kailangan talaga aggressive tayo (We have to be aggressive)."

"The aggressiveness should be there because you have—vulnerable tayo. May pinanggagalingan. Tayo ang nababaon sa land slide, tayo ang sea wall ng Asia. (We are vulnerable. We are coming from somewhere. We are the ones buried in land slides, we are the sea wall of Asia) So we really have to be aggressive."

Recalling the efforts of developing countries in Paris back in 2015, meanwhile Rivera highlighted the importance of guarding the process of the NCQG.

"Nalala natin nuong COP 2015 in Paris, ang developing countries ang nagpanday sa usaping 1.5C. Kung wala tayo duon, we will end up with a very [dangerous] 2C na alam natin hindi tayo mag-su-survive," he said.

[We remember COP 2015 in Paris, it was the developing countries that steered 1.5C into the table. If we weren't there, we would have ended up with a very dangerous 2C, which we know we will not survive.]

"It should be national Interest should protect us," he said. "And I hope the Philippine government and the Parties representing developing countries will assert the national interests.]

INTERAKSYON

[Bishop seeks to amplify Filipino voices at COP29](#)

A Catholic bishop aims to amplify the voices of Filipino communities at COP29, the United Nations climate change conference, which begins Monday in Azerbaijan's capital of Baku.

Bishop Gerardo Alminaza of San Carlos is representing the Philippine Catholic Church at the high-level roundtable discussions, which will run through Nov. 22.

The prelate, who is also the vice president of Caritas Philippines, stressed that his participation goes beyond mere attendance at the international summit.

"It is a crucial opportunity to advocate for our communities, who bear the brunt of climate change impacts while contributing the least to this crisis," Alminaza said.

The national Caritas' advocacy at COP29 will focus on three key campaigns:

- Promoting a just energy transition that considers the needs of vulnerable communities
- Calling for debt cancellation to enable developing nations to better respond to climate challenges
- Supporting the fossil fuel non-proliferation initiative to address the root causes of the climate crisis

The Philippines is regarded as one of the countries' most vulnerable to climate change risks and natural disasters.

As the local Church's representative, the bishop hopes to ensure that climate accountability remains at the center of negotiations.

Caritas Philippines' participation underscores the urgency of implementing concrete actions to address the escalating climate crisis and its disproportionate impact on developing nations.

COP29 serves as a crucial platform for global leaders, organizations, and experts to advance climate action and strengthen commitments under the Paris Agreement.

This year, in addition to addressing emission reductions, energy transition, and adaptation and resilience targets, discussions will focus on establishing a new approach to climate finance.

MANILA BULLETIN

Net Zero Conference highlights policy, finance, and innovation as key climate action strategies

The Philippines' first-ever conference on net zero brought together an estimated 400 participants from businesses, policy-making bodies, financial institutions and other stakeholders, and underscored a multi-sectoral approach of policy, funding and innovation in advancing and achieving the country's decarbonization goals.

The Net Zero Conference is a landmark annual meet organized on the third year of the Net Zero Carbon Alliance (NZCA), the pioneering consortium of businesses and enterprises in the Philippines convened by Energy Development Corporation (EDC), the all-renewable energy arm of the Lopez Group's First Gen Corporation.

Amid the undeniable reality of climate change, "there is no other way to go but net zero," emphasized Federico Lopez, chairman and chief executive of EDC parent First Philippine Holdings Corporation, in his keynote message opening the event.

"While addressing the climate crisis feels such a daunting task, we remain optimistic and encouraged as we see a myriad of sectors of society coming together and taking collective action," said Lopez.

"Our mission [at the Lopez Group] to forge collaborative pathways to a decarbonized and regenerative future continues to guide our path, and we reaffirm our commitment to work together with all stakeholders, including the Net Zero Carbon Alliance to rally more businesses and organizations across all sectors to achieve our net zero ambition," he added.

The conference laid out plenary sessions tackling the aspects of policy, finance and technological innovations as critical climate action strategies in support of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the global mission of attaining net zero by 2050.

Special guests included Representative Jose Manuel F. Alba of the 1st District of Bukidnon, who is a member of the House Committee on Climate Change and co-author of House Bill 7705 or the Low-Carbon Economy Bill, which aims to engage the private sector toward decarbonization through viable and cost-competitive, low-carbon investments.

In terms of financing, "the transition to net zero represents one of the largest economic shifts of our time," said Orkhan Mustafayev, senior advisor to the High-Level Champion on Business Engagement for COP29. He cited the International Energy Agency (IEA) in estimating that the global net zero journey will require clean energy investments to grow to \$4 trillion annually by 2030.

In the Philippines, implementing the NDC will require an estimated total investment of around \$72 billion, according to Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission. He urged the private sector to see this as an opportunity to invest in opportunities in a green economy.

“Our country is well-positioned to benefit from the transition to a low-carbon economy, and the private sector has a crucial role to play in driving this transformation,” said Borje.

“The private sector possesses the capital, technology and innovation necessary to drive low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways.”

