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18 November 2022 [08:20 am]

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[China-funded bridge project could harm Paradise Reef, environmentalists warn could harm Paradise Reef, environmentalists warn](#)

By: Camille Elemia

Construction of a China-funded bridge to connect Davao city with Samal island in the southern Philippines threatens a large coral reef, environmental experts and community leaders warn, but the Philippine government will not relocate it despite their pleas.

BUSINESS MIRROR

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By: Sam Mcneil

KONOMIE ISLAND, Australia (AP) — Below the turquoise waters off the coast of Australia is one of the world's natural wonders, an underwater rainbow jungle teeming with life that scientists say is showing some of the clearest signs yet of climate change.

CNN PHILIPPINES

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By: Currie Cator

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 17) — The country's bountiful green energy resources may soon be harvested to its full potential — with foreign investors now free to take full ownership of renewable power projects.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Marcos warns of looming 'dark clouds' of food security, climate change](#)

By Jon Victor D. Cabuenas

BANGKOK, Thailand — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Thursday called for improved economic cooperation in the Asia Pacific region, as he warned of the “dark clouds” such as food security, and climate change.

[Philippines calls for increased financing vs. climate change](#)

By: Joviland Rita/KBK, GMA Integrated News

The Philippine government under President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has called on developed countries to give additional funds for the mitigation of impact of climate change on underdeveloped countries, the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) said Thursday.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] ₱25/kilo rice no longer a dream](#)

By: Anna Mae Lamentillo

Ensuring access to affordable food is one of the priorities of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. However, with high inflation, many think this could not be possible.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[PBBM calls on APEC economies to allow innovations; urges leaders to 'make big changes'](#)

By: Office of Press Secretary

MANILA -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday called on his fellow Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders to continue allowing and encouraging innovations and structural changes.

[PBBM touts plan to prioritize renewable energy before world leaders; bats for 50% power generation share by 2040](#)

By: OPS

MANILA -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday said the Philippines has prioritized renewable energy options such as hydropower, geothermal power, solar and other low-emission energy sources.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Green recovery urgent issue, not just option: APEC report](#)

JAKARTA – Members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) are facing extensive sustainability challenges, and there is a pressing need to embark on green structural reforms to tackle it and promote green recovery from the economic slowdown triggered by the pandemic.

[Marcos welcomes Thai firm's interest to invest in PH aquaculture](#)

By: Azzer Parocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is elated over a Thai company's interest in putting more investments in the Philippine aquaculture industry, citing its importance in helping the country achieve food security.

[PBBM bats for energy diversification to address climate change](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita Carlos

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday emphasized the importance of diversifying energy sources to sustain global economic growth and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

PHYS.ORG

[14 million people were hit with climate disasters in the South-West Pacific last year](#)

By World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Sea surface temperatures and ocean heat in parts of the South-West Pacific are increasing at more than three times the global average and harming vital ecosystems, while sea level rise poses an existential threat to low-lying islands and their people, according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

RAPPLER

[Marcos: Climate change ‘most pressing existential challenge of our time’](#)

By: Bea Cupin

BANGKOK, Thailand – The President of a country where storms have intensified in the past years, and whose people are often victims – in terms of lives and economic opportunities lost – said at a summit with the region’s leaders and top business executives that climate change was the “most pressing existential challenge of our time.”

SUNSTAR

[Groups to national gov’t: Ease plight of poor families, struggling workers](#)

By: Honey I. Cotejo

Members of cause-oriented and civil society groups called on the national government to ease the plight of urban poor families and struggling workers as population growth, climate change and other issues are affecting them.

[PH asks for additional funding for climate change mitigation](#)

By: Third Anne Peralta-Malonzo

The Philippine Government has called for an increased budget from developed countries to fund efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, which according to President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. “affects mostly the least responsible” countries, including the Philippines.

[\[Opinion\] States of calamity](#)

By: Benjie Pangan

Severe tropical storms Paeng and Karding must have precipitated the declaration of a state of calamity by local and national governments in areas most severely affected by floods, high water and significant destruction of infrastructure and private properties.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Philippines seeks redefinition of climate finance for developing countries](#)

By: Pia Lee-Brago

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines calls for the inclusion of needs and priorities of developing countries in the definition of “climate finance.”

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS-CBN NEW

[Greenpeace hits 'very small' 2023 budget for Climate Change Commission](#)

By: ABS-CBN News

MANILA — An environmental group on Thursday assailed the proposed 2023 budget for the Climate Change Commission, which has secured Senate approval at the plenary level.

ANC NEWS

['Very small': Greenpeace PH hits budget for Climate Change Commission | ANC](#)

The recently approved P128-M budget for the Climate Change Commission is 'very, very small', says Lea Guerrero, country director of Greenpeace Philippines.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Aside from constant travel, Climate Change Commission has very little to show—Imee](#)

By: Mario Casayuran

Since its creation in 2009, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) has very little to show except for constant travel. This was the lament of Senator Imee Marcos when she presented the P128-million appropriations for CCC on the 2023 fiscal year during the Senate deliberation on the proposed 2023 P5.268-trillion national budget.

RMN

[CCC budget sa 2023, lusot agad sa pagtalakay sa plenaryo; pondo naman ng National Commission of Senior Citizens, ipinagpaliban ang deliberasyon sa Senado](#)

Nakalusot agad sa pagtalakay ng Senado ang panukalang pondo ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) na aabot sa P128 million para sa 2023.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BENAR NEWS

[China-funded bridge project could harm Paradise Reef, environmentalists warn could harm Paradise Reef, environmentalists warn](#)

By: Camille Elemia

Construction of a China-funded bridge to connect Davao city with Samal island in the southern Philippines threatens a large coral reef, environmental experts and community leaders warn, but the Philippine government will not relocate it despite their pleas.

The nearly 4-km (2.5-mile) project is being promoted as part of an effort to develop Samal, a largely underdeveloped island that can be reached only by ferry or boat. Environmental groups have said they are in favor of a bridge to cut travel time to five minutes, but not at its current location.

Conserving Paradise Reef, the 7,500-square-meter (80,729-square-foot) reef in the area, is vital to protecting this coastal community from the effects of climate change, experts say. Coral reefs decrease hazards caused by storms and sea-level rise, according to marine biologists.

Environmentalists and the Rodriguez family, the owners of the Paradise Island Park & Beach Resort located near the reef, are questioning the decision by the government, its foreign consultant Ove Arup and Partners Hong Kong Ltd., and local subcontractor Galerio Environmental Consultancy, to place the bridge's landing area on the island near the reef because, they say, it plays a crucial role in the Davao Gulf ecosystem.

