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MINDANAO TIMES

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

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Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) were working double time to establish a funding system to address loss and damage caused by disasters.

On the sidelines of the ongoing Conference of Parties in Baku, Azerbaijan, representatives expressed the need for such funding as they are at the forefront of typhoons, climate hazards, and other challenges.

The Philippines is the host of the United Nations Board of the Loss and Damage Fund. However, ASEAN member states want to establish a system for the region.

"The Philippines shows its share to the solutions in making sure that we are also responding to the timely decisions of the COP particularly on the funding of loss and damage," said John Adrian Nanag of the Department of Finance.

He noted that the Philippines is "very dedicated to all parties involved and all our stakeholders."

"It is important to make this happen. A platform or hub for technical assistance," said Jayvy Gamboa of the Manila Observatory.

According to a study by the ASEAN-German Climate Action Program, the ASEAN region faces rapid-onset events such as tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, and heatwaves.

It also faces slow-onset events such as sea-level rise, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and ocean acidification.

"The impact of the sea level rise will not only hamper the community but largely it will impact the sovereignty. It's triggering," explained Prakama Raja Siregar of the action program.

The region plans to develop an institution that will focus on loss and damage for ASEAN and to put up an insurance scheme for the impacts of climate change.

An instrument will also be set up for all member states to follow so that it could be properly discussed as an association.

Meanwhile, various civil society groups from the Philippines continued to clamor for climate justice through financing developing countries.

The groups requested \$1.3 trillion from most Global North countries to contribute to the loss and damage fund, with some of the amount to be used to cover existing damage.

“We support the call of our Philippine Negotiators that Loss and Damage must be included in the Finance code and must be obligatory,” said Rodne Galicha, national convener for Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, one of the largest civil society networks for climate action in the Philippines.

“Someone clearly has to pay. We stand in solidarity with the people who are being impacted by these typhoons. We demand climate accountability and climate justice,” said Joel Chester Pagulayan, climate justice portfolio manager of Oxfam Pilipinas.

The National Council of Churches of the Philippines said it wanted to examine the agricultural losses caused by climate change.

“This is not a discussion of fundraising but a demand for responsibility. It must be in grants, not loans,” said Patricia Mungcal, a humanitarian response program manager.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia emphasized that much remains to be done and the needs are immense. Meanwhile, developed nations have refused to budge on the amount they should contribute.

“I demand for our Philippine delegation to keep pushing for developing countries’ interest and for the Philippines’ interest,” said Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive Director Naderev Saño.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries are bound to adhere to the climate treaty by submitting plans for climate action.

Negotiations are set to continue until November 22.

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By: Adrian H. Halili

The Philippines is expected to experience cooler temperatures in the coming months amid the onset of the Northeast Monsoon or Amihan, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

“Over the past several days, the high-pressure area over Siberia has strengthened, leading to a strong surge of northeasterly winds which is expected to affect the northern portion of Luzon beginning today and tomorrow, after the passage of Super Typhoon Pepito (Man-Yi),” PAGASA Administrator Nathaniel T. Servando said in a statement on Tuesday.

The state weather bureau said that the country may face successive surges of northeasterly winds over the next two weeks.

This is expected to increase atmospheric pressure and lead to cooling of surface air temperature over areas in the northern portion of Luzon.

“The development of these meteorological patterns indicates the onset of the Northeast Monsoon season,” Mr. Servando added.

The agency said that the Northeast Monsoon is expected to bring cold and dry air to most of the country due to the increase in northeasterly wind flow.

“Episodes of wind and cold temperature surges, as well as increasing prevalence of rough sea conditions, especially over the seaboard of Luzon are also expected in the coming months,” PAGASA added.

The Philippines experiences the Northeast Monsoon during mid-October or November and is expected to last until March or April of next year. It is typically associated with the year-end holiday season.

“PAGASA will continue to monitor the country’s weather and climatic conditions,” the weather agency said.

GMA NEWS

[Australia, Turkey in 2026 UN climate summit hosting standoff](#)

Australia and Turkey are in a standoff over which country is better suited to host United Nations climate change talks in 2026, with neither willing to give up on their bid.

