



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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## BUSINESS MIRROR

### [DENR chief bats for localized climate change data, solutions](#)

By Jonathan Mayuga

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is batting for localized solutions based on data gathered on a regional or provincial level to tailor-fit solutions to the problems triggered by climate change.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Philippines' state of inclusion for women and children deteriorates](#)**

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## **CNN PHILIPPINES**

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By: Tara Subramaniam

(CNN) — The world's population will reach 8 billion people on Tuesday, representing a "milestone in human development" before birth rates start to slow, according to a projection from the United Nations.

### **[Reform, Rebuild, Recover: JFC to host 11th Arangkada Philippines Forum](#)**

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines) — The Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines will host its 11th annual Arangkada Philippines Forum on Dec. 6 with the theme "Reform, Rebuild, Recover."

## **EURO NEWS**

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By: Nicole Lin Chang

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## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Biden pledges \\$825-M aid to Asean countries](#)**

By: Jacob Lazaro

The United States has promised to extend \$825 million in assistance to Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines.

### **[Solar energy delivers \\$78M in savings for coal addict PH](#)**

By: Kurt Dela Peña

MANILA, Philippines—"Renewable energy is the way to go." This was what Yeb Saño, executive director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said back in 2016, when renewable

energy sources were still having a limited share in power generation. He said “now is the best time to switch on the power of renewables.”

### [World making little progress on food waste, a big climate problem](#)

By Reuters

Every Thursday, California resident Richard Redmond takes a gallon-sized container of food scraps to the farmers market in the city of South Pasadena where it is collected and composted for use in gardens – an effort to reduce the amount of household waste he sends to landfill.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### [DENR launches search for most improved estero in NCR](#)

By: Perfecto Raymundo, Jr.

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday launched the 3rd Gawad Taga-Ilog: Search for the Most Improved Estero (waterway) in Metro Manila.

### [Leyte promotes bamboo production in response to global demand](#)

By: Sarwell Meniano

PALO, Leyte – Towns in Leyte province are encouraged to venture into bamboo production to respond to growing global demand for its by-products.

## **RAPPLER**

### [\[Opinion\] Rich countries' moral responsibility to address climate chaos](#)

A nation's cumulative emissions must be the basis of its responsibility to act. While private finance can help, the onus is on big historical emitters to stump up the money.

## **SUNSTAR**

### [Earth at 8 billion: Consumption not crowd is key to climate](#)

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt -- The world is getting hotter and more crowded and the two issues are connected, but not quite as much as people might think, experts say.

### [Green groups demand climate, economic justice anew](#)

By: Ronald O. Reyes

ENVIRONMENTAL advocates and other civil society groups in the country joined in another call for climate and economic justice as global leaders and policy makers met in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and Bali, Indonesia for the COP27 climate summit and G20 summit.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[\[Opinion\] PH needs stronger sustainability reporting](#)**

OVER the past few years, there has been an increasing push to require companies to significantly broaden their sustainability reporting, or reporting on climate risks posed by their operations as well as risks they face from climate change effects. This is particularly important in the most climate-vulnerable countries such as the Philippines, as climate adaptation and mitigation efforts cannot be effectively carried out without the cooperation of the private sector. While sustainability reporting is being implemented here, the government should move more quickly if it wants sustainability reporting to be of any practical use.

### **[Marcos flies to Thailand for APEC meet](#)**

By: Catherine S. Valente

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. will lead the Philippine delegation to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Thailand, where he will push for measures on food and energy security as well as climate change adaptation.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Climate disaster aid scheme insufficient solution to loss and damage — groups](#)**

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

BALI, Indonesia — The Philippines will be among the first countries to receive financial support from a scheme that seeks to provide funding to communities suffering from climate disasters, but groups questioned the effectiveness of the initiative.

### **[UN chief urges G20 nations to take extra efforts to fight climate change](#)**

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

BALI, Indonesia — United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres stressed that G20 member states — responsible for 80% global greenhouse gas emissions — should make additional efforts this decade to keep alive a target of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

### **[Calls for concrete solutions to climate crisis as leaders gather at G20 summit, COP27](#)**

By: Gaea Katrina Cabico

BALI, Indonesia — As world leaders gather in resort cities of Indonesia and Egypt this week, groups across Asia called on wealthy economies to deliver real solutions to the world's biggest problems: a rapidly warming planet, and food and energy crises.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **RMN NEWS**

#### **[Budget deliberation sa pondo ng Climate Change Commission, ipinagpaliban](#)**

Ipinagpaliban ng Senado ang pag-apruba sa plenaryo ng pondo ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) sa susunod na taon.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[DENR chief bats for localized climate change data, solutions](#)**

By Jonathan Mayuga

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is batting for localized solutions based on data gathered on a regional or provincial level to tailor-fit solutions to the problems triggered by climate change.

In a news statement, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said efforts are now underway to gather and analyze data to better understand how climate change is impacting every region or province in the Philippines.

The DENR chief said it is high time for the country to have an accessible and credible localized climate data so that communities may have a better chance to respond effectively to climate change and its impacts.

Localized data can help public and private decision-makers come up with effective strategies and policies for adapting to climate change.

In terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation, it is important to “not always take climate change impacts at a country level but at the regional or even provincial scale,” the DENR chief said.

“Changes in temperature and precipitation vary significantly per region due to the country’s different climate types,” Loyzaga pointed out during the presentation of the Philippines Country Climate Development Report (PCCDR) by the World Bank Group to officials and staff of the DENR last October 28.

Loyzaga added: “The utilization of resources due to its natural availability and regional demand varies. This is especially true for water resources, which our Department is tasked to manage.”

She said it is for this reason that the DENR is set to commence the accounting and mapping of the country’s natural resources wherein it intends to combine geospatial intelligence, economics, and natural, social and industrial sciences.

“In light of our aim for granularity and to improve our ability to assess problems at the community level, we will soon be meeting with a team from the World Bank that will help with one of our flagship projects,” Loyzaga said, referring to the conduct of natural capital accounting.

Loyzaga said the work of natural capital accounting is trans disciplinary and will entail close collaboration and synergies with different development partners.

“This database is envisioned to be a management tool—one that will provide transparency and promote decisions and actions that are based on information and scientific data,” she added.

The PCCDR, which was presented by World Bank Group Senior Environmental Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean Stefano P. Pagiola, analyzed how climate change will affect development in the Philippines, particularly in the water, agriculture and energy sectors, and urban areas.

During his presentation, Pagiola said responses to climate change need to be tailor-fitted based on local conditions such as water demand and supply as impacts on climate change will likely differ across and within regions of the country.

Pagiola explained that Luzon will likely become wetter, while southern parts of Mindanao are likely to become drier, thus the increase in the risks of flood and drought will vary as well as the productivity of crops.

Pagiola also said that climate change will continue and accelerate in the Philippines, with temperatures to increase by about 1-3 degrees Celsius depending on the climate scenario, and rainfall will become more intense and erratic.

