



NEWS ROUNDUP

17 November 2022 [08:00 am]

- Filipina youth activist brings fight for climate finance justice to COP27
- [Opinion] Fight pollution, climate change
- Bamboo Summit held to boost industry in Leyte
- ASEAN-G20-APEC trilogies in Asia: Mapping recovery pathways
- PH mining forum reports steps toward 'decarbonizing'
- 14K trees planted in Iloilo City since 2019
- Heed PBBM's call for climate resilient agriculture
- PBBM says APEC participation to bring 'good progress' to PH
- Public urged to raise awareness of bamboo uses
- At COP27 crunch time, civil society decry PH's 'lack of strong voice at negotiating table'
- Climate disaster aid scheme insufficient solution to loss and damage — groups

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Travel ban on Climate Change Commission eyed after 20 int'l trips this year
- Senate OKs climate body's budget, but tells it to submit post-travel reports
- Mga byahe sa ibang bansa ng Climate Change Commission officials, pinuna ng ilang Senador.
- Climate change body whipped at Senate: 'Very little to show' other than int'l travels

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Filipina youth activist brings fight for climate finance justice to COP27](#)

By Sofiane Alsaar, Agence France-Presse

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt — A fierce defender of climate voices from the world's developing countries, Mitzi Jonelle Tan has brought her call for climate justice to the COP27 summit in Egypt.

MANILA BULLETIN

[ASEAN-G20-APEC trilogy in Asia: Mapping recovery pathways](#)

By: Sonny Coloma

In 10 days, Nov. 10 to 19, three significant meetings of global leaders will have taken place in Asia: first, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; second, the Group of 20, or G20, summit in Bali, Indonesia; and third, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

[Bamboo Summit held to boost industry in Leyte](#)

By Marie Tonette Marticio

PALO, Leyte — To promote a more sustainable bamboo industry, the province of Leyte held its First Bamboo Summit here on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

MANILA STANDARD

[Fight pollution, climate change](#)

By: Erwin Tulfo

Yesterday I saw on the internet 1978 photos of Plaza Miranda and, across from the Quiapo Church, the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, is the iconic Mercury Drug branch, now a 57-year old structure as old as I am.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[PH mining forum reports steps toward 'decarbonizing'](#)

By: Vincent Cabreza

BAGUIO CITY, Benguet, Philippines — The country's mining industry has been "decarbonizing" its operations and has developed processes to recycle mine tailings to help beat climate change, mine leaders said at this year's Mine Safety and Environment Conference here.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[14K trees planted in Iloilo City since 2019](#)

By: Perla Lena

ILOILO CITY – Around 14,000 trees of various species are now providing a green landscape to this highly urbanized city since the local government has gone massive in its tree planting activities since 2019 up to the present.

[Heed PBBM's call for climate resilient agriculture](#)

By: Jose Cielito Reganir

MANILA – In light of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call to strengthen regional food security during the recent East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, AGRI Partylist Rep. Wilbert T. Lee on Wednesday said it is incumbent for government to strengthen climate resilient practices in Philippine agriculture to boost the country's self-sufficiency programs.

[PBBM says APEC participation to bring 'good progress' to PH](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita Carlos

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday expressed confidence that his participation in the 29th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Meeting in Thailand will bring "good progress" to the Philippines.

[Public urged to raise awareness of bamboo uses](#)

By: Sarwell Meniano and Roel Arazona

PALO, Leyte – National Security Adviser Clarita Carlos has urged bamboo advocates in the country to raise public awareness on the value of the world's tallest grass.

RAPPLER

[At COP27 crunch time, civil society decry PH's 'lack of strong voice at negotiating table'](#)

By Jee Y. Geronimo

MANILA, Philippines – As the 2022 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference enters crunch time, representatives of Philippine civil society and social movements at COP27 expressed their disappointment over the "status and conduct" of the government's delegation in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

THE MANILA TIMES

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

By The Editorial Board

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.

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.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Travel ban on Climate Change Commission eyed after 20 int'l trips this year](#)

By: Eimor Santos

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 16) — Officials of the government's policy-making body on climate change may be banned from traveling abroad in 2023 as senators flagged the 20 trips they had in seven months.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Senate OKs climate body's budget, but tells it to submit post-travel reports](#)

By: Hana Bordey

The Senate has finally approved the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) proposed budget for 2023 but the body was compelled to submit reports on its 20 travels from April to November this year.