The event included activities in commemoration of NZCA’s third anniversary, such as signing the new partners’ pledge of commitment toward net zero, launching its Net Zero Stages of Progress, and the release of its current partners’ decarbonization accomplishments.

As of the conference, NZCA has counted 34 partner-members from various industries and enterprises such as manufacturing, real estate, hospitality, information technology, mobility, finance, and the academe, as well as five partner-enabler organizations.

Its new partners include Calibr8 Systems, Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc., Container Living PH, Control Union, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Inc., First Philec, Fluor Daniel Inc., GHD Pty. Ltd., Hocheng Philippines Corporation, InterCharge Corporation, OCS Philippines, SLB, and Weave Solutions Inc.

Philippines set to receive billions as P7-trillion climate fund announced

By: Derco Rosal

The world's development banks have committed to increase their joint financial support for climate adaptation and resiliency among low- and middle-income countries, including the Philippines, to P7.05 trillion (\$120 billion) in six years' time.

In a Nov. 12 World Bank report titled "People in a Changing Climate: From Vulnerability to Action," the Washington-based multilateral lender pointed out that "climate change is a direct threat to people and human capital," especially in the education and health sectors of the most vulnerable countries like the Philippines.

"For example, Typhoon Odette in the Philippines damaged nearly 30,000 schools in December 2021, interrupting learning for around 12 million students and requiring \$1.2 billion in repairs, equivalent to 10 percent of the Department of Education's annual budget," the report noted.

As such, multilateral development banks (MDBs) such as the World Bank, the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), among others, announced on Nov. 12 at the ongoing COP29 meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, that they are joining forces to set aside \$42 billion (P2.47 trillion) for adaptation initiatives. They will also raise \$65 billion (P3.82 trillion) with the help of the private sector by 2030 for climate financing for poor and developing nations.

In a Sept. 20 joint statement from MDBs, developing countries received P4.388 trillion (\$74.7 billion) in climate financing last year, exceeding the P2.938 trillion (\$50-billion) annual target for these countries.

Last year, the Philippines' borrowing for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects reached a record-high \$3.131 billion (over P174 billion).

Notably, the Philippines received the 11th-largest amount of climate finance globally last year, following countries such as France, Spain, Italy, India, Germany, Türkiye, Indonesia, Poland, Bangladesh, and Brazil, a September report showed.

At present, MDBs reported that they exceeded the 2025 goals for climate finance set before the pandemic. They increased direct funding for climate projects by 25 percent and doubled the total funds raised for climate efforts in 2023 alone.

Meanwhile, the Manila-based Asian Development Bank's (ADB) latest climate report ranks the Philippines as the world's most vulnerable country to extreme climate risks and natural disasters, with a risk index of 46.86, ahead of Indonesia and India.

Also, the report warns that climate change impacts in the Asia-Pacific region will worsen, with rising sea levels, higher temperatures, stronger typhoons, and increased flood losses.

Thus, over the next six years, the ADB committed to invest in irrigation upgrades, climate-resilient infrastructure, and improved flood and drought preparedness in drought-prone areas to boost rural development and food security.

Additionally, the heads of MDBs stated that they are “focused on amplifying our catalytic effect by enhancing the results and impact of our financing, deepening engagement with countries through platforms, supporting clients’ climate ambitions, and increasing private sector mobilization.”

For rich countries, the total climate financing is expected to reach \$50 billion (P2.94 trillion) per year, with \$7 billion (P411.27 billion) allocated for adaptation projects. MDBs also plan to raise an additional \$65 billion (P3.82 trillion) from private sector investments.

The collective commitment came from the following MDBs: African Development Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the New Development Bank, and the World Bank Group.

PCO

[PBBM renews calls for whole-of-nation approach to mitigate climate change](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. renewed his call for a whole-of-nation approach to mitigate the effects of climate change in the Philippines.

Successive typhoons continue to hit the country, leaving massive destruction in many parts of the archipelago.

In his speech during the aid distribution in Oriental Mindoro on Thursday, President Marcos said nobody can stop disasters from happening but their effects can be lessened with everyone's cooperation.

Amid the challenges, President Marcos assured the government's continued support for typhoon victims.

"Ngunit, maliban dito, kailangan din namin ng inyong kooperasyon at suporta para magtagumpay ang mga hakbang na nakalatag sa inyong komunidad laban sa sakuna," President Marcos said.

President Marcos said he instructed the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to encourage local government units (LGUs) to use the geohazard maps of the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The maps help in identifying landslide-prone and flood-prone areas, he explained.

"Hinihimok ko rin ang ating mga kababayan na sumunod sa mga babala ng inyong lokal na pamahalaan para sa inyong kaligtasan," he told 4,500 farmers and fishermen who received cash aid from the President.

"Lalo na po roon sa mga kinakailangang lumikas; batid namin na mahirap maiwan ang inyong bahay, mga pag-aari, ngunit huwag na pong mag-atubili na lumikas kung ito ay sasalba sa inyong buhay," he added.