The report revealed that the estimated annual losses due to damages brought upon by typhoons are equivalent to 1.2 percent to as much as 4.6 percent of the country’s gross domestic product or GDP.

Loyzaga found this “unacceptable” as it effectively wipes out any annual increase in the GDP which in recent years “has been anywhere from 3-6 percent.”

Without action, climate change will also impose substantial economic and human costs including estimated economic damages that could reach up to 7.6 percent of GDP by 2030 and 13.6 percent by 2040, the report stated.

The PCCDR emphasized the urgent need to take climate action, ensure incentives for implementers, address both extreme and slow-onset events, target climate actions taking poverty and vulnerability into consideration, and use of adaptive social protection to help people cope with the effects of climate change.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Philippines' state of inclusion for women and children deteriorates](#)**

The Philippines ranked 80th (out of 166 countries) in the 2022 edition of the WeWorld Index by Italian nongovernment organization WeWorld Onlus and ChildFund Alliance, which focused specifically on five main barriers that hinder children and young people's future — poverty, conflict, forced migration, climate change, and online risks.

The report focused on the overlapping effects of the current crises and how they impact children's living conditions. The country fell two spots from last year's index at 78th place. In terms of value score — where a score equal or more than 85 means very good inclusion and a score equal or less than 44 means very severe inclusion — the Philippines received 74.4.

It was above the global average score of 63.6 but was below the 75.1 regional average. The report categorized Philippines as one of the 38 countries with "sufficient inclusion"<sup>\*\*</sup> for the conditions of women and children.

## CNN PHILIPPINES

### [Global population hits 8 billion as growth poses more challenges for the planet](#)

By: Tara Subramaniam

(CNN) — The world's population will reach 8 billion people on Tuesday, representing a "milestone in human development" before birth rates start to slow, according to a projection from the United Nations.

In a statement, the UN said the figure meant 1 billion people had been added to the global population in just 12 years.

"This unprecedented growth is due to the gradual increase in human lifespan owing to improvements in public health, nutrition, personal hygiene and medicine. It is also the result of high and persistent levels of fertility in some countries," the UN statement read.

Middle-income countries, mostly in Asia, accounted for most of the growth over the past decade, gaining some 700 million people since 2011. India added about 180 million people, and is set to surpass China as the world's most populous nation next year.

But even while the global population reaches new highs, demographers note the growth rate has fallen steadily to less than 1% per year. This should keep the world from reaching 9 billion people until 2037. The UN projects the global population will peak at around 10.4 billion people in the 2080s and remain at that level until 2100.

Most of the 2.4 billion people to be added before the global population peaks will be born in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the UN, marking a shift away from China and India.

#### Environmental impact

Reaching an 8 billion global population "is an occasion to celebrate diversity and advancements while considering humanity's shared responsibility for the planet," UN Secretary General António Guterres said in the UN statement.

Having more people on Earth puts more pressure on nature, as people compete with wildlife for water, food and space. Meanwhile, rapid population growth combined with climate change is also likely to cause mass migration and conflict in coming decades, experts say.

And whether it's food or water, batteries or gasoline, there will be less to go around as the global population grows. But how much they consume is equally important, suggesting policymakers can make a big difference by mandating a shift in consumption patterns.

Carbon emissions of the richest 1%, or about 63 million people, were more than double the emissions of the poorest half of humanity between 1990 and 2015, according to a

2020 analysis by the Stockholm Environment Institute and non-profit Oxfam International.

Resource pressure will be especially daunting in African nations, where populations are expected to boom, experts say. These are also among the countries most vulnerable to climate impacts, and most in need of climate finance.

## [Reform, Rebuild, Recover: JFC to host 11th Arangkada Philippines Forum](#)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines) — The Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines will host its 11th annual Arangkada Philippines Forum on Dec. 6 with the theme “Reform, Rebuild, Recover.”

The event to be held at Marriott Hotel’s Manila Ballroom in Pasay City will focus on how policy reforms can accelerate and sustain economic recovery.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno and Management Association of the Philippines President Rogelio Singson will deliver keynote speeches.

The first panel titled “Achieving Robust Infrastructure for a Stronger Economy” will look into the administration’s plans to modernize the country’s infrastructure, strengthen public-private partnerships, and pursue green infrastructure projects.

A special session will focus on the most important legislative reforms pending in Congress, including policies seeking to address key challenges in regaining pre-pandemic growth momentum.

The second panel titled “Accelerating Exports for High Growth” will focus on the government’s priorities to increase productivity and competitiveness of key industries — agriculture, manufacturing, and mining.

Initiatives to strengthen the capacity of the country’s micro, small, and medium enterprises towards integrating them into the global value chain will also be explored.

The “Advancing Digitalization for Inclusive Recovery” panel will explore the role of digital technology and the importance of the Philippine digital transformation in inclusive and sustainable recovery.

Also among topics to be discussed are opportunities for upskilling the workforce, developing technology solutions for healthcare, enhancing digital literacy in Philippine education, and leveraging innovation relative to sustainability in doing business.

Subsequent legislative priorities and recommendations to help rebuild sectors most affected by the pandemic will also be tackled.

Each panel will have representatives from the public and private sectors to identify opportunities to resume sustainable high growth, job creation, poverty reduction, and increased investment.

The JFC will also hold its Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony which features individuals of any nationality residing in the Philippines who have contributed significantly to improving the country’s business environment.

The Arangkada Forum is JFC's initiative that provides a platform for collaborative engagement among business leaders, industry experts, representatives from the public sector, the diplomatic community, and the media.

This year's Arangkada Forum is supported by KKR & Co. Inc., TeamAsia, Eastern Communications, SGV & Co., First Philippine Holdings, Emerson Philippines, International Container Terminal Services, Inc., Meralco, Royal Cargo, AIG Philippines, GHD, ARC by Full Circle Craft Distillers, BDO Unibank, Coca-Cola Philippines, International Workplace Group, Manila Water, Manila Marriott Hotel, and The Asia Foundation.

The JFC is a coalition of the American, Australian-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese, and Korean chambers as well as the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Incorporated.

It supports and promotes open international trade, increased foreign investment, and improved conditions for business to benefit both the Philippines and the countries the JFC members represent.

## EURO NEWS

### [Is population growth fuelling climate change? It's not that simple, say experts](#)

By: Nicole Lin Chang

On Tuesday, the world's 8 billionth person was born. That's according to a projection by the United Nations, which has designated 15 November 2022 as the Day of 8 Billion to mark this milestone.

At the same time, the world is getting hotter. The Earth has warmed almost 0.9 degrees Celsius since we hit the 4 billion-person mark in 1974.

Climate change and population crowding might seem like two issues that are strongly linked - and they are, but not quite as much as people might think, experts say.

While more people consuming energy - mostly from the burning of fossil fuels - is warming the planet, the key issue isn't the number of people. It is how a small fraction of those people are causing far more than their share of carbon emissions, say several climate and population experts.