NEWS 5

[Mga byahe sa ibang bansa ng Climate Change Commission officials, pinuna ng ilang Senador.](#)

Sumalan din sa plenaryo ang Climate Change Commission. Dito napuna ang paglipad sa ibang bansa ng mga opisyal ng CCC. Ayon sa sponsor ng budget na si Senator Imee Marcos hindi na pinapayagan sa abroad maliban na lamang kung kailangan talaga.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Climate change body whipped at Senate: 'Very little to show' other than int'l travels](#)

By: Beatrice Pinlac

MANILA, Philippines — Senators lashed at the Climate Change Commission (CCC) for its sluggish performance despite its 13 years of existence.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Filipina youth activist brings fight for climate finance justice to COP27](#)

By Sofiane Alsaar, Agence France-Presse

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt — A fierce defender of climate voices from the world's developing countries, Mitzi Jonelle Tan has brought her call for climate justice to the COP27 summit in Egypt.

It is the same fight she takes up daily in her native Philippines, where such activism can be dangerous work.

The 25-year-old sees first-hand the impacts of climate change on her homeland.

Tan's home city, Marikina, is regularly buffeted by typhoons and Manila, the capital, is threatened by rising sea levels. The acidification of the world's oceans could ruin the livelihood of millions of fishermen across the archipelagic nation.

But she also witnesses the repression of those struggling to push environmental causes, saying she was "illegally detained" when protesting against Filipino mining interests in 2018.

"The Philippines is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for environmental defenders and activists," Tan told AFP, peering through her signature round glasses.

"In the past 10 years, at least 270 defenders were killed," she added.

The British human rights group Global Witness estimates that of 200 environmental defenders killed worldwide in 2021, 19 lived in the Philippines.

"This is what happens when you threaten business as usual," Tan said, listing off on her ringed fingers the interests of "multinational companies, mining companies, and the military" that accuse activists like her of "terrorism."

'Fight back'

Tan began her activism in 2017 after meeting an indigenous leader who related to her community's experiences of harassment, displacement and violence.

"That's why we have to fight back," she said.

Since then, she has been at the forefront of the fight for climate justice in her home country and beyond.

During her time at COP27, in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh, along with moderating discussions and giving press interviews, Tan has led protests demanding the negotiators and world leaders sitting in the conference halls act more urgently for climate justice.

According to UNICEF's Thomas Sayers, "it is young people like Mitzi that give us hope for the future of this planet."

After founding Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines in 2019, Tan joined Greta Thunberg's international Fridays for Future (FFF) movement in 2020.

At that point the Swedish activist had led student climate strikes for two years, since the age of 15.

The marches grew to bring hundreds of thousands of young people together, predominantly in wealthy nations—Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany and the United States—rather than in developing countries.

Thunberg, a notable absentee from COP27 over concerns of greenwashing and restrictions on civil liberties in Egypt, said she was "handing over the megaphone" to those "most affected by the climate crisis."

'Priority to the planet'

Within FFF, Tan helped create the "Most Affected People and Areas" sub-group.

According to an open letter to world leaders, the members campaign to link the climate crisis with global "systemic injustices."

"We must change the paradigm, move from a system that favors profit to one that gives priority to the planet and its inhabitants," she said, rejecting the current loans system for financing climate action.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 71 percent of all public climate finance in 2020 was sourced from loans.

"There is an analogy where you hit my car and I have to borrow money from you to fix it—it doesn't make sense," she said, arguing that wealthy Global North countries "have a debt to pay" for climate change.

A natural with a megaphone, using succinct arguments punctuated by passionate gesturing with her tattooed arms, Tan has won over both her own and older generations.

"Mitzi brings with her the uniqueness of her generation," said compatriot and veteran environmental activist Ana Gabriela Celestial.

"She is a digital native, she is more creative, she is an influencer and an effective youth climate activist," she added.

"More and more young people are seeing their power," Tan said, insisting they "do not accept a world that is burning, sinking and drowning." — AFP

MANILA BULLETIN

[ASEAN-G20-APEC trilogy in Asia: Mapping recovery pathways](#)

By: Sonny Coloma

In 10 days, Nov. 10 to 19, three significant meetings of global leaders will have taken place in Asia: first, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; second, the Group of 20, or G20, summit in Bali, Indonesia; and third, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

Eight APEC leaders will also attend the G20 summit, namely, the presidents or prime ministers of Australia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the United States. This means more "face time" and enhanced opportunities for hearing and understanding each other's views on headline issues.

The 12 other G20 members are: Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. The 12 APEC members that do not belong to the G20 are: Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Hong Kong China; Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Vietnam.

All told, the ASEAN, the G20 and the APEC summits involve almost 40 countries.

Together, the nations of the G20 account for around 80 percent of global economic output, nearly 75 percent of global exports, and about 60 percent of the world's population. APEC's member economies are home to more than 2.9 billion people and make up over 60 percent of global GDP. Taken together, all the ASEAN countries would constitute the seventh largest economy in the world.