"That reef does not belong to Samal island or to Davao city. That is part of the Republic of the Philippines and as Filipino residents, we are responsible. We must hold our government accountable for that," said John Lacson, a Davao-based marine biologist who has volunteered to help the Rodriguez family in its efforts to persuade the government to reroute the bridge.

The Asian Development Bank helped fund a feasibility study by Arup, but the Rodriguez family contends that it lacked consultation with locals. The state-owned China Road and Bridge Corp. is the contractor for the project.

In 2019, the landing point for the bridge on Samal was changed from the original site – a former shipyard – to the coast of Costa Marina Beach Resort, adjacent to Paradise Resort and also owned by the family.

"We are in favor of the bridge. But let us not destroy the Paradise Reef. Our family and ancestors have long protected it," resort manager Narciso Rodriguez said in an interview with BenarNews.

Father Joel Tabora, president of the Ateneo de Davao University, echoed the statement in a roundtable discussion on Nov. 5.

“We are not against the bridge but when there are clear alternatives, here we take a stand for the environment. Let’s build a bridge but let’s not pursue Paradise Reef,” Tabora said.

Groundbreaking

Despite such concerns raised about the bridge’s potential impact on the environment, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led a groundbreaking ceremony in Davao City in late October and in the presence of Huang Xilian, the Chinese ambassador to the Philippines.

“This is a testament to the strong and ever-growing foundation of the bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. It is a pleasure as a nation to join hands with you for the eventual success of the endeavor,” Marcos said.

Vice President Sara Duterte, and her brother, Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte, also attended the event.

“This is not the only project that we have depended upon, the concessional loans and even grants from the government of the People’s Republic of China, and it is clear to see the benefits that those projects bring to our people, to our economy and to the Philippines,” Marcos said.

Differing feasibility studies

The 2019 Arup feasibility study contrasted starkly with one done by the Japan International Cooperation Agency three years earlier when JICA was set to finance the project, before the government approved the Chinese loan under the then-Duterte administration’s Build Build Build program.

Japan estimated the project cost at 16 billion pesos (U.S. \$278.3 million). Arup, meanwhile, estimated the cost at 23.4 billion pesos (\$407 million) with 90 percent funded by a loan from Beijing.

The Japanese project proposed a different Samal island landing site for the bridge that would have been cheaper and would have had minimal environmental impact. Instead of landing near the reef, the proposal called for the bridge to land at an old shipyard in Barangay Caliclic that is rich in grassland but not corals.

Locals call the site Bridgeport

“The ratio of live coral reef is less than 10 percent, according to the existing material condition. The habitats of vulnerable species of flora and fauna are far away from the project site and the project would not affect these species,” the 2016 Japanese report said.

The Philippines Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the project's lead agency, did not respond immediately to a BenarNews request for comment about the decision to move the project.

But in an Oct. 7 statement, the department said that the final alignment was a product of "comprehensive study by experts," taking into consideration the environment and the navigational and aeronautical restrictions. It cited the bridge's proximity to the Davao City International Airport and ship routes.

The Japanese report, seen by BenarNews, included those considerations.

Issues

The Rodriguez family in particular is alleging that the government has lacked transparency and failed to consult with locals about the updated landing site for the bridge.

"We only found out that the landing site will be here when we saw Galerio staff surveying the area in 2019," Narciso Rodriguez said, referring to the subcontractor.

"The distrust grew when Chinese contractors, with a DPWH official, trespassed into our property on Oct. 4 with armed Philippine Coast Guard officials," he said. "Instead of passing through our boat entrance, they docked at our private jetty."

The Rodriguez family had raised concerns during an August 2019 meeting with project officials at the DPWH central office in Manila. That December, the family offered to donate property near Bridgeport to be the new landing site.

Marine biologists said the property, like Bridgeport, has limited marine life and is the suitable location.

The Rodriguez family said the government has refused to accept the property.

Since then, the family met with project officials again in Manila February 2020.

Julito Sarmiento, an environmental lawyer representing the family, said Arup presented its 2019 study including photos of a dilapidated Paradise Reef in murky waters. Sarmiento and the family objected to the photos, saying they were either fabricated or taken in another area.

The family responded by showing the results of its commissioned study, led by Filipina Sotto, a marine biologist from Cebu province. Her study called on the government to relocate Arup's "wrongly selected" landing site.

“The DPWH apologized to us and stopped Arup’s presentation. The next meeting a month later, Arup presented a new study, so that means they don’t know the area, they don’t know what they’re doing,” Sarmiento said while showing BenarNews a recording of the meeting.

The Rodriguez family-commissioned report showed thousands of species in the area, a finding supported by Lacson, the other marine biologist.

“You cannot pay somebody to misconstrue the truth. This is the truth – there is an abundant life there, a thriving coral community,” Lacson said.

Fred Medina, Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving commissioner, said he had frequented the area over the years and backed the latest study.

“The report of Sotto’s team is accurate. In terms of coral density, the corals are alive in Paradise Reef as compared to the shipyard or Bridgeport. We should not disturb the environment,” Medina said during the Nov. 5 roundtable discussion.

By comparison, Arup and the government reported that there are only 12 percent of live corals and that they are in “poor condition,” according to the Rodriguez family.

Arup also did not immediately respond to a request from BenarNews for comment.

BenarNews visited the contested area on Nov. 6 and saw stretches of hard and soft corals filled with plants and sea creatures. Just a few hundred meters away, two boats coming from the Davao city side were carrying Chinese and Filipino workers.

Sites for the bridge pillars are surrounded by a mix of hard and soft corals.

Marine biologists said that mitigation efforts, including a silt curtain, would be useless around the construction sites because of the changing tide levels. A silt curtain is a device used to protect water quality in nearby rivers and seas from sediment.

“The coral reefs will die in one or two years,” Sarmiento said.

On the Davao side, two Chinese construction workers and nearly a dozen Filipinos were operating a machine to test the soil.

The bridge is set to be finished by 2027, but Sarmiento said there still is time to push for the realignment of the bridge.

“It’s all about the president’s political will,” Sarmiento said. “If he wants to save the environment and make it his legacy, he can do it.”

BUSINESS MIRROR

Scientists try to bolster Great Barrier Reef in warmer world

By: Sam Mcneil

KONOMICIE ISLAND, Australia (AP) — Below the turquoise waters off the coast of Australia is one of the world's natural wonders, an underwater rainbow jungle teeming with life that scientists say is showing some of the clearest signs yet of climate change.