"We do have a population problem and we do have a population issue," says Vanessa Perez-Cicera, director of the Global Economics Center at the World Resources Institute.

"But I think most importantly, we have an overconsumption issue."

Because of that, the 8 billionth child born will "not have what we had ... because there's not enough resources," she says.

Do more populous regions emit more carbon dioxide?

Although climate change can often be linked to population growth, it doesn't necessarily follow that one is caused by the other.

And regions that have more people do not necessarily emit more carbon.

Take Kenya, which is currently suffering a devastating drought. It has 55 million people, about 95 times more than the population of Wyoming in the United States. But Wyoming emits 3.7 times the amount of carbon dioxide as Kenya.

Africa as a whole has 16.7 per cent of the world's population but historically emits only 3 per cent of global carbon pollution. The United States, however, has 4.5 per cent of the planet's people but since 1959 has put out 21.5 per cent of heat-trapping carbon dioxide, according to data from the Global Carbon Project.

Looking at emissions from countries between 1959 and 2020 the United States, not China, is the biggest carbon polluter.

"The question is not about population but rather about consumption patterns," said climate scientist Bill Hare of Climate Analytics.

"So it's best to look at the major northern emitters to begin with."

How does the world's population affect climate change?

Climate Interactive, a group of scientists who run intricate computer simulations that can be tweaked to see what factors matter the most in fighting climate change, looked at the difference population makes.

It found that number of people made a small contribution as opposed to other factors, like economics.

Comparing two United Nations population projections scenarios of 8.8 billion people and 10.4 billion people, Climate Interactive's Drew Jones found only a 0.2 degrees Celsius difference.

But the difference between no price or tax on carbon, compared to \$100 (€96) a tonne, was 0.7 degrees Celsius.

Hare says there is more than a tinge of racism in the myth that overpopulation is the major issue behind climate change.

"One of the biggest arguments that I hear, almost exclusively from men in high-income countries, is that, 'Oh, it's just a population problem,'" The Nature Conservancy Chief Scientist Katharine Hayhoe said.

"Nothing could be further from the truth."

"The 50 per cent poorest people in the world are historically responsible for 7 per cent of heat trapping gas emissions," Hayhoe said.

"Yet when you look at which countries are bearing the brunt of the impacts from climate change, countries like Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Afghanistan, topped the list."

And even within countries, it's the wealthiest who cause more of the carbon pollution, Hare adds.

"[Overall] 80 per cent of the population, the global population, emits a small fraction of emissions."

Which areas of the world are growing the fastest?

The world's population is growing mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia "and they're contributing the least to man-made climate change," said Colette Rose, project coordinator at the Berlin Institute for Population and Development.

Eight nations, five in Africa and three in Asia, are going to have at least half of the population growth between now and 2050, according to Rose.

They are Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, India and the Philippines.

Worldwide population growth has substantially slowed, will likely peak sometime this century, and is now down to growing less than 1 per cent a year.

But carbon emissions are growing faster, at 1 per cent more this year than in 2021.

### **Loss and damage key issue at COP27**

Instead of population growth, perhaps a more salient issue is the imbalance of wealth between the Global North and South.

This has been a key issue at this year's COP27 United Nations climate change conference in Egypt.

Developing countries have been calling for specific funding - known as loss and damage - to cope with the disasters that developed countries' high emissions are wreaking.

On Monday, Germany and other G7 countries, alongside the V20 group of vulnerable countries, unveiled plans to launch a "Global Shield" against climate risks.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Biden pledges \\$825-M aid to Asean countries](#)

By: Jacob Lazaro

The United States has promised to extend \$825 million in assistance to Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines.

During the US-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit hosted by Cambodia, President Joe Biden said the 10-country bloc was “at the heart of my administration’s Indo-Pacific Strategy” and promised to give the cash assistance to countries in the region in 2023.

The funds will come from the Department of State and US Agency for International Development. It is meant to address common ambitions in the region such as upscaled climate change efforts, clean energy transition, strengthened health care, access to education, security modernization, rule of law, human rights, and others.

This is part of the efforts to elevate the US-Asean relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Though Biden, erroneously called host Cambodia “Columbia” a few times during his visit, he wished to “build an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, stable and prosperous, resilient and secure”

According to the White House, all throughout the year several Asean nations have met with US officials to discuss collaborating on programs in women empowerment and gender equality, security and transportation.

The US-Asean Electric Vehicle Initiative was also launched by the Biden administration to effectively integrate electric vehicles (EV) in the region and reduce carbon emissions.

The initiative will support planning and development of EV infrastructure, provide capacity-building and technical assistance and facilitate partnerships with US companies.

The US Department of Defense also plans to invest approximately \$10 million every year in support of emerging Southeast Asian defense leaders. This aims to provide training to accelerate the defense sector professionalization and network building among Asean and US defense leaders.

While President Marcos was not able to have a one-on-one meeting with Biden during the summit, in his address, he called on the United States to step up cooperation in the fight “against illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing”

This while, Mr. Marcos hopes the code of conduct between the Philippines and China be finalized immediately to address the decade long dispute over the West Philippine Sea.

### **Agriculture and sustainability**

The United States also plans on investing \$57 million for food security and access to clean water in southeast asian countries. Its “Food for School Feeding” program aims to provide meals to 109,000 Cambodian students for the next five years.

It also plans to expand Philippine production of organic coconut products.

## Solar energy delivers \$78M in savings for coal addict PH

By: Kurt Dela Peña

MANILA, Philippines—“Renewable energy is the way to go.” This was what Yeb Saño, executive director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said back in 2016, when renewable energy sources were still having a limited share in power generation. He said “now is the best time to switch on the power of renewables.”

As Greenpeace Philippines stated, with 800 gigawatts of untapped renewable energy, the government, which is now led by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., should strengthen the push to transition to renewable energy.

To see the potential benefit of renewable energy, one gigawatt is enough to power at least 750,000 homes so 800 gigawatts means 600 million homes being supplied with non-polluting, renewable energy.

This, as renewable energy sources, like solar and wind, stand to benefit every Filipino, especially because these are expected to provide reliable and cheap electricity to poor households, the group said.

Greenpeace Philippines had said solar energy is “clean, reliable, abundant and an affordable alternative to fossil fuels,” which releases greenhouse gases into the air when burned.

Then last Nov. 10, Ember, the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air and the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis revealed that in the first six months of 2022, solar capacity has increased in the Philippines.

But while generation was still minimal at 1.7 percent of the energy mix, the Philippines was able to save \$78 million in fossil fuel spending, according to a report that analyzed Asia’s use of solar energy.

The Philippines was one of the seven key Asian countries whose solar generation capacity helped avoid \$34 billion in fossil fuel spending in the first six months of the year—January to June.