Viewed alternatively, the G20, APEC, and ASEAN constitute the most formidable subset of the United Nations.

Recover Together, Recover Stronger is the G20 summit theme. This is like APEC's theme: Open, Connect, Balance. Both themes tackle the challenges being faced by peoples the world over seeking to rebuild their lives after their traumatic experience with the coronavirus pandemic. ASEAN's theme, Addressing Challenges Together, exudes a similar theme on the importance of solidarity and unified action

Recovery starts with reopening cross-borders and economies. It is enhanced by heightened connectivity that is enabled by digital acceleration. Imbalances and inequities are offshoots of disruption brought on not just by Covid-19 but by human conflict, such as the Ukraine-Russia confrontation and the scourge of global warming and climate change.

Summits showcase the fine art of diplomacy on a high-profile stage. These also reflect the prevailing state of world affairs. For instance, Russian President Vladimir Putin has opted to send his foreign minister to sidestep the fallout from the ongoing conflict with Ukraine. As China is also one of its dialogue partners, it was not surprising or unusual for ASEAN countries involved in crafting a formal Code of Conduct in the South China Sea not to have brought up this matter in the Phnom Penh summit that was chaired by Cambodia, a China ally.

Other conflicts that may not even be formally discussed on the conference table but would still involve the G20 and APEC leaders include: the US-China disagreement over Taiwan, imminent widespread hunger in Afghanistan triggered by the cutoff of western assistance, Islamist militancy in Africa and the instability in Myanmar that continues to be a high-level concern in Southeast Asia.

In the recently concluded ASEAN summit, the bloc's five-point resolution on Myanmar was reiterated, but it was evident that no real progress has been achieved. Recall that Myanmar was excluded from attending the ASEAN summit after the military coup that deposed its erstwhile leader, Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

One of the focal points in the Bali summit is Indonesian President Joko Widodo's initiative on the phaseout of coal with the support of affluent countries. As reported by Bloomberg, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is studying similar plans for the Philippines and Vietnam that could be announced during the summit. Phasing out coal would be a significant contributor to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming and climate change – a bane to climate vulnerable countries like the Philippines.

Another possible beneficial outcome is the expected signing of an agreement among the central banks of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines to link their payment systems through QR code scanning. This system would allow for local currency settlements, bypassing the need for the US dollar as an intermediary.

Hopes run high that these twin summits would pay off for the Philippines' sustained recovery and growth.

MANILA STANDARD

[Fight pollution, climate change](#)

By: Erwin Tulfo

Yesterday I saw on the internet 1978 photos of Plaza Miranda and, across from the Quiapo Church, the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, is the iconic Mercury Drug branch, now a 57-year old structure as old as I am.

The area is a personal favorite and an important part of my life being a longtime devotee of Mahal Na Poong Nazareno.

But what struck me in one of the nostalgic pictures is the air monitoring apparatus that stood in front of the Mercury Drug store near the foot of the Quezon Bridge.

The robust black steel structure indicates in big bold digits the “air pollution index” and exact time of day.

Understandably, the air quality monitor was a device that measured the level of common air pollutants in the area which effectively served as a visual reminder of the importance of clean air.

Students at high schools nearby were assigned to report on the air pollution index as indicated on the said digital device in their Science class daily.

I remember the same air quality monitors were erected in other locations including EDSA.

I do not know why they removed such digital devices in key locations in Metro Manila which did not obstruct vehicular traffic anyway.

Although such information on air quality in different localities may now be available online, we must promote awareness about clean air and effects of climate change in every way we can.

Climate change should be everyone’s concern as its repercussions will increasingly impact the lives of future generations.

The country’s resiliency and adaptation to climate change is a national priority, President Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos, Jr. (PBBM) has said repeatedly.

PBBM said combating climate change is a “battle we must wage and a battle that we must win.”

“We must ensure that the initiatives we will take will be smarter, more responsible, and more sustainable,” PBBM added.

When he spoke before the UN General Assembly, he made the urgent call on industrialized countries “to lead by example by immediately fulfilling their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, and providing climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable and developing countries.”

He strongly delivered the same message during last week’s 40th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

While we build resilience against impacts of climate change, we should ensure that the country’s emissions of greenhouse gases (methane and carbon dioxide) are strictly checked.

The Philippines’ greenhouse gas emissions rank in the top 25 percent among low-and middle-income countries, with emissions from the energy sector projected to quadruple by 2030, particularly with the transport sector doubling its emissions.

Meanwhile, super typhoons and dry spells have alternately hit various regions of the country, causing massive losses to the agricultural sector.