Both countries have been in the running since 2022, but matters have come to a head at this year's COP29 summit being held this week in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Australia's climate minister made a last-minute stop in Turkey on Friday, his office confirmed, hoping to reach a deal on the Australian bid. However, Turkish officials declined to drop their bid and the two remain in talks.

The host has a central role in brokering compromises at the annual summit and steering the final phase of negotiations. This can deliver both diplomatic prestige and a global platform to promote the country's green industries.

The COP summit is the centrepiece of global climate diplomacy, where nearly 200 countries gather to negotiate joint plans and funding to avert the worst impacts of rising temperatures.

Every country has a shot at hosting, if they want to, as a member of one of five regional groups to take it in turns.

That system has drawn criticism as fossil fuel producers including the United Arab Emirates have played host - raising concerns among campaigners over whether countries which are deeply invested in polluting industries can be honest brokers of climate talks.

Fatma Varank, Turkey's deputy environment minister, told Reuters that the country's Mediterranean location would help reduce emissions from flights bringing delegates to the conference, and highlighted its smaller oil and gas industry compared with Australia.

Australia is among the world's largest exporters of fossil fuels.

"We don't deny the fact that we have traditionally been a fossil fuel exporter, but we're in the middle of a transition to changing to export renewable energy," Australia's climate minister Chris Bowen told Reuters at COP29.

"We have a story to tell," he said, explaining that Australia was pitching a 'Pacific COP' to elevate issues affecting the region's vulnerable island states.

Turkey, which has a small oil and gas industry, gets around 80% of its energy from fossil fuels and was Europe's second-largest producer of coal-fired electricity in 2023.

It offered to host the COP26 talks in 2021 but withdrew its bid, allowing Britain to preside over the summit. Varank said Turkey was reluctant to step aside again.

Whoever wins would need unanimous backing from the 28 countries in the U.N.'s Western Europe and Others regional group. There is no firm deadline, although hosts are often confirmed years in advance to give them time to prepare.

Members including Germany, Canada and Britain have publicly backed Australia. Pacific leaders have backed Australia on the condition that it elevates the climate issues they suffer such as coastal erosion and rising seas.

Fiji's climate secretary Sivendra Michael told Reuters the country backed Australia's bid.

"But we are also cautiously reminding them of the national efforts that they need to make to transition away from fossil fuels," Michael said.

Turkey declined to say which members of the regional group had offered it support.

[From disaster response to climate impacts: How health is being integrated in PH's climate action](#)

By: Lou Albano

At the second and final week of the 29th United Nations Conference of Parties (COP29), representatives from the Department of Health (DOH) led by Undersecretary Gloria Balboa, joined the official Philippine delegation to make a case for health in climate action.

This is only the second time that the DOH joined the country delegation at COP, where health has become a hot topic.

In a statement, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said "The climate crisis is also a health crisis. Human health and planetary health are intertwined. Countries must take meaningful action to protect their people, boost resources, cut emissions, phase out fossil fuels, and make peace with nature."

"COP29 must drive progress towards those vital goals for the planet's health and for people's health," he added.

Speaking to GMA News Online, Usec Balboa echoed the World Health Organization (WHO) in saying health is the argument for climate. "Climate change can be vague sa mga tao but if you relate it to its effect on health, people understand it better," she said.

The WHO released a COP29 health report just ahead of the negotiations earlier this month, where it said noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) caused about 41 million deaths a year or 74% of total deaths, with climate change and air pollution increasing the risks for NCDs. And while air pollution has been linked to nearly 7 million premature deaths, climate change has forced people to "face a record 50 more days of health-threatening heat in 2023."

In the Philippines, the interconnectedness of health and climate first became clear back in 2009 when Tropical Storm Ondoy hit Manila. "That was unprecedented," Dr. Ronald Law of the DOH told GMA News Online in Baku.

"It was just a tropical storm, it was not even a bagyo, but its impacts were immense. It is considered a health issue kasi maraming namatay. Hospitals were affected and it led to a leptos outbreak. It was a public health issue that was clearly related to the environment."

[It was just a tropical storm. It wasn't even a typhoon but its impacts were immense. It is considered a health issue because so many people died. Hospitals were affected and it

led to a leptos outbreak. It was a public health issue that was clearly related to the environment.]