Most of these estimated savings were in China, where solar met five percent of the total electricity demand and helped avoid \$21 billion in fossil fuel imports during that period, Ember revealed.

Japan, where solar accounts for nine percent of generation, saw the second biggest contribution with \$5.6 billion in avoided fuel costs: “Thanks to solar power generation alone, which reached record levels for the country in May this year.”

Then in India, where the high price of coal is one of the main reasons for the current power crisis, solar generation helped save \$4.2 billion in fuel costs in the first half of the year.

It also avoided the need for an additional 19.4 million tons of coal that would have stressed the already strained domestic supply.

Ember said Vietnam, through the use of solar, avoided \$1.7 billion in potential fossil fuel costs, while Thailand, where solar accounts for only two percent of generation, saved \$209 million.

Then in South Korea, solar had a five percent generation share in the first six months of the year, saving \$1.5 billion in fossil fuel spending. South Korea is also one of five Asian countries included in the 10 solar-powered economies all over the world.

### **Demand expected to grow**

As stressed by Ember, solar power in Asia has the potential to grow over the next decade.

This, as based on existing national targets across the five economies—China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan—“we expect to see solar capacity across the region growing at an average of 22 percent per year until 2030.”

This growth will be most pronounced in China, where solar capacity installations alone are expected to reach 1,200 GW by 2030. However, “we also expect to see significant growth in India, Indonesia and the Philippines.”

Ember said “this will require tailored national policy innovation, investments in energy storage and flexibility, and collective economic and technological cooperation on a grand scale.”

“Asian countries have shown that rapid solar deployment is possible, setting a remarkable example and providing valuable lessons learned for their peers in the region,” Dr. Achmed Shahram Edianto, Ember’s Asia electricity analyst, said.

“As the prices of solar and storage plummet, and the potential cost savings have started to materialize, solar dominance in Asia now looks to come much sooner than previously expected.”

What’s next? Ember stressed that the Philippines “has notable ambitions for solar energy generation.”

It said the Philippines legislated plans to increase solar power capacity to 20 gigawatts by 2030, reaching 46 gigawatts by 2040. If achieved, the 2030 mark would be almost 15 times more than the present level at 1.4 gigawatts.

Solar power is expected to continue growing exponentially across five key Asian countries—China, India, Japan, the Philippines and Indonesia—with an average of 22 percent growth each year, positioning the region to become a global hub of solar power.

“The fastest growth rates are expected in the Philippines and Indonesia,” Ember said.

It revealed that solar should account for a 15 percent share of the new Renewable Portfolio Standards by 2030, stressing that if this is achieved, the Philippines could avoid at least \$580 million in fuel costs.

“Overall there appears to be a new tone to the Philippines’ efforts to expand solar capacity, which could be a game changer for the country,” it said.

Implementation needed

However, Ember said while “ambitious targets are important, they require implementation.”

“There are many barriers preventing the rapid deployment of solar in many Asian countries. Developers in the Philippines face permit bottlenecks, and several other countries exceed the legally binding limits of project development times.”

Based on data from the Department of Energy (DOE), power generation in the Philippines is still primarily sourced from fossil fuels, with coal accounting for over 17,000 kilotons of oil equivalent (kTOE) in 2020.

Next to coal is oil, which accounted for over 16,000 kTOE. Natural gas, meanwhile, accounted for over 3,000 kTOE.

The DOE said renewable energy sources had a share of only 118 kTOE for solar, 88.3 kTOE for wind, and 1,790 for hydropower.

“With skyrocketing fuel prices expected to remain a factor, stepping up the deployment of solar, removing the existing barriers and creating the enabling environment for new solar could ease the pressure on its energy system and government budgets,” Ember said.

### **Shift to renewables now**

As highlighted by Greenpeace Philippines, renewable energy is winning all over the world, and some cities and provinces in the Philippines have already declared themselves coal-free.

“If we resist coal in our communities and break the myths surrounding renewable energy, we can achieve energy independence and a bright future for us all.”

## **But why?**

It said coal-fired power plants are one of the leading contributors to climate change, which is now threatening the survival of all life on the planet. It also “harms the environment and public health at every stage of its life cycle.”

That’s why some countries have turned to clean energy sources like wind and solar, which are safer, and even cheaper in the long run, it said.

“Filipinos are on the front lines of the climate emergency, so we need to lead by example. Demand a swifter and just transition to clean renewable energy now.”

Based on data from the DOE, most greenhouse gas emissions came from coal in 2020 at 67.1 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e), followed by oil at 45.2 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e and natural gas at 7.7 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Back in 2018, a Pulse Asia survey found that nearly 9 in 10 Filipinos prefer renewable energy over coal and fossil-fuel-based electricity.

## World making little progress on food waste, a big climate problem

By Reuters

Every Thursday, California resident Richard Redmond takes a gallon-sized container of food scraps to the farmers market in the city of South Pasadena where it is collected and composted for use in gardens – an effort to reduce the amount of household waste he sends to landfill.

“It’s just stunning,” the web designer, who is in his 60s, said. “You can see how separating it just reduces the amount of garbage you are putting out.”

Redmond’s experience is a tiny window into a huge global problem, and not enough people are with him.

Every year, the world throws away around 931 million tons of food, most of it ending up in landfills, where it decomposes to produce around a tenth of the world’s climate-warming gases, according to the United Nations.

That’s a major challenge for countries tackling global warming at the COP27 climate summit underway in Egypt. Nations around the globe pledged in 2015 to halve food waste by 2030, but few are on track to do so, according to officials from the United Nations, sustainability watchdogs, and governments interviewed by Reuters.

“Eight years to go and we are nowhere close to reaching that goal,” said Rosa Rolle, the team leader for food loss and waste at the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization.

Among the top five biggest food wasters per capita, for example, at least three – the United States, Australia and New Zealand – have increased their food waste since 2015, according to independent estimates that their governments do not dispute. Reliable information for the other two, Ireland and Canada, was not available.

The problem is not limited to richer countries, either. A UN study last year found “negligible” correlation between household food waste and gross domestic product, indicating most countries “have room to improve.”

The bleak performance is due to a lack of public investment and clear policies to counter things like food spoilage in trucks and warehouses, wasteful consumer habits, and confusion about expiration and sell-by dates, experts said.

Complicating the issue is a lack of transparency. When the U.N. General Assembly adopted the 2015 food waste goal, it did not establish a clear benchmark against which to measure progress because of spotty country-level estimates.

U.N. agencies and nonprofits attending COP27 will ask governments on Nov. 16 to renew their pledges and provide progress reports at next year’s summit in Dubai, Rolle said.

## **American pie**

The average American wastes more than 700 calories of food per day – about a third of recommended daily intake – according to a 2020 study by researchers in Switzerland and India, making America’s progress an important benchmark for other nations.

The country is no role model yet. The amount of food wasted in the United States rose 12% between 2010 and 2016 and has since plateaued, according to ReFED, a waste reduction group that works closely with the U.S. government.