The Great Barrier Reef, battered but not broken by climate change impacts, is inspiring hope and worry alike as researchers race to understand how it can survive a warming world. Authorities are trying to buy the reef time by combining ancient knowledge with new technology. They are studying coral reproduction in hopes to accelerate regrowth and adapt it to handle hotter and rougher seas.

Underwater heat waves and cyclones driven in part by runaway greenhouse gas emissions have devastated some of the 3,000 coral reefs making up the Great Barrier Reef. Pollution fouls its waters, and outbreaks of crown of thorns starfish have ravaged its corals.

Researchers say climate change is already challenging the vibrant marine superstructure and all that depend upon it — and that more destruction is to come.

Billions of microscopic animals called polyps have built this breathtaking 1,400-mile long colossus that is visible from space and perhaps a million years old. It is home to thousands of known plant and animal species and boasts a \$6.4 billion annual tourism industry.

“The corals are the engineers. They build shelter and food for countless animals,” said Mike Emslie, head of the Long-Term Monitoring Program of the reef at the Australian Institute for Marine Science.

Emslie's team have seen disasters get bigger, and hit more and more frequently over 37 years of underwater surveys.

Heat waves in recent years drove corals to expel countless tiny organisms that power the reefs through photosynthesis, causing branches to lose their color or “bleach.” Without these algae, corals don't grow, can become brittle, and provide less for the nearly 9,000 reef-dependent species. Cyclones in the past dozen years smashed acres of corals. Each of these were historic catastrophes in their own right, but without time to recover between events, the reef couldn't regrow.

In the last heat wave however, Emslie's team at AIMS noticed new corals sprouting up faster than expected.

“The reef is not dead,” he said. “It is an amazing, beautiful, complex, and remarkable system that has the ability to recover if it gets a chance – and the best way we can give it a chance is by cutting carbon emissions.”

The first step in the government’s reef restoration plan is to understand better the enigmatic life cycle of the coral itself.

For that, dozens of Australian researchers take to the seas across the reef when conditions are ripe for reproduction in a spawning event that is the only time each year when coral polyps naturally reproduce as winter warms into spring.

But scientists say that is too slow if corals are to survive global warming. So they don scuba gear to gather coral eggs and sperm during the spawning. Back in labs, they test ways to speed up corals’ reproductive cycle and boost genes that survive higher temperatures.

One such lab, a ferry retrofitted into a “sci-barge”, floats off the coast of Konomie Island, also known as North Keppel Island, a two-hour boat ride from the mainland in Queensland state.

One recent blustery afternoon, Carly Randall, who heads the AIMS coral restoration program, stood amidst buckets filled with coral specimens and experimental coral-planting technologies. She said the long-term plan is to grow “tens to hundreds of millions” of baby corals every year and plant them across the reef.

Randall compared it to tree-planting with drones but underwater.

Her colleagues at AIMS have successfully bred corals in a lab off-season, a crucial first step in being able to at scale introduce genetic adaptations like heat-resistance.

Engineers are designing robots to fit in a mothership that would deploy underwater drones. Those drones would attach genetically-selected corals to the reef with boomerang-shaped clips. Corals in specific targets will enhance the reef’s “natural recovery processes” which would eventually “overtake the work that we’ve been doing to keep it going through climate change,” she said.

Australia has recently been slammed by historic wildfires, floods, and cyclones exacerbated by climate instability.

That has driven a political shift in the country as voters have grown more concerned with climate change, helping sweep in new national leadership in this year’s federal elections, said Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics.

The nation’s previous prime minister, Scott Morrison, was a conservative who was chided for minimizing the need to address climate change.

The new center-left government of Anthony Albanese passed legislation to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and includes 43% green house gas reductions by 2030. Australia is one of the world's largest exporters of coal and liquefied natural gas, and lags behind major industrial countries' emission targets.

The new government has blocked a coal plant from being opened near the Great Barrier Reef, yet recently allowed other coal plants new permits.

It is also continuing investment to boost the reef's natural ability to adapt to rapidly warming climate.

The Italy-sized reef is managed like a national park by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

GBRMPA chief scientist David Wachenfeld said that "despite recent impacts from climate change, the Great Barrier Reef is still a vast, diverse, beautiful and resilient ecosystem."

However, that is today, in a world warmed about 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit).

"As we approach two degrees (Celsius) and certainly as we pass it, we will lose the world's coral reefs and all the benefits that they give to humanity," Wachenfeld said. He added that as home to over 30% of marine biodiversity, coral reefs are essential for the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people all over the tropics.

The reef is "part of the national identity of Australians and of enormous spiritual and cultural significance for our First Nations people," Wachenfeld said.

After long mistreatment and neglect by the federal government, Indigenous groups now have a growing role in management of the reef. The government seeks their permission for projects there and hires from the communities to study and repair it.

Multiple members of the Yirrganydji and Gunggandji communities work as guides, sea rangers and researchers on reef protection and restoration projects.

After scuba diving through turquoise waters teeming with fish and vibrant corals, Tarquin Singleton said his people hold memories more than 60,000 years old of this "sea country" — including previous climatic changes.

"That connection is ingrained in our DNA," said Singleton, who is from the Yirrganydji people native to the area around Cairns. He now works as a cultural officer with Reef Cooperative, a joint venture of tourism agencies, the government and Indigenous groups.

"Utilizing that today can actually preserve what we have for future generations."

The Woppaburra people native to Konomie and Woppa islands barely survived Australian colonization. Now they're forging a new kind of unity "in a way that wouldn't happen normally" by sharing ancient oral histories and working on research vessels, said Bob Muir, an Indigenous elder working as a community liaison with AIMS.

For now, reef-wide farming and planting corals is plausible science fiction. It's too expensive now to scale up to levels needed to "buy the reef time" as humanity cuts emissions, Randall said.

But she said that within 10 to 15 years the drones could be in the water.

But Randall warns that robots, coral farms and skilled divers "will absolutely not work if we don't get emissions under control."

"This is one of many tools in the toolkit being developed," she said. "But unless we can get emissions under control, we don't have much hope for the reef ecosystem."

CNN PHILIPPINES

[DOE greenlights full foreign ownership of renewable energy projects](#)

By: Currie Cator

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 17) — The country's bountiful green energy resources may soon be harvested to its full potential — with foreign investors now free to take full ownership of renewable power projects.

This comes after the Department of Energy (DOE) greenlit amendments to the implementing rules and regulators (IRR) of the Renewable Energy Act, removing the foreign investment cap.