A study on climate change by the international Climate Central shows that regions where some 150 million people currently live are projected to submerge by 2050, including the Philippines.

That means people living along the coastlines of the country’s 7,641 islands will be affected, including top tourist destination Boracay island.

Apart from global warming and climate change, the country is beset by illegal mining and logging, deforestation, threats to environmental activists, dynamite fishing, landslides, coastal erosion, and biodiversity extinction.

The country’s rich biodiversity is constantly under threat from human activities, including deforestation and forest degradation, illegal fishing and illicit wildlife trade.

The keyword in what President BBM said about climate change is “sustainability” which means we should conserve and protect the environment from destruction so that natural resources will be available to us in the years to come.

Let us stop “killing ourselves.” Instead we must do everything to mitigate the effects of climate change for the sake of our children.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[PH mining forum reports steps toward 'decarbonizing'](#)

By: Vincent Cabreza

BAGUIO CITY, Benguet, Philippines — The country's mining industry has been "decarbonizing" its operations and has developed processes to recycle mine tailings to help beat climate change, mine leaders said at this year's Mine Safety and Environment Conference here.

The annual event has been gathering corporate leaders and mining engineers for the last 68 years to share environmentally sound practices and new technologies, but this year's conference coincides with the ongoing COP27 (Conference of Parties or the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference) in Egypt.

Mine leaders are aware of what's at stake and have kept tabs on developments at COP27, veteran diplomat Delia Albert, former ambassador to Germany and a Baguio-born mining advocate, said during a briefing on Tuesday.

For example, Helix Mining and Development Corp. (formerly Holcim Mining) is accessing battery technology to reduce its carbon footprint, said the company's president, Renato Baja, who is also a director of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA).

"We are looking at decarbonizing our mining operations. We are seriously looking at equipment that operate using batteries and PMSEA has committed to support these initiatives of decarbonizing," Baja said.

Decarbonizing refers to the reduction or elimination of carbon emissions generated by equipment that run on fossil fuels such as diesel and gasoline. Carbon emissions produce the so-called greenhouse effect that traps planetary heat, according to various studies, which warned that extreme global warming would be dangerous to human, animal and plant life in the near future.

Decarbonization was a subject during a "lengthy discussion" with Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, Baja pointed out.

"It is very interesting to hear the shift of focus from 'prevention' to 'limitation' [of global warming at COP27]," said Albert, who is the first woman to serve as foreign secretary during the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Instead of saying 'preventing,' which was the term used in COP26 [held last year in Glasgow, Scotland], COP27 has focused on limiting carbon emissions," which could shape the country's commitments to fighting climate change, added Albert, who chairs the woman-led movement Diwata which promotes responsible mining.

Environmental targets

Local mines have set environmental protection targets years ago, Baja said.

“When the government launched the National Greening Program [in 2011], over a thousand hectares have been planted with trees by mining companies to mitigate the carbon footprint of mining and other industries,” he said.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has also been encouraging mining companies to tap new technology that enables miners to recycle and process small and uneconomical traces of minerals like copper and nickel that are deposited in their tailings or waste dams, said Mateo Marcial, who heads the MGB mine safety, environment and social development division.

He cited Taganito Mining Corp. in Surigao del Norte province and Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. in Palawan province, which have invested in high pressure acid leaching to refine nickel from waste.

PMSEA officials did not reflect on the industry’s history with ecological disasters, stressing instead that mine geologists and volunteer miners have lent their skills to rescue and restoration efforts during calamities.

At the height of the lockdowns, 200 mines donated P407 million to buy vaccines and the other emergency needs of their host communities, Marcial said.

But Annie Dee, president of Teresa Marble Corp. and a PMSEA director, stressed that no more serious mining disasters have taken place since the industry embraced responsible mining principles.

Eased restrictions

Mining is a key industry being eyed by the Marcos administration to kick-start the economy, which is still recovering from the stringent mining environment during the Duterte regime.

The late former Environment Secretary Regina Lopez in April 2017 issued Administrative Order No. 2017-10, which banned the open-pit method of mining, leading to the closure or suspension of 26 mining operations.

In October 2017, the interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council voted to recommend a reversal of the policy, but the open-pit mining ban stayed on for four years in the absence of any new directive from Malacañang.

Former President Rodrigo Duterte had also previously attacked the mining industry, saying he wanted to put a stop to it after landslides occurred in the wake of deadly typhoons.

But in April 2021, Duterte lifted the nine-year moratorium on new mining agreements to boost government revenue, create more jobs and prop up the economy.

Duterte's Executive Order No. 130 overturned the moratorium on new mining permits or mining production sharing agreements that was ordered by the late President Benigno Aquino III in 2012.