“We do have a long way to make the goal,” said Jean Buzby, the food waste liaison at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Part of the problem is a lack of federal leadership.

The USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration agreed in 2018 to tackle America’s food waste together. But they’ve devoted few resources to the effort since, said Dana Gunders, executive director of ReFED.

USDA and FDA each have just one full-time staff person dedicated to food waste, the agencies told Reuters. EPA declined to give a number, saying the work was spread across several offices.

“What real focus would look like on this topic would be for each of these agencies to dedicate staff, to give those staff funding to implement things,” Gunders said.

The USDA and EPA said they do not track spending on food waste initiatives. The FDA did not comment on its spending.

In the meantime, the agencies are relying on the private sector to help. Forty-seven companies, including food retailer Ahold Delhaize and processor General Mills, have made pledges to halve their food waste by 2030 as part of a voluntary USDA and EPA program launched in 2016.

Some 15 of those companies have provided updates on their websites showing they have cut waste. Neither EPA or USDA verifies their progress.

Beyond the federal level, just five states have passed laws to keep food out of landfills, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. They are California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont. ReFED considers just two of those to be strong policies because they cover most businesses and individuals.

The other countries in the top five wasters have also been slow even to set a baseline to measure progress.

In New Zealand, the percentage of food households tossed into the bin rose to 13.4% in 2022 from 8.6% in 2021, according to a report by research firm Katar. A spokesman for New Zealand's environment ministry said the country is finalizing its baseline food waste estimate so it can establish a target.

Spokespeople from Canada, Australia and Ireland also said their countries were committed to the goal but did not say what progress had been made so far.

At least one big economy, by contrast, is doing well.

The United Kingdom reduced food waste by 27% between 2007 and 2018, according to The Waste and Resources Action Programme, an organization that tracks the nation's progress. Its campaign included eliminating "best by" dates on packaging, redistributing unused food to charities, and public education on meal planning.

### **Slowest gazelle**

In California, which has America's most ambitious climate policies, officials are trying to ensure food waste goes to composting, not landfills. But it's a struggle.

Composting food emits less greenhouse gas than landfilling because the decomposition happens in open air instead of in a covered pit. When food rots without air exposure it produces methane, one of the most powerful greenhouse gases.

The state in 2016 passed a law requiring a 75% reduction in landfilling of organic waste by 2025. But in 2020, the state was moving in the wrong direction, throwing 2 million tons more food into landfills than in its baseline year of 2014.

The delays are due in part to a lack of facilities to handle the organic waste and a tight 13-month timeline between when regulations were finalized and when they were required to be implemented, according to the League of California Cities, which represents the state's municipalities.

In the Southern California community of Apple Valley, however, town officials are ready, and have equipped residents with 35-gallon carts for organic waste.

The service has driven consumer bills for waste collection up several dollars a month, but it is money well spent, said Guy Eisenbrey, director of municipal services.

"We're basically trying not to be the slowest gazelle in the pack."

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [DENR launches search for most improved estero in NCR](#)

By: Perfecto Raymundo, Jr.

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday launched the 3rd Gawad Taga-Ilog: Search for the Most Improved Estero (waterway) in Metro Manila.

The search is a region-wide competition recognizing efforts of local government units (LGUs) in the National Capital Region (NCR) in keeping their waterways clean and trash-free, and actively participating in the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

At a press conference, DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan said this November, the agency will be celebrating three environmental events such as National Environmental Awareness and Education Month, Clean Air Month, and National Climate Change Consciousness Week.

“All these three events are geared towards the consciousness on the importance of the environment and natural resources for sustainable growth and development of the country,” Caancan said.

“We are focused on the immediate concern of the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Because of the population, rapid growth and development, it has a real impact on the environment,” she added.

Caancan said the DENR hopes to restore Manila Bay, popular among promenaders for its picturesque sunset view, to its former glory, if not completely rehabilitate it.

In 2019, the DENR launched the cleanup drive dubbed as the “Battle for Manila Bay” and, in line with that, conceptualized the search for the most improved esteros the following year.

“Now we are launching the 3rd Gawad Taga-Ilog dubbed as 'GTI 3.0' which steadily gained the support and participation of the local government units in Metro Manila,” Caancan said.

“The media can help to inform as many barangays in Metro Manila on our common shared responsibility not only for the DENR, for the government, the community, but also with the local government units. Ang pinakamahalaga po ang ating komunidad, especially those in the waterways (The most important is our community, especially those in the waterways),” Caancan said.

Caancan said the DENR believes the key to resolving the environmental issues of Metro Manila is the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay, through the help of local government units.

“For this purpose, we will not only continue to provide policy and technical support to local governments. We also commit to working closely with our local leaders, including those at the grassroots in addressing other related issues,” she added.

She stressed the importance of protecting our environment “sapagkat ikaw, ako, tayo ang kalikasan (Because you, me, we are the environment).”

The judging criteria in the “Gawad Taga-Ilog” are the following: solid waste management – 25 percent, liquid waste management – 15 percent, informal settler families and illegal structures management – 15 percent, habitat and resources management – 20 percent, and sustainability and partnership management – 25 percent.

The search will run from November 2022 until February 2023.

The proposed awards date is March 22, 2023 in time for the celebration of “World Water Day/Week”.

## Leyte promotes bamboo production in response to global demand

By: Sarwell Meniano

PALO, Leyte – Towns in Leyte province are encouraged to venture into bamboo production to respond to growing global demand for its by-products.

Palo Mayor Remedios Petilla, president of League of Municipalities-Leyte, said the promotion of bamboo's social, economic, and environmental benefits will provide alternative income for locals and address the impact of climate change.

“Bamboo thrives well in Leyte but there is shortage of supply. We, in Palo town, have to find strong bamboos in the mountains of Burauen and other towns,” Petilla said in an interview during the opening of a bamboo show and exhibit at a hotel here on Tuesday.

“We will plant them in areas with slopes and near waterways. After few years, we can process the bamboo into anything we want,” she added.

Three bamboo geodesic domes, bamboo furniture and office tables, and planting materials of giant bamboo and guadua (iron bamboo) are featured in the exhibit.

On Wednesday, the town will host a bamboo summit to be graced by experts who will share inputs on how to promote and expand the bamboo industry in the province.

Mindanao's leading bamboo furniture and products designer, Robert Palomares, will talk about the topic "Engineered Bamboo Designs and Innovations".

He will join National Security Adviser Clarita Carlos who will discuss the impact of climate change on national security, and Development Bank of the Philippines president Emmanuel Herbosa who will present financing programs for local government to support bamboo industry development.

## RAPPLER

### [\[Opinion\] Rich countries' moral responsibility to address climate chaos](#)

A nation's cumulative emissions must be the basis of its responsibility to act. While private finance can help, the onus is on big historical emitters to stump up the money.