Previously under the law, a 60 to 40 equity rule states only 40% of businesses may be owned by foreign nationals.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, who amended the provision, said an "impressive" number of investors have already expressed interest in the country's resources.

"There are various nationalities, including Europeans [who] have extensive experience in offshore wind. And so, in this particular area, expressions have been made by such companies," Lotilla said in a briefing.

With the amendments to the IRR, foreign investors and companies can now take part in the exploration, development, and utilization of renewable energy.

These include natural resources like solar, wind, biomass, and ocean or tidal energy.

Lotilla is confident the move will help not just the energy sector, but the whole economy.

'Genuine competition'

With the move comes the challenge of keeping the preference for Filipino investors over foreign ones.

But the DOE allayed such concerns.

"One main concern was how protected the Filipino investors will be. That concern, I think, is basic in the constitution. Only when there is no Filipino investor in that same area can we entertain foreigners," said Energy Undersecretary Sharon Garin. "So, preference of Filipinos is still there."

Lotilla said obligations under the service contracts will be "strictly monitored."

"You can be assured that this is a case where we will be able to attract foreign investments because the technological and financial requirements are enormous," he said.

Meanwhile, for the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, the policy shift will help create "genuine competition" and address power supply problems.

"Our local companies with assets in both re and non-re have more than enough on their plate, as evidenced by the outages in their existing power plants, allowing foreign investors and players to come in will help improve the current situation of the power sector," the group said in a statement.

"It will also help enable local companies by partnering with foreign entities that are already in the country, which have a global presence and are known for their technological innovation with respect to RE development," it added.

GMA NEWS ONLINE

[Marcos warns of looming 'dark clouds' of food security, climate change](#)

By Jon Victor D. Cabuenas

BANGKOK, Thailand — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Thursday called for improved economic cooperation in the Asia Pacific region, as he warned of the “dark clouds” such as food security, and climate change.

In a speech delivered during the APEC CEO Summit, Marcos called for collaboration and cooperation in the region to address structural and policy issues and avoid headwinds moving forward.

“Dark clouds loom large if we are not to be prepared. They loom on the economic horizon and now more than ever, our governments and economies must work closer and better together as partners in order to find that break in the clouds where the light of hope and progress can shine through these shocks,” he said.

“To prevent a situation from becoming a prolonged and self-perpetuating problem, we need to immediately address structural and policy issues with the objective of enabling rapid economic recovery and growth in a manner that creates jobs, includes more people into the mainstream, and reduces poverty and inequality,” he said.

Among the issues raised by Marcos are food security, global health systems, and climate change, which he said governments and the private sector should work hand in hand to address.

The Philippines, through its Department of Agriculture (DA), earlier this year warned of a looming food crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rising fuel prices, and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Price of food and non-alcoholic beverages have brought inflation up to a 14-year high of 7.7% in October, the fastest since the 7.8% in December 2008 during the height of the global financial crisis.

“Food security must be a top priority for all governments, and developing economies especially must have the policy flexibility needed to ensure an increase domestic food production and diversification, and to improve the local agricultural supply and value chain,” Marcos said.

Marcos also called for the reinforcement of global health systems, as he said the global economy can no longer afford another series of lockdowns and travel bans.

“Governments must continue to invest in pandemic preparedness and ensuring the resilience of a global health system,” he said, as he called for a global “One Health” approach to improve surveillance systems for diseases.

He also reiterated his call to address climate change, as he cited the need for “stronger action” in relation to the Paris Agreement.

“The Philippine government will work closely with the private sector to improve the resilience of people and businesses by leveraging the tools of sustainability, such as innovative supply chain systems, circular economy models for recycling and upcycling,” he said.

“We must have our sights set high for APEC and for all member countries, but whatever plans we may have for our countries for our economies, those who come to not unless they are within the context of this in the region and in the world,” he added.

Marcos arrived in Bangkok on Wednesday evening, accompanied by First Lady Mary Louise "Liza" Araneta-Marcos, where he is set to have at least six bilateral meetings.

He is set to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping later during the day, where they are expected to discuss issues involving the West Philippine Sea. — RSJ, GMA Integrated News

[Philippines calls for increased financing vs. climate change](#)

By: Joviland Rita/KBK, GMA Integrated News

The Philippine government under President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has called on developed countries to give additional funds for the mitigation of impact of climate change on underdeveloped countries, the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) said Thursday.

In a statement, the OPS said Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla made the call during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland on Wednesday.

"The Philippines reiterates its call for climate justice – for developed countries to increase financing for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage for developing countries," the OPS statement quoted Remulla as saying.

"We expect nothing less from our friends and partners that have been the beacon of human rights and justice the world over," he said.

Remulla pointed out that all countries must faithfully and urgently fulfill their international obligations on climate action.

Human rights

Meanwhile, on the issue about the safety of human rights defenders and journalists, Remulla dismissed the claims that the space for civic and media is shrinking in the country.

"Claims of a shrinking civic and media space are unfounded. They arise from a particular politico-security context that is oftentimes overlooked by those that view the Philippines from afar," he said.

For Remulla, freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly are being protected in the Philippines, saying that it still has a vibrant democracy.

According to him, the supporters of communist rebels supposedly blur the distinction between civic activism and armed violence to advance their “violent agenda”.

"They use human rights as a tool to advance their violent agenda, claiming red-tagging and reprisal when the State exercises its duty to protect the human rights to life, liberty, security of persons and property and to preserve national security and safeguard the democratic order," he said.

Due to this, Remulla called on the UN to exercise due diligence in considering such allegations from various sources.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] ₱25/kilo rice no longer a dream](#)

By: Anna Mae Lamentillo

Ensuring access to affordable food is one of the priorities of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. However, with high inflation, many think this could not be possible.

President Marcos made it possible. Through the Kadiwa ng Pasko centers, affordable products, including rice at ₱25 per kilo, are made available to the public.

The Kadiwa ng Pasko is a project that seeks to address inflation by providing the public with affordable and high-quality products especially in the upcoming holiday season. It also provides a market to the country's local agricultural producers, farmers, fisherfolks, and small business enterprises selling basic necessities.

Fourteen sites were opened simultaneously across the country on Nov. 16, including 11 in the National Capital Region, one in Tacloban City, one in Davao De Oro, and one in Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

In launching the project, the President emphasized that we now see that having ₱25 per kilo of rice is possible, soon we can make our dream of ₱20 per kilo of rice possible as well.