On Dec. 23, 2021, then Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu also signed Department Administrative Order No. 2021-40, officially lifting the four-year-old ban on the open-pit method of mining.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[14K trees planted in Iloilo City since 2019](#)

By: Perla Lena

ILOILO CITY – Around 14,000 trees of various species are now providing a green landscape to this highly urbanized city since the local government has gone massive in its tree planting activities since 2019 up to the present.

Iloilo City Executive Assistant for Environment Armando Dayrit, who lead the massive tree planting, said the trees were planted in vacant spaces in barangays, open spaces, roads, and floodways.

Currently, they are cultivating around 5,000 trees of various native species at their nursery in Barangay Caingin in La Paz district as there are areas in the city dedicated to indigenous species.

"Aside from deterring climate change, help(ing) the environment and promote tourism, we plant native trees because it is our own and should be proud of them," Dayrit said in an interview on Wednesday.

Already, they have planted native trees from Barangay Taft North in Mandurriao to Ungka in Jaro district, at the road island from the Atrium at the City Proper up to the Molo district, around the molecular laboratory also in Molo, and in vacant spaces at the Plaza Libertad.

"The floodway is where we intend to plant our mother tree and we will get our stocks there," he added.

Native or indigenous trees, he said, are those that grow in Southeast Asia. Of those, two species came from Iloilo - the Iloilo and Anilao.

He is also eyeing to propagate the Siar species, which he said was planted by Emilio Aguinaldo when he declared the Republic of the Philippines and it would be named "Independent Tree".

"I am not very sure but there is no city or place in the Philippines that focused on native trees on their roads and parks, except in Iloilo," he said.

While the city government is into propagating native trees, he said non-native trees will not be removed because they also help address climate change.

Heed PBBM's call for climate resilient agriculture

By: Jose Cielito Reganir

MANILA – In light of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call to strengthen regional food security during the recent East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, AGRI Partylist Rep. Wilbert T. Lee on Wednesday said it is incumbent for government to strengthen climate resilient practices in Philippine agriculture to boost the country's self-sufficiency programs.

In a statement, Lee pointed out that the Philippines had already made inroads in the adoption of climate resilient agriculture (CRA), but these needed to be strengthened if the country is to achieve food security amid the growing threats of climate change.

He cited a report from the Department of Agriculture (DA) showing that there is already evidence of on-field adoption of CRA practices by small-scale farmers in aquaculture systems, livestock systems, vegetable production, integrated farming systems and maize and rice cultivation.

"While some CRA practices are already being adopted by our farmers, the DA has noted that CRA uptake throughout the country is still low and limited by poor availability and access to improved seed, insufficient financial resources to cover investment," Lee said.

"Therefore, we must strengthen the DA's Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) and the Systems-wide Climate Change Office (DA-SWCCO) to boost the adoption of climate-resilient agriculture in the country," he said.

The AMIA was created with the vision of building climate resilient livelihoods and communities in the agri-fisheries sector. This would be achieved through the Climate Resilient Agri-Fisheries Approach, by enabling local communities to manage climate risks while pursuing sustainable livelihoods.

On the other hand, the DA-SWCCO was created and mandated to oversee the flagship program of Climate Change, that is AMIA.

He said among the steps to boost CRA is to provide the AMIA and the DA-SWCCO with adequate legislative and budgetary support to help in community-level research and development interventions, particularly in the 17 pilot sites of the program.

The World Bank defines climate-resilient agriculture as an integrated approach to managing landscapes—cropland, livestock, forests and fisheries — that address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change.

The Philippines' geographical location and archipelagic formation make it one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change.

According to the Germanwatch Institute's 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, the Philippines is the fourth most affected country in the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019.

Lee also cited a DA report wherein climate change and variability is estimated to cost the Philippine economy approximately PHP26 billion yearly by 2050.

Thus, he said building the resilience of agriculture and fisheries communities to climate change is crucial in achieving national food security.

In his intervention during the 17th EAS, Marcos said "it has become glaringly clear that there is a dire need to strengthen food security towards self-sufficiency in our region, to increase adaptability and resilience in the face of threats to the global supply chain."

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

[PBBM says APEC participation to bring 'good progress' to PH](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita Carlos

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday expressed confidence that his participation in the 29th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Meeting in Thailand will bring "good progress" to the Philippines.

This, as Marcos acknowledged that APEC member economies account for 38 percent of the global population, 48 percent of world trade, and 62 percent of world gross domestic product (GDP).

"It will be an honor for me to represent the Philippines at the APEC. APEC remains to be one of the prime platforms to engage the economies of the Asia-Pacific region. The importance of this region to us and to the rest of the world cannot be overstated," Marcos said in a pre-departure speech delivered at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

This is the first time Marcos will attend the APEC meeting as the country's chief executive.