Climate change is a global problem that requires cooperation between all nations. That's why today, more than 30 newspapers and media organizations in more than 20 countries have taken a common view about what needs to be done. Time is running out. Rather than getting out of fossil fuels and into clean energy, many wealthy nations are reinvesting in oil and gas, failing to cut emissions fast enough, and haggling over the aid they are prepared to send to poor countries. All this while the planet hurtles towards the point of no return – where climate chaos becomes irreversible.

Since the COP26 United Nations climate summit in Glasgow 12 months ago, countries have only promised to do one-50th of what is needed to stay on track to keep temperatures within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels. No continent has avoided extreme weather disasters in 2022 – from floods in Pakistan to heatwaves in Europe, and from forest fires in Australia to hurricanes in the US. Given that these came about from elevated temperatures of about 1.1°C, the world can expect far worse to come.

As many nations seek to reduce their reliance on Russia, the world is experiencing a “gold rush” for new fossil fuel projects. These are cast as temporary supply measures, but they risk locking the planet into irreversible damage. All this underlines that humanity has to end its addiction to fossil fuels. If renewable energy was the norm, there would be no climate emergency.

The world's poorest people will bear the brunt of the destruction wrought by drought, melting ice sheets, and crop failures. To shield these groups from the loss of life and livelihoods will require money. Developing countries, says one influential report, need \$2 trillion annually to cut their greenhouse gas emissions and cope with climate breakdown.

Rich countries account for just one in eight people in the world today but are responsible for half of greenhouse gases. These nations have a clear moral responsibility to help. Developing nations should be given enough cash to address the dangerous conditions they did little to create – especially as a global recession looms.

Rich nations should deliver on the promise of previously committed funds – such as the \$100 billion a year from 2020 – to signal their seriousness. As a bare minimum, a windfall tax on the combined profits of the largest oil and gas companies – estimated at almost \$100 billion in the first three months of the year – needs to be enacted. The United Nations was right to call for the cash to be used to support the most vulnerable. But such a levy would only be the start. Poor nations also carry debts that make it impossible to recover after climate-related disasters or protect themselves from future

ones. Creditors should be generous in writing off loans for those on the frontline of the climate emergency.

These measures need not wait for coordinated international action. Countries could implement them on regional or national levels. A nation's cumulative emissions must be the basis of its responsibility to act. While private finance can help, the onus is on big historical emitters to stump up the money.

Solving the crisis is the moonshot of our times. Getting to the moon succeeded within a decade because huge resources were devoted to it. A similar commitment is needed now. But an economic crisis has reduced rich countries' appetite for spending and the planet risks being trapped in fossil fuel dependence by a rearguard action of big business. Yet, during the pandemic, central banks across the world lubricated states' expenditure by buying up their own governments' bonds. The trillions of dollars needed to deal with the ecological emergency demands such radical thinking returns.

This is no time for apathy or complacency; the urgency of the moment is upon us. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change must be about the power of argument, not the argument of power. Key to maintaining the consensus in Egypt is not to let disputes over trade and war in Ukraine block global climate diplomacy. The UN process may not be perfect. But it has provided nations with a target to save the planet, which must be pursued at COP27 to stave off an existential risk to humanity. – Rappler.com

## SUNSTAR

### [Earth at 8 billion: Consumption not crowd is key to climate](#)

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt -- The world is getting hotter and more crowded and the two issues are connected, but not quite as much as people might think, experts say.

On Tuesday, November 15, 2022, somewhere a baby will be born that will be the globe's eight billionth person, according to a projection by the United Nations and other experts. The Earth has warmed almost 0.9 degrees Celsius (1.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since the world hit the four billion mark in 1974.

Climate and population is a touchy subject for scientists and officials.

While more people consuming energy, mostly from the burning of fossil fuels, is warming the planet, the key issue isn't the number of people as much as how a small fraction of those people are causing way more than their share of carbon pollution, several climate and population experts told The Associated Press.

"We do have a population problem and we do have a population issue," said Vanessa Perez-Cicera, director of the Global Economics Center at the World Resources Institute. "But I think most importantly, we have an overconsumption issue."

And because of that the eight billionth child born will "not have what we had ... because there's not enough resources," she said.

Kenya, which is suffering through a devastating drought, has 55 million people, about 95 times more than the population of Wyoming. But Wyoming emits 3.7 times the carbon dioxide as Kenya. Africa as whole has 16.7 percent of the world's population but historically emits only three percent of the global carbon pollution, while the United States has 4.5 percent of the planet's people but since 1959 has put out 21.5 percent of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide.

The average Canadian, Saudi and Australian put out more than 10 times the carbon dioxide into the air though their daily living than the average Pakistani, where one-third of the nation was flooded in a climate change worsened event. And in Qatar the per capita emissions is 20 times Pakistan's, according to the World Bank.

"The question is not about population but rather about consumption patterns," said climate scientist Bill Hare of Climate Analytics. "So it's best to look at the major northern emitters to begin with."

Climate Interactive, a group of scientists who run intricate computer simulations that can be tweaked to see what factors matter the most in fighting climate change, looked at the difference population makes. It found it made a small contribution compared to other factors, like economics.

## Green groups demand climate, economic justice anew

By: Ronald O. Reyes

ENVIRONMENTAL advocates and other civil society groups in the country joined in another call for climate and economic justice as global leaders and policy makers met in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and Bali, Indonesia for the COP27 climate summit and G20 summit.

“The majority of peoples and communities in Asia bear the brunt of the worsening climate crisis. This is on top of the multiple crises we face such as the food, social service, and health crises. We demand from COP 27 and the G20 summit the delivery of adequate, grants-based, and accessible climate finance, the establishment of a loss and damage fund, as well as reparations for the climate debt owed by rich countries to the Global South,” said Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), on Monday, November 14, 2022.

In a joint statement, Nacpil lamented the "failure of governments of rich countries to deliver climate finance."

Lawyer Aaron Pedrosa of Sanlakas said world leaders gathered at COP 27 and the G20 summit "must deliver a commitment to rapid, just, and equitable transition to 100% democratic and renewable energy systems and low-carbon development."

Based on the 2022 Adaptation Gap Report, which was released ahead of the COP27, annual adaptation needs are between \$160 billion to \$340 billion by the end of the decade, and up to \$565 billion by 2050.

Ian Rivera, national coordinator of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), urged the governments of rich countries, multilateral banks, and corporations “to immediately stop funding and supporting fossil fuel projects.”

“We really have to end fossil fuels now. There must be no more new oil, gas or coal if we are to save humanity. Shift those financing to clean energy,” he said.

Meanwhile, Ka Leody de Guzman, national chairperson of Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), called for “a wealth tax to cover the cost of climate change impacts and support the poor facing multiple crises and unjust taxation.”

“This is among the many necessary steps towards achieving economic redistribution, and eventually, the much-needed system change that prioritises people over profit,” he said.

Advocacy groups who joined the call include Oriang Women's Movement and Freedom from Debt Coalition, among others.