And then there is heat, that is slowly searing the world and affecting health in a different manner. "Pag masyado mataas ang temperature, pwedeng directly magkaroon ng health issues, lalo na yung may mga pre-existing illnesses, and vulnerable groups like the elderly, children, pregnant women, and certain workers like construction workers, drivers, traffic enforcers, farmers, fisherfolk," Law continued.

[In extreme heat, there could be health issues especially among those with pre-existing illnesses and vulnerable groups like the elderly, children, pregnant women, and certain workers like construction workers, drivers, traffic enforcers, farmers and fisherfolk.]

According to an ADB report on Extreme Heat, Asia is warming faster than the global average, and studies from 2000-2019 reveal 45% of the global annual average of 489,000 heat-related deaths occur in the continent.

"These are direct impacts on health. Recently, we've also been learning about climate change's indirect impacts on health. For instance, climate change can impact food because nasisira ang agriculture. So that affects our nutrition and food security. Climate change also affects water — that can lead to more water borne diseases," Law said.

In a bigger scale, climate change and global warming are affecting energy consumption, bringing problems to health operations at hospitals and clinics.

"We call these 'nexus areas' and we have to talk about this because in the end, this can affect people's health," he continues. "traditionally, that's what's associated with the health side of climate."

Simply put, this is the adaptation, where "we are managing the negative health consequences to people," is "traditionally what's associated with health and climate," Law said.

But DOH brings up another facet to health and climate to the table: Mitigation. "Around 5% of total global emissions is from the healthcare industry so something must be done," Law said.

While some countries like Singapore has started the decarbonization of its health care industry, the Philippines is not there yet. Instead, it is beginning to go through something

of a transition. “Aside from looking at the emergency side, we are also looking at a climate resilient, low carbon, and sustainable health system.”

According to DOH’s Dr. Bituin Reyes, the country started with the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan 2020-2040 (PHFD), where resilience is already included. “We weren’t just looking at gaps based on demand, but we were also looking at, we have to fill in the fact that our facilities needed to be climate-resilient,” she said.

From the PHFD, the DOH came up with the Green and Safe Health Facilities Manual in 2021.

“Our target was to have 50% of the 400 government hospitals to be recognized as green and safe. Our target is 220 hospitals by 2028 and last year, we reached 25%, so we are ahead of targets by 2 years,” she proudly said.

And finally, there is cross-sectoral collaboration. “How can the health sector promote the health co-benefits? For example, transport. We want to reduce carbon footprint — for people to not take their vehicles. So you have active transport. You highlight its co-benefit to health, which is good for physical activity. But it’s not simple. There are many issues — people don’t go out because it’s so hot, there’s not enough trees, there’s a road risk safety issue. Many issues on public transport that you have to communicate to design those solutions together,” Law said.

DOH’s three-pronged approach of integrating health within climate plans — addressing health impacts or adaptation, strengthening health systems or mitigation, and promoting co-benefits — is very much aligned with what the WHO laid down in the COP29 special report on climate and health, which Dr. Vanessa Kerry, WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Climate Change Health said “exposes how the accelerating climate and health crisis impacts more than just our health.”

“As leaders gather for COP29, we urge them to fast-track a just transition and increase funding for health systems and frontline health workers to protect the most vulnerable. Health must be central in climate discussions,” she said in a statement.

Usec. Balboa agreed, saying, “adaptation and mitigation will entail additional costs so kailangan talaga maipasok yan as a priority. Initially, they are more expensive but in the long run, we will see their benefits..”

The integration of the health within the climate plans echoes DOH’s three areas of transformation — namely from purely adaptation to including mitigation, from only

relying on services and health facilities to including the community in different public health programs, and finally from just expecting at DOH to do all the work related to health, to the health department working cross-sectorally with different government agencies. In particular, DOH highlighted the support it has been getting from the Department of Energy for its mitigation plans.

“We are making health the argument for climate action,” said Law, who will head the newly established health and climate change division of the DOH. “Nomenclature [of the office] has yet to be finalized but we are already laying down the ground work,” he said.