It really is possible when a leader has a vision and knows very well what to prioritize to improve the lives of the people. The opening of Kadiwa centers is just one way to help address inflation especially in the short term, but having these centers empowers both consumers, who can now access high-quality goods at an affordable price, and our local agricultural producers, who can now earn more for their products because they are now free from the control of unscrupulous traders and middlemen.

President Marcos said that the government will continue the Kadiwa centers even after Christmas and will continue to implement other measures aimed at improving the lives of Filipinos.

From the start, agriculture has been a high priority for the President, and rightfully so because it is imperative for our leaders to ensure our nation's food security. The Covid-19 pandemic, the global events that have been affecting the prices of basic commodities, and our country's vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change impacts all threaten our food security.

This is also the reason why the President assumed the post of Agriculture Secretary, noting the severity of the challenges in the sector that need to be addressed. The Kadiwa centers is now helping solve one of the decades-old problems of farmers, fisherfolks, and local agricultural producers of earning little despite their hard work.

But another important message that the Kadiwa ng Pasko project imparts is that, we can dream for our nation and turn it into reality so long as we have a leader who has a vision of what he wants for our country, works hard to achieve it, and is supported by the very people he serves.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[PBBM calls on APEC economies to allow innovations; urges leaders to 'make big changes'](#)

By: Office of Press Secretary

MANILA -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday called on his fellow Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders to continue allowing and encouraging innovations and structural changes.

The President addressed fellow leaders at the APEC CEO Summit in Thailand, where he discussed food security, global health systems and climate change, among other pressing issues.

During the question-and-answer portion, the President stated that he agrees with Robert E. Moritz, Global Chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers, that the changes that need to be made are structural.

"They have to be done structurally because this is a different world. This is a different economy. And as we were discussing in the green room, he says we're not playing catch-up. And I said, even if we were, what are we trying to catch up to? 2019? I don't think that that's the plan," Marcos said.

"We cannot be too married to the ideas that we were holding as truths before and we have to be willing to make big changes but with the recognition that from what is actually happening around the world," the President pointed out.

The chief executive, likewise, noted that in making structural changes, innovation should be allowed or encouraged.

"But when we make these structural changes, I'd like to pick up on the point that Dr. Schwab made on innovation... We must still continue to encourage innovation and to recognize innovations that can actually help and immediately put them into play... if it's a product to market or if it's a system to implement that system," the President said.

Marcos also discussed during the question-and-answer portion the cash transfer payments aimed at cushioning the impact of increasing prices of fuel and food on Filipinos.

"It is actually at this point, it is survival for many of our people simply because prices of fuel, prices of food has risen to such an extent that they simply cannot afford to survive without assistance from the government. And hence we are still presently in the Philippines providing just direct cash transfer payments," Marcos said.

“This is not something that we prefer to do. I don’t think that anyone is particularly enamored with direct cash transfer payments. But it is the only way that we can mitigate the situation that our people have,” the chief executive added.

President Marcos is in Bangkok to attend the 29th APEC Summit, his first as Philippine leader.

Marcos has vowed to bring with him the country’s hope for a peaceful and prosperous Asia-Pacific region as he joins other leaders in the three-day APEC gathering.

[PBBM touts plan to prioritize renewable energy before world leaders; bats for 50% power generation share by 2040](#)

By: OPS

MANILA -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday said the Philippines has prioritized renewable energy options such as hydropower, geothermal power, solar and other low-emission energy sources.

In his opening remarks during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Bangkok, President Marcos said this prioritization is being done by setting a target for a higher share of renewable energy in the power generation mix of 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

The President said one of the key challenges that needs to be addressed is climate change, which he said, is “the most pressing existential challenge of our time” that indelibly impacts the global economy.

The President said the Philippines is one of the countries at great risk from the climate crisis, as it stands to lose more than 6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually by 2100, based on a study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Although global agreements seeking multilateral solutions to the climate crisis, particularly the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, are in force, “not enough” progress has been made as emissions continue to rise, Marcos noted.

“The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 27) is in full swing, but stronger climate action is required. As the energy demands of the modern global economy continue to expand rapidly, diversification into renewables and other sources is imperative,” the chief executive said.

In his message, the President said APEC member economies should accelerate efforts to address structural and policy issues to counter the effects of the pandemic, conflict in other parts of the world, and climate change.

Marcos said food insecurity has become a serious global issue and a problem that every household and family feels.

Climate change, high inflation, and geopolitical crises are interconnected as part of a delicate global food ecosystem, which affects nations globally, the President argued.

“Food security should be a top priority for all governments, developing economies must especially have policy flexibility to ensure increased domestic food production and diversification and improve the local agricultural supply chain,” the Philippine leader told summit participants.

The APEC is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.

APEC's 21 members aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration. (PND)

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Green recovery urgent issue, not just option: APEC report](#)

JAKARTA – Members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) are facing extensive sustainability challenges, and there is a pressing need to embark on green structural reforms to tackle it and promote green recovery from the economic slowdown triggered by the pandemic.

This is reflected in an APEC report on structural reform in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 2022 APEC Economic Report, released while APEC officials are convening in Bangkok, Thailand, ahead of the APEC Annual Ministerial Meeting and APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting this week, draws on examples from APEC member economies implementing structural reforms to promote sustainable outcomes.

The research finds that the proportion of fiscal stimulus spending on green initiatives is small and that most stimulus packages are spent on business-as-usual activities, as noted in a release issued by the APEC Economic Committee and received here on Thursday.

It says governments' responses to economic shocks can provide the impetus and means to promote green recovery that contributes both to economic growth and to improvements in environmental outcomes.

The report noted that fiscal stimulus spending on green initiatives is economically advantageous as compared to traditional fiscal stimulus initiatives.

"Continuous, consistent, and predictable policies are needed for effective green structural reforms," it said.

"Structural reforms refer to measures to improve market efficiency, such as improvements to regulatory systems, competition frameworks, and governance structures," said James Ding, chair of the APEC Economic Committee, the group that produced the report alongside the APEC Policy Support Unit.

As tariffs, quotas, and other trade barriers at the border have significantly experienced a net decrease over the last three decades, the focus for APEC needs to address the structural and regulatory obstacles or "behind the border" barriers that inhibit cross-border trade and improved business performance.

"If economies increase their efficiency, flexibility, and resilience through structural reform, the region will become stronger and more resilient," Ding said.

He noted that the current socioeconomic crisis only revealed structural weaknesses that need to be addressed through fundamental changes and give an opportunity to lead a steady and green recovery.