On Wednesday, November 16, 2022, the groups will also join the march for the Asian Day of Action for Climate and Economic Justice to express their demands to governments of rich countries at COP27 and Bali Summit.

Simultaneous actions will be held in almost 30 cities across 6 countries in Asian regions.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [\[Opinion\] PH needs stronger sustainability reporting](#)

OVER the past few years, there has been an increasing push to require companies to significantly broaden their sustainability reporting, or reporting on climate risks posed by their operations as well as risks they face from climate change effects. This is particularly important in the most climate-vulnerable countries such as the Philippines, as climate adaptation and mitigation efforts cannot be effectively carried out without the cooperation of the private sector. While sustainability reporting is being implemented here, the government should move more quickly if it wants sustainability reporting to be of any practical use.

There are both economic and environmental advantages to a robust framework of sustainability reporting. On the economic side, sustainability reporting is vital to determining the scope of the investment needed for climate adaptation, mitigation and disaster response planning. According to an analysis by McKinsey & Company earlier this year, about \$5 trillion will be spent on climate action worldwide by 2025, and in order to meet already committed emissions and pollution reduction targets, about \$11 trillion in assets will have to be retired. Most of this unprecedented shift in the capital will fall on the private sector, so a clear accounting of what will be affected is obviously needed.

On the environmental side, sustainability reporting is necessary for identifying what climate actions need to be taken. Most reputable companies, either out of a sense of social responsibility or adherence to existing laws, already implement some sustainable practices that can be integrated into climate action policies. Likewise, problems created by companies — excessive emissions, creation of solid waste, damaging land and water use, and so on — can be identified more quickly with sound sustainability reporting. Ideally, of course, the companies in question would then be able to carry out the appropriate fixes, but even if they do not, the government would have a clear understanding of what issues need to be addressed through new laws or regulations.

In terms of existing sustainability reporting, the Asean region generally and the Philippines specifically are far behind more developed economies. An analysis of the top 100 listed companies in each of the Asean's major economies — Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines — in June of this year by the Singapore-based Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) had rather uncomplimentary findings.

Sustainability reporting was measured in seven key areas: the reporting framework employed, materiality, risks and opportunities, governance, strategy, targets, and performance. These key areas in turn were derived from the commonly accepted frameworks for sustainability reporting, including the GRI's own reporting framework, the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), the Greenhouse Gas

(GHG) Protocol, the Science-based Target initiative (SBTi), the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Across all six economies, the average level of sustainability reporting where most or all of the seven key areas are addressed is only 46 percent. Thailand, where reporting requirements have been recently strengthened, is the best at 57 percent, while the Philippines is at only 42 percent, the lowest except for Vietnam, where a mere 24 percent of the biggest listed companies carry out sustainability reporting.

To be fair to the government, the need for sound sustainability reporting has not been entirely overlooked. Since 2019, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has required listed companies to follow a "comply and explain" disclosure policy, and the agency is planning to make sustainability reporting mandatory for all publicly listed companies from 2023 (i.e., the 2022 reporting period). Likewise, the SEC is planning to introduce voluntary reporting for non-listed companies, with an eye toward eventually making this mandatory as well.

However, the guidelines for sustainability reporting — which are reportedly to be based largely on the GRI and TCFD reporting frameworks — are not clear, suggesting that the deadline that is now just weeks away may be missed.

We stress again, the real importance of sustainability reporting is to provide vital information to guide climate response policy. The longer a uniform practice of sustainability reporting is delayed, the greater the risk climate response policy will result in actions that are inadequate or simply wrong, or even worse, no action at all.

## Marcos flies to Thailand for APEC meet

By: Catherine S. Valente

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. will lead the Philippine delegation to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Thailand, where he will push for measures on food and energy security as well as climate change adaptation.

Marcos, who will leave for Bangkok on Wednesday, November 16, will join his fellow heads of state for the annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting from November 16 to 19.

He will also attend other related summits where he is expected to discuss plans and priorities of the Philippines in terms of trade, investment and post-pandemic economic recovery.

The President will also have at least six bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the APEC Summit.

It will be the first in-person APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting since 2018 and the first for the Marcos administration.

Press Undersecretary Cheloy Garafil said this year's summit will be an opportunity to push the administration's economic agenda and priorities.

These, she said, include the empowerment of micro, small and medium enterprises and their inclusion in global value chains, recognition of the essential role of maritime crews and seafarers in ensuring stable and resilient supply chains, food and energy security, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

"He (Marcos) will also have the opportunity to meet with leaders of economies to discuss our bilateral relations and seek [a] path toward mutual economic benefits," Garafil said in a statement.

World leaders expected to attend the APEC Summit are Chinese President Xi Jinping, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Russian President Vladimir Putin, among other leaders of the organization's 21-member economies.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Teresita Daza earlier said that APEC accounts for about 85 percent of the Philippines' trade abroad, while 82 percent of tourism flows into the country are from members of the forum.

APEC economies also host around 60 percent of Filipinos abroad, who are responsible for 68 percent of remittances to the Philippines, she said.

The Philippines, a founding member of the forum, hosted the APEC meetings in 1996 and 2015.

APEC was founded in 1989 to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Marcos gets tested for Covid-19 for the APEC meet

President Marcos on Tuesday also underwent a test for Covid-19 after Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen contracted the disease.

Marcos had himself tested as part of the health protocol for the APEC Summit 2022, Garafil said.

"The President had himself tested as part of the health protocol for the APEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand. He also instructed members of the official delegation to Cambodia to have themselves tested," Garafil said in a statement.

The Palace official, however, did not disclose the result of the test.

This came after the Cambodian leader tested positive for the disease, following the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summits in Phnom Penh, Cambodia last week.

Marcos and Hun Sen held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Asean Summit on Thursday last week.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### Climate disaster aid scheme insufficient solution to loss and damage — groups

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

BALI, Indonesia — The Philippines will be among the first countries to receive financial support from a scheme that seeks to provide funding to communities suffering from climate disasters, but groups questioned the effectiveness of the initiative.

The Group of Seven (G7) and the Vulnerable 20 Group of Finance Ministers (V20) of countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change launched the “Global Shield against Climate Risks” as the COP27 climate summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt entered its final week.

The scheme aims to provide “pre-arranged financial support designed to be quickly deployed in times of climate disaster.”

Aside from the Philippines, the first recipients of Global Shield packages also include Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan and Senegal.

The scheme is largely in the form of insurance that pays out immediately — or even before — a climate disaster.

Distraction?

But some Filipino campaigners stressed that the scheme is not enough to cover the “loss and damage” vulnerable communities have already suffered from a warming planet.

“Definitely, the Global Shield is not enough to cover the loss and damage to peoples and communities from the Global South,” Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of Asia Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development, told Philstar.com.

Loss and damage, or how wealthy economies should compensate developing countries for climate-fueled disasters, is a thorny issue at climate change negotiations. For years, countries that got rich from burning planet-warming fossil fuels have resisted the creation of a loss and damage fund for fear of climate liability.