Marcos said he would present the Philippines' economic agenda, including the plans for digital transformation and attainment of sustainable development goals.

He said he would also push for the Philippines' participation in the digital economy; the economic inclusion of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); and the "safe and seamless" passage of Filipino maritime crews and seafarers.

He added that he would urge his fellow APEC leaders to address climate change and ensure food and energy security in the region.

"This is what we aspire for a peaceful, prosperous Asia-Pacific region," Marcos said.

The Asia-Pacific region also hosts the largest segments of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), with the Philippine regional trade accounting for 85 percent, providing Filipino consumers access to goods and services from the region.

The region also gives Filipino farmers, laborers, businessmen and MSMEs an export market for their goods and services in the region.

Established in 1989, APEC serves as the premier Asia-Pacific economic forum, with the primary goal of supporting sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the region.

The APEC's 21 member economies include the Philippines, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

Sideline meetings

During his stay in Thailand, Marcos said he, along with First Lady Louise "Liza" Araneta-Marcos, would also meet with Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua and Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana who granted a royal audience for APEC leaders and spouses.

Marcos is also expected to meet with Thai business leaders on the APEC sidelines to invite more investments.

He also bared his participation in a panel discussion on "The Global Economy and the Future of APEC" with select APEC Leaders invited to speak at the annual gathering of top chief executive officers from the region.

Marcos will also hold bilateral meetings with some economic leaders and heads of state to discuss the strengthening of diplomatic relations.

He is also set to meet with the Filipino community in Thailand.

"It is very clear that there are many areas of consensus between our countries in the Asia Pacific, Indo-Pacific region. And that is what I hope to build on. We have established that those are the concerns, the common concerns of all the leaders, of all the countries around the region," Marcos said.

"That is also what the other leaders are intending to do and I hope to report good progress when I come back from Bangkok," he added.

Public urged to raise awareness of bamboo uses

By: Sarwell Meniano and Roel Arazona

PALO, Leyte – National Security Adviser Clarita Carlos has urged bamboo advocates in the country to raise public awareness on the value of the world's tallest grass.

During the first Leyte Bamboo Summit on Wednesday, Carlos, the Bamboo Warriors Philippines chairperson emeritus, said she hopes to see more bamboo summits in different parts of the country.

"We want people to be informed since this is the bedrock of any policy. I challenge the private sector to raise information about bamboos," Carlos said in her speech.

Carlos said bamboo is seen as the best grass to combat the impact of climate change, which is considered one of the global security threats.

"People don't know the strength of bamboo. We are stupid people. We are surrounded with bamboo, and it grows everywhere and yet we are really missing out many opportunities of bamboo as the grass of life," Carlos told local government officials and bamboo product developers.

Information drive is the first step since people cannot support something that they don't understand, according to the official.

"Many people are not even aware that bamboo is stronger than metal. Properly engineered and treated bamboo is the best housing material," Carlos added.

Leyte Governor Carlos Jericho Petilla said there are many studies related to bamboo production and product development done in the past, but not commercialized.

"The basic premise of any project is the financial backbone. The summit will not just teach us how to plant, but engage the private sector. We will plant with commercial value involved," Petilla told summit participants.

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

“If we start planting now, we can harvest in three years. Let us help expand bamboo technology not only in Leyte and other parts of the country,” she told other mayors in the province.

The Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) noted that bamboo is one of the most economically-important non-timber forest products in the Philippines.

Its fast growth and excellent properties makes it an ideal substitute for wood for furniture, handicrafts, construction material, and chemical products.

Global market for bamboo in 2006 stands at about USD7 billion and was projected to increase to USD17 billion from 2015 to 2020, according to DOST-FPRDI.

RAPPLER

[At COP27 crunch time, civil society decry PH’s ‘lack of strong voice at negotiating table’](#)

By Jee Y. Geronimo

MANILA, Philippines – As the 2022 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference enters crunch time, representatives of Philippine civil society and social movements at COP27 expressed their disappointment over the “status and conduct” of the government’s delegation in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The 29-member delegation headed into the more tense second week of climate negotiations without its leaders, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and Secretary Robert Borje, Climate Change Commission (CCC) vice chairperson and executive director.

Loyzaga and Borje had to return to the Philippines to face legislators’ questions about their agencies’ proposed budget for 2023.

Over a dozen representatives of civil society groups participating in Egypt issued a statement on Wednesday, November 16 – two days before the annual climate conference ends on November 18 – saying that despite all efforts to engage the government before and during COP27, they obtained a “more detailed presentation” of the country’s positions only halfway through the summit.