He also highlighted the need for a sense of urgency in addressing environmental challenges while tackling the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since APEC's inception in 1989, the APEC region has been affected by 36 percent of the total global natural disasters. Disaster-related losses in APEC, most of them being weather-related, totaled an average of USD111 billion annually, according to the report.

Its location and geographic diversity make the region highly exposed to the impacts of climate change.

The APEC region is also a key contributor to climate change. Between 1990 and 2018, the region's greenhouse gas emissions grew 1.9 percent annually, higher than the world's average rate of 1.1 percent.

Adding to that, the World Bank has estimated a loss of 7.3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) across APEC by the year 2100, most of which will be experienced by developing economies nearer to the equator due to coastal flooding.

"Until recently, it has been argued that there is a trade-off between growth and environmental sustainability," a senior analyst with the Policy Support Unit Carlos Kuriyama said.

"This report will show that this assumption is increasingly open to challenge and that structural reforms to promote sustainable outcomes will also deliver higher rates of growth," Kuriyama noted.

The report recommends that member economies engage in capacity building and knowledge-sharing about activities in areas where more work is needed to transform to a green economy, such as developing pricing schemes, understanding the process to implement green regulatory measures, strengthening interinstitutional collaboration within and across economies, increasing partnerships with the private sector and mobilizing finance towards green investments.

Marcos welcomes Thai firm's interest to invest in PH aquaculture

By: Azzer Parocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is elated over a Thai company's interest in putting more investments in the Philippine aquaculture industry, citing its importance in helping the country achieve food security.

Thai conglomerate CP Group pledged to make additional investments in the Philippines in aquaculture, rice and swine production during a meeting with Marcos in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday night.

Marcos, who also heads the Department of Agriculture (DA), said there were “many opportunities” to address issues in the aquaculture industry now that the country continues to move toward post-pandemic recovery.

“The Department of Agriculture of the Philippines will go to your Philippine offices and we will begin by that, and maybe we will set a time when a team of Filipinos can come to Thailand. Then we can see what are the opportunities that you feel are going to be appropriate for the Philippines,” Marcos said.

He likewise recognized CP Group's wealth of experience and its best practices, considering its presence in 21 countries in the world.

CP Group is Thailand's largest private company with a USD2 billion investment in the Philippines.

The largest and the most significant Thai investment in Philippine Agriculture is Charoen Pokphand Foods Philippines Corporation (CPFPC), a subsidiary of Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Company Limited (CPF)

CPFPC (Agriculture) started operations in the Philippines in May 2010 with rented feeds mill located in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

In 2012, the company made additional investments in aquaculture and agro-business in the Philippines.

Aside from shrimp and fish hatchery farms, the company has built one of the most modern aquaculture feed mills in Bataan. It also produces feeds for fish and shrimp.

Meanwhile, Marcos also reiterated his commitment to intensify the fisheries sector in his meeting with Aboitiz Group President and CEO and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Philippines member Sabin Aboitiz.

“[Aquaculture] is an area where the Philippines can do well... So that's something that we are not doing a lot, and I really feel that we are missing an opportunity because we

are a country with over 7,000 islands. I am sure that there are many places that are suitable for this kind of operation," he said.

Food security

Meanwhile, Marcos on Thursday reiterated his call for nations to make food security a "top priority" during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

"Food security should be a top priority for all governments, developing economies must especially have policy flexibility to ensure increased domestic food production and diversification and improve the local agricultural supply chain," he said.

The President said food insecurity has become a serious global issue and a problem that every household and family feels.

He said issues such as climate change, high inflation, and geopolitical crises must be addressed as it affects the global food ecosystem.

The APEC is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.

APEC's 21 members aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

[PBBM bats for energy diversification to address climate change](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita Carlos

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday emphasized the importance of diversifying energy sources to sustain global economic growth and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

In his opening remarks during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, Marcos lamented that the progress made to address climate crisis is "not enough," despite the implementation of global climate pacts such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

Marcos said a "stronger" action is needed, considering that climate change is "the most pressing existential challenge of our time" that may cause adverse impact on the global economy.

"The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 27) is in full swing, but stronger climate action is required. As the energy demands of the modern global economy continue to expand rapidly, diversification into renewables and other sources is imperative," he said during the forum.

APEC member economies, Marcos said, should step up efforts to address "structural and policy" issues to counter the effects of several global challenges, including the climate crisis.

Marcos made the call, as he noted that climate change is "interconnected" with high inflation and geopolitical crises, as part of a "delicate" global food ecosystem that affects the entire world.

Marcos said the Philippine government is now focused on using renewable energy sources such as hydropower, geothermal power, solar and other low-emission energy sources.

He said his administration is particularly setting a target of a 35 percent share of renewable energy in the power generation mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

He issued the statement, as he cited the findings of the Asian Development Bank's study which showed that the Philippines is one of the countries that are at "great risk" from the climate crisis, as it stands to lose over six percent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually by 2100.

Marcos earlier approved the Department of Energy's plan to explore and develop the country's offshore wind (OSW) potential as a source of clean and sustainable energy.

Marcos is currently in Thailand for his first participation in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

The APEC is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.

APEC's 21 member economies seek greater prosperity in the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

RAPPLER

Marcos: Climate change 'most pressing existential challenge of our time'

By: Bea Cupin

BANGKOK, Thailand – The President of a country where storms have intensified in the past years, and whose people are often victims – in terms of lives and economic opportunities lost – said at a summit with the region's leaders and top business executives that climate change was the “most pressing existential challenge of our time.”

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr made the assertion on Thursday, November 17, during a panel at the Asia-Pacific Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Thailand, one of the side events leading up to the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).

“The Philippines is among the countries at great risk from this crisis, as we stand to lose more than up to 6% of our GDP annually by 2100, according to a study by the [Asian Development Bank],” said Marcos as part of a “scene setting” panel that included World Economic Fund (WEF) founder Klaus Schwab and PricewaterhouseCoopers Global Chairman Robert E. Moritz.

His remarks come as nations continue to deliberate at the United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Egypt. The conference is where nations discuss strategies and plan action to achieve collective climate goals.

Food, health

In his opening remarks, Marcos said three issues were “critical” in order to prevent the economic downturns of recent years – thanks in huge part to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Dark clouds loom large if we are not to be prepared. They loom on the economic horizon and now more than ever our governments and economies must work closer and better together as partners in order to find that break in the clouds where the light of hope and progress can shine through,” he said.

The two other issues, said Marcos, were food security and the improvement of global health systems.

“[The problem of food security] is felt by every household, by every family, by everyone. The issues that the world faces now – from climate change, to inflation, to war – are viewed by the ordinary Filipino through the lens of food security,” said Marcos, who is also agriculture chief in the Philippines.