MINDANAO TIMES

[Philippines negotiates for scaled-up climate finance at COP29](#)

The Philippines has been “aggressively” pushing for scaled-up climate finance flows to vulnerable nations in light of the successive typhoons that hit the country in the past months, the Department of Finance (DOF) said Monday.

At the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, Finance Undersecretary Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco led the Philippine delegation in negotiations for the new collective quantified goal, a post-2025 global finance commitment designed to meet the evolving climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience needs.

“We have been given an unmissable opportunity to shore up the global climate finance war chest, which for many vulnerable countries is a matter of life and death,” Tiuseco said during the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Finance.

“That is why here at COP29, the Philippines is aggressively pushing for bold actions and sustained, increased financing once and for all for countries that are perpetually on the frontlines of catastrophic typhoons,” said Tiuseco.

In the wake of super typhoon Man-yi, the sixth typhoon to strike the Philippines in less than a month, the DOF said it has been pushing for an initial climate finance target of 1.3 trillion U.S. dollars annually from developed countries for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage aligned with the urgent needs of developing nations. COP29 is taking place from Nov. 11 to Nov. 22.

This year’s conference emphasizes the need for trillions of dollars to help countries achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard lives and livelihoods from the escalating impacts of climate change.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[COP29: Climate finance talks remain deadlocked](#)

By: Imelda V. Abaño

Deep divisions persist as negotiations enter the final week at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP29) here, where world leaders and negotiators from 196 nations are attempting to set a new climate finance target to help poorer countries shift to clean energy and adapt to climate change.

A new report from a UN-backed expert group on climate finance floated the idea that global climate action would require at least \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 to help developing countries like the Philippines manage climate impacts.

The New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance will replace the \$100 billion per year commitment to developing countries by 2025.

‘Not charity’

Rich countries, including the United States and members of the European Union, acknowledge that trillions of dollars are needed but argue about who should contribute to it, which nations should receive the money, and how the funds are to be allocated.

“Climate finance is not charity. It is 100 percent in every nation’s interest to protect their economies and people from rampant climate impacts. So countries must wrap up less contentious issues early in the week, so there is enough time for the major political decision,” said UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell at a press conference on Tuesday.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said the Philippine delegation to COP29, which she heads, would strive to advance the country’s interest in discussions on climate finance, mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage, among other key issues.

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“I am always hopeful [of] the process, but we have to be realistic and understanding in terms of the amount that is really needed, where it has gotten us in the number of years, and we’ve been talking beyond the quantum of climate finance,” Yulo-Loyzaga told the Inquirer.

Countries are also being urged to scale up adaptation efforts to avert rising climate impacts, which are hampered by a huge financial gap estimated by the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) at \$187 billion to \$359 billion per year.

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“We need to unlock a new climate finance goal at COP29 as climate is already devastating communities across the world, particularly the most poor and vulnerable,” said Inger Andersen, executive director of Unep.

Negotiators will hammer out a “COP29 package” to ensure a high-ambition and balanced package across climate mitigation, finance and adaptation, as well as key elements on just transition, gender and human rights.

Activists’ demand

While negotiators work on draft texts of a deal, climate activists are staging protests outside the plenary halls of the COP29 venue, demanding a minimum of \$1.3 trillion per year in public finance for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.

“We are expecting and demanding a clear ambitious target on climate finance,” said Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development.

“The sticky issue of money is affecting all other negotiations on emissions reduction, loss and damage mechanism, carbon markets because of course developing countries do not want to be locked into commitments that have no corresponding financial support,” she said.

“We are the first people to be affected by climate change and we need that climate finance as they owe that to us,” Nacpil added.

“The growing costs that the Philippines incurs due to the impacts of extreme weather events clearly indicate that it needs justice-anchored financial, technological and capacity building support from rich countries to survive in the era of climate emergency,” said Rodne Galicha, convener of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas.

PH typhoons

Naderev “Yeb” Saño, executive director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia and former commissioner of the Climate Change Commission, said the discussions for a new

climate finance goal remained sketchy despite destructive and accelerating extreme weather events, like the recent consecutive typhoons in the Philippines.