THE MANILA TIMES

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

By The Editorial Board

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.

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.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Travel ban on Climate Change Commission eyed after 20 int’l trips this year](#)

By: Eimor Santos

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 16) — Officials of the government’s policy-making body on climate change may be banned from traveling abroad in 2023 as senators flagged the 20 trips they had in seven months.

“This body has been in existence for 13 years and indeed has very little to show except for international travels and its carbon footprint,” Senator Imee Marcos said Wednesday

during Senate deliberations on the proposed P128-million budget of the Climate Change Commission for 2023.

“From April to November this year, 20 trips were recorded by the Climate Change Commission,” she added.

Marcos said she will propose a provision under the commission's budget in the General Appropriations Bill “disallowing travel unless absolutely necessary.”

For Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, “post-travel reports on necessary travel” would suffice.

“I think that should apply not just to the Climate Change Commission but to all agencies in the executive department so that whatever conferences they attend can be used for policy,” she said.

Legarda asked the commission to submit 20 reports on its recent trips, on top of other information on all funds and projects accessed by the government since the body was created through the Climate Change Act of 2009.

Last week, Legarda moved for the deferment of deliberations on the commission's budget due to the absence of two commissioners, who were attending the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Egypt. Vice Chairperson Robert Borje attended the Nov. 10 budget deliberations, but senators pointed out it has been customary for the top officials of agencies to show up.

The Climate Change Commission is an attached agency to the Office of the President, with President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. as chairman.

The Senate approved its 2023 budget on Wednesday but Legarda said she will deliver a privilege speech next week tackling various issues concerning the agency.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Senate OKs climate body's budget, but tells it to submit post-travel reports](#)

By: Hana Bordey

The Senate has finally approved the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) proposed budget for 2023 but the body was compelled to submit reports on its 20 travels from April to November this year.

Last week, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda asked to defer the plenary deliberations of the CCC's budget, citing the absence of its two commissioners.

The two other commissioners, Rachel Anne Herrera and Albert Dela Cruz, are both in Egypt to attend the Climate Change Conference (COP 27) slated from November 6 to November 18.

During the plenary debates on Wednesday, Legarda said she would no longer interpellate as she was presiding over the deliberations, but requested the CCC to submit the following:

- reports on their trip
- the status of negotiations including the loss and damage in the agenda in the Egypt talks
- all funds and projects accessed by the Philippine government since the creation of the CCC

Legarda likewise asked the CCC to produce a report on the travels that each commissioner has embarked on in 2022.

She said she will introduce a special provision in the CCC's 2023 budget that will require all the staff, technical advisers, consultants and the commissioners to produce a post-travel report to be sent to the senators.

Legarda said this will not only apply to the CCC but all agencies in the Executive Department so that these reports from the conferences that they have attended can be used for policies.

'Very little to show'

Senator Imee Marcos, who sponsored the CCC's budget, also took a swipe at the body's accomplishment.

"Indeed, this law was enacted... in 2009 and 13 years after the fact, there's very little to show except for constant travel. From April to November of this year, 20 trips were recorded by the CCC," Marcos disclosed.

Further, Marcos said the CCC's mainstreaming at the local government level has been cited for its mere 18-percent accomplishment.

Legarda echoed Marcos' disappointment, saying mainstreaming, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptations and mitigation, especially adaptation in a vulnerable country like the Philippines, is the main focus of the task at hand for the CCC.

"So perhaps, instead of traveling abroad, where we even spend too much carbon footprint, we should focus on mainstreaming DRR-CCAM to every LGU so that we can measure every quarter the 18 percent, if that's accurate. That's quite dismal, we should

increase it right away. After all, you've been there for more than 10 years," Legarda said.

Apart from this, Marcos raised the P690-million unexpended People's Survival Fund.

The lawmaker said the initial P1 billion was released in 2015 but until today, the CCC has yet to spend more than half of it.

Citing the CCC's explanation, Marcos said the Department of Finance has taken over the management of the said funds and nothing has been granted to them since 2017.

However, Marcos said she believes it is not "entirely true" as there was a P93-million project in Sarangani that was granted by the DOF in 2018.

"Akala ko sarado na nung 2017, bakit 2018 nag-approve pa sila?" Marcos asked.

She then suggested an audit of the People's Survival Fund.

Instead of grilling the CCC over several issues, Legarda said she will just deliver a privilege speech next week where they will suspend the Senate rules so the commissioners can directly answer her questions.

Marcos said this will be a "more opportune and proper moment" for questioning the CCC's programs.

"Indeed, it has very little to show except for international travel and its carbon footprint," Marcos quipped.

The Senate plenary eventually approved the CCC's P128-billion budget for 2023.