Marcos also said the world cannot afford another global lockdown and the closing of borders as a result of another health crisis – be it COVID-19 or other diseases.

“Governments must continue to invest in pandemic preparedness and in ensuring the resilience of the global health system. Adopting the One-Health approach and strengthening health surveillance systems for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, from the human-animal-environment interface, can be part of the solution,” he said.

At the APEC Summit, recovery in a “post-COVID-19 economy” is top of mind for leaders of economy in attendance. Twenty-one economies are part of APEC, a regional organization that aims to promote regional economic integration.

“The Future of APEC lies in its ability to revitalize its role as the region that drives the global economy,” said Marcos.

At the APEC, presidents and prime ministers (referred to as heads of economies) hold meetings, as top business executives also hold discussions of their own. Economic leaders also confer with business people through the APEC Business Advisory Council.

Marcos is in Bangkok from November 16 to 19 to attend the AELM and related events, as well as have meetings with business personalities. He is expected to hold several bilateral meetings too, including one with China Thursday afternoon.

SUNSTAR

Groups to national gov't: Ease plight of poor families, struggling workers

By: Honey I. Cotejo

Members of cause-oriented and civil society groups called on the national government to ease the plight of urban poor families and struggling workers as population growth, climate change and other issues are affecting them.

In the recent 2022 Dagyaw Town Hall Meeting held at the Cebu Parklane International Hotel on Nov. 16, 2022, some government and civil society organizations discussed social problems believed to hinder the growth of Cebu's cities.

Francisco Fernandez, founder of Pagtambayayong Foundation Inc., said the increasing population growth in highly urbanized cities contributed to the many jobless and homeless individuals in urban areas despite their rapid development.

Another factor, he said, is progressing climate change, which results in extreme calamities such as super typhoons, massive landslides, and flash floods, among others.

About 14,000 families in Cebu City situated within the three-meter easement zone among its major rivers are currently being displaced. But if climate change continues to progress, all of us will be affected by massive flash floods soon, said Fernandez.

Fernandez also mentioned the increase in privatization among basic facilities such as electricity and gasoline facilities and some public markets.

He said many urban communities have been eradicated to pave the way for building many privately owned establishments.

Inflation and retrenchment

Dennis Derige, regional coordinator of Partido Manggagawa Sentro, discussed the rise in inflation, which has gone up to 7.7 percent in October 2022, slightly higher than the yearly average of 5.4 percent.

Derige said inflation, along with the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, are some reasons for employers laying off their workers.

He said that in Cebu Province alone, there are already about 6,800 workers retrenched in the Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ) as of October.

For the garment industry, if the number of buyers will not increase among the primary exporting countries, then it is feared that about 27,000 more workers will lose their work by next year, said Derige.

Derige acknowledged the help given by some government agencies, such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, among others, to assist retrenched workers but he added that it was not enough.

Derige called on the government to come up with unemployment insurance of at least P10,000 per month and a wage subsidy equivalent to 75 percent of the retrenched worker's salary for employees in micro, small and medium enterprises for at least 100 days.

"Dole (Department of Labor and Employment) already released a social protection floor, resulting in their consequent dialogues between labor sectors that these ideas are doable and would need at least P11 billion worth of funds," said Derige.

[PH asks for additional funding for climate change mitigation](#)

By: Third Anne Peralta-Malonzo

The Philippine Government has called for an increased budget from developed countries to fund efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, which according to President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. “affects mostly the least responsible” countries, including the Philippines.

During the United Nations Human Rights Council’s (UNHCR) regular Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva, Switzerland, on Wednesday, November 16, Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla reiterated the country’s call for climate justice and accountability from developed countries to accomplish global climate change initiatives.

“The Philippines reiterates its call for climate justice -- for developed countries to increase financing for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage for developing countries. We expect nothing less from our friends and partners that have been the beacon of human rights and justice the world over,” said Remulla.

“Environmental rights defenders are partners in promoting climate goals, and their freedom and safety should certainly be protected. But let us not lose sight of the bigger issue, which is, that all countries must faithfully and urgently fulfill their international obligations on climate action,” he added.

In his speech at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Marcos called for stronger global cooperation to address climate change, which he described as “the greatest threat of the world.”

He called on the industrialized countries to immediately fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable and developing countries to lead by example.

Remulla also reiterated that the Philippine maintains a vibrant democracy where freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly are protected amid concerns over the safety of human rights defenders and journalists.

“Claims of a shrinking civic and media space are unfounded. They arise from a particular politico-security context that is oftentimes overlooked by those that view the Philippines from afar,” he said.

Remulla said the communist insurgents and their supporters blur the lines between civic activism and armed violence as they use human rights to advance their violent agenda.

He said they were claiming red-tagging and reprisal “when the State exercises its duty to protect the human rights to life, liberty, security of persons and property and to preserve national security and safeguard the democratic order.”

[Opinion] States of calamity

By: Benjie Pangan

Severe tropical storms Paeng and Karding must have precipitated the declaration of a state of calamity by local and national governments in areas most severely affected by floods, high water and significant destruction of infrastructure and private properties.

This time, our southernmost region, the BARMM, bore the brunt of the powerful weather disturbances, hence, the declaration of State of Calamity in that region.

It is through this declaration that LGU and the national government get the opportunity to draw on their reserved calamity funds for use to address the emergency-driven issues.

The destructive impact of the two successive strong storms elicited comments from two nationally-read columnists Ambeth R. Ocampo and Inez Ponce de Leon. Wrote Ocampo: Undas 2022 will be remembered for the deaths and destruction caused by severe tropical storm Paeng. And de Leon: Last weekend, severe tropical storm Paeng damaged nearly the entire country in a lashing of wind and rain.

As a result of the two weather disturbances, people blamed the weather forecaster. Pagasa, is already saddled with problems of failing Doppler Signal systems and antiquated machines and further burdened by the lack of trained weather forecasters.

People say the forecasts were not accurate and far from what transpired at the height of the onslaught of the weather disturbances.

The country is visited by as many as twenty typhoons/storms each year and its resources are swiftly eaten as soon as they arrive in the country and cause havoc. Every administration is faced with the dilemma of facing the weather challenges.

Indeed, the effects of climate change are deeply felt by the Philippines and other vulnerable nations like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and other Asian countries.

I heard that the well-to-do countries have yet to fulfill their pledges to give substantial amounts to a common fund in order to combat the ill effects of climate change.