The President led the distribution of PhP46.14 million in financial assistance. He gave PhP10,000 each to 4,546 farmers and fisherfolk and their families at the Abada College Gymnasium in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Sec. Jonvic Remulla and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian joined in distributing PhP683,449.32 in financial assistance.

Of the 4,546 beneficiaries, 415 came from the Municipality of Baco; 41 from Calapan City; 257 from the Municipality of Naujan; 51 from Pola; 115 from Puerto Galera; 45 from San Teodoro; 228 from Socorro; 358 from Victoria; 169 from Bansud; 716 from Bongabong; 672 from Bulalacao; 18 from Gloria; and 1,024 from Mansalay.

At least 242 residents from the Municipality of Pinamalayan also received cash assistance along with 195 others from the Municipality of Roxas.

President Marcos also ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the LGUs to ensure the integrity of road networks and other infrastructures in the province.

He said the Philippines is experiencing an unusual volume of rain, resulting to massive inundation despite the flood control projects.

The President ordered the DPWH, DENR, and other concerned agencies to revise the Flood Control Masterplans.

“Sabay-sabay tayo na lumaban at magsumikap para mas maayos ang ating kinabukasan. Sa ating pagtutulungan, alam kong darating ang araw na ang mga hamon na ito ay magiging bahagi ng ating kwento ng tagumpay,” he said.

“Ang ating diwa ng bayanihan ay magsisilbing liwanag na magpapakita ng daan tungo sa pagbangon at kaunlaran—para sa inyong probinsya at para sa isang Bagong Pilipinas,” he added.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Manila Water champions sustainability with climate change policy](#)

At the 30th edition of the Philippine Water Works Association (PWWA) International Conference and Exhibition, Manila Water and its Non-East Zone (NEZ) operating unit, Manila Water Infratech Solutions (MWIS), joined hundreds of major companies and players in the global water sector to share best practices, innovations, and services.

In the plenary session, focusing on the theme “Climate change and sustainability: Challenges on water security and sanitation,” Manila Water Chief Operating Officer for Non-East Zone Melvin John Tan presented how the firm is building a water-secure future while contributing to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its climate change policy.

While having been in the water and wastewater industry for the last 27 years, Manila Water remains conscious that water access is a persisting social and environmental issue in the Philippines and globally. Manila Water’s climate change policy, adopted in 2007, centers on three key pillars: adaptation, mitigation, and partnership.

Through this strategy, the company’s operations evolved in response to climate-related risks and opportunities, emerging trends, scientific advancements, and regulatory changes.

Climate adaptation focuses on ensuring service continuity amidst natural disasters and extreme weather by building climate-resilient facilities, based on comprehensive resiliency and business interruption studies, and strengthening business resilience to minimize disruptions and facility downtime.

Regarding climate mitigation, Manila Water developed mitigation programs aligned with its sustainability goals and environmental responsibility. Programs on reducing and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions are achieved through energy efficiency initiatives, renewable energy projects, resource recovery measures, and the expansion of water services guided by ISO 50001 Energy Management standards and strict adherence to the Republic Act 11285 or the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act.

Furthermore, regarding partnership, Manila Water continues to advocate for the responsible use of water, proper wastewater management, and environmental stewardship with its partners and stakeholders in the public and private sector through its flagship programs Lakbayan Water Trail tour, SALIN: Lakbayan para sa mga Guro, Toka Toka, and the management the La Mesa Ecopark.

In the technical session, MWIS focused on addressing the critical issue of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) or system losses. This loss can be attributed to leaks, illegal connections, and inaccurate metering.

Engr. Jeson Campos, Technical Services Head of MWIS, delivered a presentation titled “Water loss reduction through performance-based model approach,” highlighting MWIS’ unique approach to NRW management and emphasizing the use of data-driven strategies and performance-based models to achieve significant reductions in water loss.

Manila Water’s participation in the 30th PWWA International and Exhibition provided a valuable platform to engage with water sector stakeholders and demonstrate the company’s commitment to addressing the critical challenges posed by climate change and the need for sustainable water security. The convention was held at the Paradise Garden Resort in Boracay Island and was co-presented by another Manila Water NEZ operating unit Boracay Water.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

'Philippines seen as test case for loss, damage fund'

By: Bella Cariaso

President Marcos sees the Philippines as a test case for the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FrLD) following the four successive tropical cyclones that hit the country in the past three weeks, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said at the 29th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan.

“The Philippines may be a test case for the Fund in responding to this unique cumulative loss of lives and damage to critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, roads and water and power systems,” Loyzaga said.

Among the tropical cyclones that devastated the country were Kristine, Leon, Marce and Nika, while Typhoon Ofel has recently entered the Philippine area of responsibility. Another cyclone is expected to enter PAR and will be called Pepito.

Loyzaga and the co-chairs of the FrLD signed the Host Country Agreement, which is a critical element in the operationalization of the FrLD, and is key to unlocking funds to support the loss and damage needs of particularly vulnerable countries.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, presented his second and final report as chair of the Working Group on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters under the Sixth Committee of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

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