Prior to its approval, Marcos suggested disallowing travels for CCC "unless absolutely necessary."

Legarda said she will leave it to Marcos' judgment but at least a post-travel report should be submitted.

Marcos said they will craft that provision and will ensure that it will be indicated in the 2023 General Appropriations Act.

Senior citizens body

Meanwhile, the plenary deliberations of the 2023 budget of the National Commission of Senior Citizens was deferred due to the absence of three of its commissioners.

It was Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel who moved to postpone the budget deliberations of the NCSC to Thursday afternoon.

According to Marcos, sponsor of the commission's budget, only NCSC Chairperson Franklin Quijano, Commissioner Edwin Espejo, and Enriqueta Rodeles are present during Wednesday's plenary deliberations.

NCSC Commissioners Ida Patron, Reymar Mansilungan, Ranier Cruz are not around for the budget deliberations, she mentioned.

NEWS 5

[Mga byahe sa ibang bansa ng Climate Change Commission officials, pinuna ng ilang Senador.](#)

Sumalan din sa plenaryo ang Climate Change Commission. Dito napuna ang paglipad sa ibang bansa ng mga opisyal ng CCC. Ayon sa sponsor ng budget na si Senator Imee Marcos hindi na pinapayagan sa abroad maliban na lamang kung kailangan talaga.

Ngayong taon ay umabot na daw sa 20 ang foreign travels ng CCC. Ayon kay Senator Marcos gagawa sila ng probisyon sa budget para mailatag ang mga pamuntunan kung kailan maaaring payagan magbyahe ang CCC officials.

Si Senate President Pro-Tempore Loren Legarda humingi rin ng post-travel report para sa lahat ng byahe ng mga nag ibang bansa na mga opisyal, staff, consultant at Commissioners ng CCC.

Sa kabila nito lumusot pa rin ang 128million budget ng CCC.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Climate change body whipped at Senate: 'Very little to show' other than int'l travels](#)

By: Beatrice Pinlac

MANILA, Philippines — Senators lashed at the Climate Change Commission (CCC) for its sluggish performance despite its 13 years of existence.

Even its 2023 budget sponsor at the plenary, Senator Imee Marcos, appeared not too pleased about the CCC's work, expressing concern over the body's unimpressive track record since its creation in 2009 – save for its international travels which leaves a considerable amount of carbon footprint.

“This body has been in existence for 13 years, and indeed has very little to show except for international travel and its carbon footprint,” she said Wednesday, noting that the CCC has a record of 20 travels from April to November this year.

Senate Pro Tempore Loren Legarda sought a post-travel report from the CCC on each of these trips as she was not made aware of this string of trips.

“I will put a special provision that all travels of staff, technical advisers, consultants, and commissioners will have a post-travel report sent to the body for senators to learn from. I think that should apply not just to the CCC, but all agencies and executive departments so that whatever conferences they attend can be used for policy,” she added.

‘Dismal’ performance

Marcos likewise pointed out a “mere 18 percent accomplishment” in the CCC’s mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts to local government units (LGUs).

Legarda then urged the CCC to realign its priorities to improve its “dismal” performance.

“Perhaps instead of traveling abroad, where we even spread too much carbon footprint, we should focus on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation and mitigation to every LGU,” she said.

Legarda added: “The 18 percent, if that’s accurate, that’s quite dismal. We should increase it right away, after all you’ve been there for more than ten years.”

Marcos further pushed for an audit of the CCC’s unexpended People’s Survival Fund (PSF) worth P1 billion, which was initially released last 2015.

“To date, P690 million remains with the CCC unexpended. Pera na, naging bato pa (Money was not managed properly),” she detailed.

The PSF is intended to help LGUs and other community organizations implement climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

Asked for the reasons behind the underutilized PSF, Marcos said this remains an unanswered question.

“We’ve asked that year in and year out. We’ve always derived the same answer, stating that whereas the funds are with them, the Department of Finance has taken over its management and since 2017, nothing has been granted,” she said.

The senator noted, however, that this “is not entirely true” since a P93-million project in Sarangani was still granted in 2018.

“Akala ko sarado na noong 2017, bakit noong 2018 nag-approve pa sila? Kaya dapat siguro i-audit dahil malabo iyong libro nila eh (I thought this was closed in 2017, why were they still able to approve a project in 2018? That’s why we should audit this because their books are not clear),” she further said.

Despite the mounting issues raised about the CCC's performance, its proposed P128-million budget for 2023 still secured the Senate's approval at the plenary level.

Legarda, however, said she would later raise her concerns about the CCC in a privilege speech after they have concluded the series of Senate budget hearings.

=END=