The promised \$100 billion climate change fund has not been reached as yet. What are the nations involved in the Paris Agreement doing?

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Philippines seeks redefinition of climate finance for developing countries](#)

By: Pia Lee-Brago

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines calls for the inclusion of needs and priorities of developing countries in the definition of “climate finance.”

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the Philippines called for the adoption of a transformational and operational definition of climate finance to include the principles or characteristics of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) at the fifth High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Finance of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP27, in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt on Monday.

The NCQG is the new set of climate financial support that takes account the needs and priorities of developing countries from a base of \$100 billion per year.

The Philippines asked for a delivery plan for achieving the \$100 billion minimum that focuses on adaptation financing, scaling up climate finance grants, and streamlining access to financing.

The country also stated that financial mechanisms should be based on the best available science and technologies.

Philippine Ambassador to Egypt Ezzedin Tago said the collective ambition of scaling up climate action should be anchored on a transparent, accessible, predictable and efficient mobilization of climate finance as he highlighted the need for swift and effective initiatives.

“Let us all work to break down the barriers to ambitious climate finance. Let us all endeavor for a climate finance that offers more sustainable results,” Tago said.

The dialogue was moderated by the ministers of Maldives and Finland. States parties shared the challenges and key areas of progress in climate finance, how the delivery and transparency of climate financing can be further enhanced, and lessons learned that can be applied to deliberations on the new collective quantified goal.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS-CBN NEW

[Greenpeace hits 'very small' 2023 budget for Climate Change Commission](#)

By: ABS-CBN News

MANILA — An environmental group on Thursday assailed the proposed 2023 budget for the Climate Change Commission, which has secured Senate approval at the plenary level.

According to Greenpeace Philippines country director Lea Guerrero, a P128-million budget for a commission that will monitor and evaluate the government's response to the climate crisis is "very small".

"It's infinite decimal. It's peanuts. And if you compare that to, for example, the confidential funds of the Office of the Vice President, it's not even half of what the Office of the Vice President is getting," she told ANC's "Headstart".

She added, "What do they expect the CCC to be doing with 128 million mainstreaming responses to the climate crisis in 81 provinces in the Philippines?"

The Senate has approved CCC's proposed 2023 budget despite issues raised against the agency, such as its alleged "dismal" performance and its officials' supposed penchant for "international travels".

'UNDESERVED'

For Guerrero, the treatment towards the agency was "undeserved".

"We need to accept that there are many travels that the commissioners need to be doing in order to put the interests of the Philippines on climate change front and center in the international stage," she said.

The country's delegation is also among those clamoring for reparations from rich nations and fossil fuel corporations for climate damage, she added.

She noted that the Philippines is among nations most affected by extreme weather.

Guerrero called for a "holistic or coherent strategy" to address the climate crisis.

"What we have been seeing from the previous administration and this current administration is it's just been a lot of climate talk," she said.

"None of the speeches on climate justice of President [Ferdinand] Marcos [Jr.] right now or even President [Rodrigo] Duterte, none of them have translated into action, both at the national level and also in international stage," she added.

In his inaugural speech in June, Marcos vowed to help combat climate change.

He lamented that rich nations, accountable for having the most greenhouse gas emissions, do "a lot less" about the global crisis.

At his first State of the Nation Address in late July, Marcos said his administration will prioritize the use of renewable energy sources to cushion the impacts of climate change in the country.

Marcos says to prioritize use of renewable energy to address climate change

GLOBAL SHIELD

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

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

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

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

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

ANC NEWS

['Very small': Greenpeace PH hits budget for Climate Change Commission | ANC](#)

The recently approved P128-M budget for the Climate Change Commission is 'very, very small', says Lea Guerrero, country director of Greenpeace Philippines.

She adds that climate talks in speeches of the past and current administrations never translated into action both in national and international level

MANILA BULLETIN

[Aside from constant travel, Climate Change Commission has very little to show—Imee](#)

By: Mario Casayuran

Since its creation in 2009, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) has very little to show except for constant travel. This was the lament of Senator Imee Marcos when she presented the P128-million appropriations for CCC on the 2023 fiscal year during the Senate deliberation on the proposed 2023 P5.268-trillion national budget.

Marcos said that from April to November of this year, 20 trips were recorded by the CCC.

She also said the mainstreaming at the local government unit (LGU) level has been cited for a mere 18 percent accomplishment, which is the fundamental part of the Climate Change Program.

Furthermore, Marcos sought an audit of the P1-billion People's Survival Fund that was released in 2015, noting that of that amount, P690 million remains with the CCC unexpended.

"With that, I hope we can pass the budget of P128 million, disallowing travel unless absolutely necessary," she added.

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, who presides over the plenary deliberation of the proposed CCC P128-million budget. Said she would no longer ask questions being the presiding officer but requests the commissioners to submit a report on all their trips to the senators as well as the status of their negotiations and "the inclusion of the loss and damage in the agenda for the Egypt talks".

She also asked a report on the funds and projects accessed by the Philippine government since the beginning of the enactment into law and the creation of the commission.

Legarda, likewise, asked the commission to likewise submit the travel records of the technical advisors and consultants.

"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 can attend can be used for policy," she added.

RMN

[CCC budget sa 2023, lusot agad sa pagtalakay sa plenaryo; pondo naman ng National Commission of Senior Citizens, ipinagpaliban ang deliberasyon sa Senado](#)

Nakalusot agad sa pagtalakay ng Senado ang panukalang pondo ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) na aabot sa P128 million para sa 2023.

Matatandaang noong nakaraang linggo ay iminosyon ni Senate President Pro-Tempore Loren Legarda na ipagpaliban ang deliberasyon sa pondo ng CCC dahil wala sa sesyon ng plenaryo ang mga commissioners ng ahensya na dumalo sa Annual Climate Change Conference sa Egypt.

Ngayong araw ay present ang lahat ng opisyal ng CCC pero dahil presiding officer si Legarda sa sesyon ay hindi ito makapagtatanong sa ahensya.

Dahil walang ibang senador ang magtatanong ay agad naaprubahan ang panukalang pondo ng CCC.

Bagama't hindi nabusisi ang budget, pinagsusumite naman ang CCC ng report at mga negosasyon sa kanilang katatapos na Egypt trip gayundin ang report tungkol sa mga napondohang proyekto mula nang malikha at magsimula ang commission.

Samantala, ipina-defer ni Senate Minority Leader Koko Pimentel ang pagtalakay sa budget ng National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) dahil hindi dumalo sa deliberation ang iba sa mga commissioners nito.

=END=