“We cannot accept a weak deal at COP29. It needs to be very robust, not just the figure but the quality. Loss and damage fund should also be there, as well as adaptation that has a strong and clear language on developed countries being able to provide the finance. We should not leave Baku with no deal,” Saño said.

He added that climate activists had huge expectations of a positive outcome from COP29, despite discouraging political developments, such as governments refusing to attend the negotiations and the apparent withdrawal of the United States from the Paris climate agreement for the second time with the return of Donald Trump as president. In 2020, the United States formally withdrew from the pact but rejoined it when Joe Biden took office.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Developed nations urged to boost support to PH climate adaptation](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

Multilateral development banks (MDB) and developed countries should provide more support to the Philippines and other Pacific Island countries' climate change adaptation efforts, the former governor of the Bank of Japan said on Tuesday.

"The Philippines, as well as Pacific Island countries, have been affected seriously by global warming, sea level rise, frequent typhoons, devastating the countries and so forth," Bank of Japan former governor and senior fellow of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies Haruhiko Kuroda said during the first day of the 2024 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas-International Monetary Fund (BSP-IMF) Systemic Risk Dialogue here.

"So, in that sense, in those countries which are seriously affected by global warming and sea level rise, I think adaptation is quite important and must.... again not only multilateral development banks but also the bilateral aid by developed countries should be directed to adaptation efforts by developing countries like the Philippines and Pacific Island countries."

For this month alone, a series of powerful tropical cyclones hit the Philippines.

Latest data from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council showed that families affected by the powerful storms already reached 495,788.

Damage to agriculture, meanwhile, already exceeded PHP10 billion.

"The Philippines [is] one of the biggest countries in Southeast Asia, and most affected by climate change," Kuroda said.

"I think the Philippines should be helped by the international community, including the MDBs, particularly for adaptation efforts. That is really crucial. And that point has been well argued by the Filipino government."

Kuroda said most discussions in the international community have been focusing on climate change mitigation efforts.

However, he said adaptation efforts must be strengthened and helped by the international community.

[Türkiye marks 75 years with PH; keen for environment tie-up](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Turkish Embassy in Manila marked the Philippines and Türkiye's 75 years of diplomatic relations with the planting of 75 myrtle seedlings, symbolic of its strong commitment to the bilateral ties in the years to come.

The tree planting event held at the Makiling Botanic Gardens (MBG) in Los Baños, Laguna province, on Tuesday is part of the embassy's series of activities to commemorate the anniversary milestone between the two states.

"This activity is very important. In our culture, trees and forests are precious because they can perish very fast so for us planting a tree actually is planting the seed of hope for a more bountiful future, a more prosperous future, and a richer environment," said Turkish Ambassador to the Philippines Niyazi Evren Akyol.

In a separate interview, the envoy said environment and climate action are some of the areas of cooperation Türkiye is open to further explore with the Philippines.

He noted that Türkiye, which has experienced destructive wildfires due to extremely hot and dry weather in the past, is among the countries highly vulnerable to climate change.

"Both our countries are very active in international fora and all initiatives fighting global warming and climate action— so projects related to climate change present a potential that we would evaluate in the future," he added.

Beyond tree planting, Makiling Botanic Garden head Juancho Balatibat disclosed that Türkiye's aid agency, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), has also "indicated willingness to support any development" in the area.

If the partnership pushes through, the official said Türkiye would be the second foreign government to sponsor an environment project inside the MBG, next to Thailand.

Balatibat said myrtle was the chosen seedling for the occasion not only because of its economic importance but its characteristic as a "resilient" plant.

"The Myrtaceae-themed garden will serve as the landmark for the celebration of the 75th diplomatic relations between our two countries. And we are optimistic that this relation will also be a very resilient one, just like the Myrtaceae," he said.

“We hope that there will be a long-term collaboration between our countries, especially for the development of our area here and also for the sake of our Mother Earth,” he added.

The myrtles are composed of shrubs and trees from the family Myrtaceae contain, including notable species such as the Philippine Ironwood or Magkono, the Rainbow Eucalyptus or Bagras, and the endemic Philippine Teak or Malabayabas.

The tree planting event by the TIKA was in partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)-Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems-MBG. (PNA)

The 300-hectare MBG is part of the 4,200-hectare Makiling Forest Reserve.

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