“We can understand why governments of vulnerable countries are accepting the Global Shield as part of the response from the Global North due to the urgency of the needs. But we are certain the governments from vulnerable countries are not going to settle just for this. They are demanding more,” Nacpil added.

Joy Reyes, a human rights and climate justice lawyer with the Manila Observatory, called the scheme a “distraction.”

“[It] will incentivize rich countries to delay funding. The ask is to establish a loss and damage financing facility. Insurance plays a small part in addressing loss and damage,” she said.

The Global Shield is designed to provide livelihood protection, social protection systems, livestock and crop insurance, and property insurance.

The funding has an initial funding of more than \$200 million.

## [UN chief urges G20 nations to take extra efforts to fight climate change](#)

By Gaea Katreena Cabico

BALI, Indonesia — United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres stressed that G20 member states — responsible for 80% global greenhouse gas emissions — should make additional efforts this decade to keep alive a target of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

“Science tells us that global heating beyond that limit poses an existential threat to all life on threat. But global emissions, and temperatures, continue to rise,” Guterres told reporters in the Indonesian island resort of Bali Monday evening.

Under the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement, global warming must be limited well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts for a tougher ceiling of 1.5°C.

Climate scientists have said that climate shocks will become more severe with every increment of a warming.

The UN chief has pitched a “Climate Solidarity Pact” that would see developed nations take extra efforts to reduce planet-warming emissions, while providing technical and financial assistance to emerging economies.

He said the proposed pact can help end the world’s dependence on fossil fuels while providing universal, affordable, sustainable energy for all.

“G20 leaders can make or break the Climate Solidarity Pact,” Guterres said.

“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.

At Egypt’s Sharm El-Sheikh last week, Guterres warned governments attending the COP27 climate talks that they must cooperate or face “collective suicide” in the fight against climate change.

Guterres also urged G20 economies to adopt a Sustainable Development Goals stimulus package that will allow emerging economies to invest in healthcare, education, gender equality, and renewable energy.

He added that the stimulus package is a “minimal and necessary” step to ease the food and energy crises.

Filipino campaigners have said that while the Philippines is not a G20 nation, it has a lot at stake at the summit because it is one of the countries most affected by climate change.

## [Calls for concrete solutions to climate crisis as leaders gather at G20 summit, COP27](#)

By: Gaea Katrina Cabico

BALI, Indonesia — As world leaders gather in resort cities of Indonesia and Egypt this week, groups across Asia called on wealthy economies to deliver real solutions to the world's biggest problems: a rapidly warming planet, and food and energy crises.

Here in Bali, leaders of G20 or the world's 20 largest economies, meet in an attempt to deliver concrete solutions that can help the world in its economic recovery. The bloc's biggest meeting is held under the shadow of the climate crisis, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and strained China-United States relations.

Over 9,000 kilometers away from this tropical paradise, in the Red Sea resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh, COP27 entered its final week, with nearly 200 nations racing to strike a deal to slow global warming and scale up finance for communities battered by climate disasters.

Organizations such as the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development said the two global summits must result in the delivery of adequate and accessible climate finance, and the establishment of a loss and damage fund through which countries that got rich from burning fossil fuels would compensate developing countries for the destruction caused by accelerating climate change.

APMDD coordinator Lidy Nacpil said that climate finance should be grants-based, and should "not be another opportunity for rich countries and corporations to profit from poor and vulnerable countries."

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Monday evening that G20 nations — responsible for 80% global greenhouse gas emissions — should take additional efforts to keep alive a target of limiting global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"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," Guterres said.

### **Accountability**

Bukluran ng mga Pilipino chairperson Leody de Guzman called for a wealth tax to cover the cost of climate impacts and support the poor.

"They should pay for climate debt and be held accountable for the suffering of communities by imposing wealth tax," he said.

For Freedom from Debt coalition's Rovik Obanil, the fight for climate justice goes beyond holding wealthy nations and corporations accountable for causing the climate crisis.

"This must include addressing worsening inequalities and widespread poverty because these multiply vulnerabilities," he said.

Groups across Asia will hold protest actions on Wednesday to demand leaders attending the COP27 and G20 summits to deliver climate and economic justice.

## **Energy transition**

Indonesia, this year's host and Southeast Asia's only G20 member state, seeks to frame the summit's agenda around three main pillars, one of which is sustainable energy transition.

Indonesia, the Asian Development Bank, and a power firm signed a deal to refinance and prematurely retire a coal-fired power plant to advance the clean energy transition. The Manila-based multilateral lender is hoping the approach can be replicated with other plants in Indonesia and in other countries.

Indonesia is heavily reliant on coal and is the world's largest exporter of the planet-warming fuel. The Philippines meanwhile imports most of its coal supply from Indonesia.

Tata Mustasya, head of climate campaign for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said that energy transition must be just and must happen now as the impacts of climate change are being increasingly felt.

"The energy transition is something inevitable, and countries will eventually shift in that direction, including Indonesia. However, it is essential to underline that action must be taken immediately, considering the significant impacts of the climate crisis on the environment and humanity. The G20 holds such responsibility," Mustasya said.

Groups such as the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice and Sanlakas stressed that "false solutions" such as oil and gas as transition fuels should be rejected, and funding and support for fossil fuel projects should be stopped.

"We are running out of time. While [rich countries] are dilly-dallying and foot dragging, many livelihoods and homes are destroyed in countries like the Philippines. There is no more time for inaction," Sanlakas secretary general Aaron Pedrosa said.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### RMN NEWS

#### Budget deliberation sa pondo ng Climate Change Commission, ipinagpaliban

Ipinagpaliban ng Senado ang pag-apruba sa plenaryo ng pondo ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) sa susunod na taon.

Ito'y matapos mapuna ni Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda na wala ang dalawang Commissioners ng ahensya na mahalaga sanang nasa budget deliberation.

Ayon sa sponsor ng budget ng ahensya na si Senator Imee Marcos, nasa Egypt ang mga opisyal para dumalo sa isang conference at sa November 18 pa ang balik sa bansa.

Dahil dito, nagmosyon si Legarda na ipa-defer ang deliberasyon sa pondo ng CCC at irereserba na lang ang kanyang mga tanong sa komisyon sa pagbalik ng mga ito sa susunod na linggo.

Nagbabala si Legarda sa posibilidad na tanggalan ng budget ang CCC nang sa gayon ay magtrabaho ang mga ito at asikasuhin ang mga magsasaka, mga mangingisda at mga katutubo na kailangan ng kanilang tulong matapos ang hagupit ng Bagyong Paeng.

Iginiit naman ni Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri na minsan lang sa isang taon ang pagdalo ng mga pinuno ng mga ahensya sa Senado kaya dapat lamang na magpakita ng paggalang at personal na humarap sa budget deliberation.

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