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BUSINESS MIRROR

[As climate warms, Chinese landscape architect advocates ‘sponge cities’](#)

By: Emily Wang Fujiyama

BEIJING—To cushion the impact of extreme weather due to climate change, a Chinese landscape architect has been making the case for China and other countries to create so-called “sponge cities.”

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By: Michael Casey, Joael Calupitan and Aaron Favila

TACLOBAN—After Typhoon Haiyan’s towering waves flattened scores of Philippine villages, Jeremy Garing spent days helping with recovery from the historic storm that left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and inflicted billions of dollars in damage.

[This is how tourism must shift to help address climate change](#)

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If you’re concerned about climate change and wondering whether you should travel to far-flung places as often as you used to before the Covid-19 pandemic, it’s a valid question. You’re not going to like the answer.

MANILA BULLETIN

[ELEVENTH HOUR: Stories of loss, resilience, and restoration delivered at COP27](#)

By: Climate Reality Project

Creating spaces for culture and the arts in the decision-making arena for climate action, Poets for Climate opened two exhibits on the sidelines of the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt.

[Marcos made right move with Macron–solon](#)

By: Ellson Quismorio

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. made the right move by talking to French President Emmanuel Macron on possible partnerships in nuclear energy, Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda said.

[Marcos zeroes in on 3 ‘serious global problems’ at APEC leaders meeting](#)

By: Betheene Unite

BANGKOK, Thailand—President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos has raised before world leaders three “serious global problems” critical to rapid economic recovery.

[\[Opinion\] PCCI’s 10-point agenda in line with gov’t vision](#)

By: PCCI Chariman William So

The conference successfully concluded with the handing over of the PCCI policy resolutions to President Marcos, which encapsulates the collective aspirations of the Philippine business to the new administration particularly in steering the country towards a higher growth trajectory.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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

By: Vincent Cabreza

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

[PH slips in inclusion index, putting women, children at risk](#)

By: Kurt Dela Peña

MANILA, Philippines—“No one should be left behind” was the ultimate goal of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, but as “cascading and interlinked” global crises slowed progress toward achieving this, millions of women and children are now at risk of being left at the rear.

[Two tropical cyclones may enter PAR in November — Pagasa](#)

By: John Eric Mendoza

MANILA, Philippines — There are no weather disturbances seen to enter the country in the coming days, but the state weather bureau on Sunday said we should watch out for two tropical cyclones by the end of November.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[China pledges Bio-Circular-Green Economy as APEC summit kicks off](#)

ANKARA – The 29th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization (APEC) Summit kicked off on Friday in Thailand, with leaders from member countries meeting in person for the first time in four years.

[PH, Bangladesh urged to explore opportunities in IT, agri, health](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA – The Philippines and Bangladesh should further explore business opportunities in the information technology (IT), agriculture, and health sectors, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said Thursday.

RAPPLER

[PH demands at COP27: ‘Loss and damage’ definition, climate finance, emission avoidance](#)

By: Iya Gozum

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine delegation arrived in Egypt for the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change with one thing in mind: demand developed parties to pay up for the climate impacts they caused.

THE MANILA TIMES

[APEC can be part of solution to PH economic crisis](#)

By: Ed Paolo Salting

COMPLEMENTARY policies are needed as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies embark on structural reforms to promote a sustainable recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and future economic shocks.

[DoST: Climate change affecting PH the most](#)

By: Francis Earl Cueto

WITH the effects of climate change being clearly seen with stronger typhoons lashing the Philippines and causing much damage to lives and property, the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) on Friday called for more collective action from both Filipinos and people from other countries.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Climate change 'overarching' concern at APEC](#)

By: Helen Flores

MANILA, Philippines — Climate change was the “overarching” concern among world leaders at the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, President Marcos said upon his return to the country late Saturday night.

[Philippines, South Korea reaffirm economic cooperation](#)

By: Catherine Talavera

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and South Korea reaffirmed their interest to work together in facilitating cooperation centered on research and development, renewable energy, and green technology, according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

[Daan-daang puno itinanim sa La Mesa Nature Reserve](#)

Daan-daang puno itinanim sa La Mesa Nature Reserve bilang bahagi ng climate change consciousness week.

DZBB

[Climate Change Commission, nagsagawa ng tree planting activity sa La Mesa Eco Park](#)

By: Luisito Santos

Nagsasagawa ngayon ng tree planting activity itong Climate Change Commission o CCC dito sa La Mesa Eco Park dito sa Quezon City.

PTV

[Tree planting activity, isinagawa ng Climate Change Commission para sa pree planting activity, isinagawa ng Climate Change Commission para sa paggunita ng 15th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week](#)

RADYO PILIPINAS

[Climate Change Commission muling nagtanim ng mga puno upang maibsan ang matinding epekto ng climate change](#)

By: DK Zarate

Kasunod ng kagustuhan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na maibsan ang epekto ng climate change muling nagsawa ng tree planting and growing ang Climate Change Commission.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

[As climate warms, Chinese landscape architect advocates 'sponge cities'](#)

By: Emily Wang Fujiyama

BEIJING—To cushion the impact of extreme weather due to climate change, a Chinese landscape architect has been making the case for China and other countries to create so-called “sponge cities.”

Yu Kongjian, who spoke to The Associated Press in Beijing, uses sweeping language to express his vision for cities that can withstand variable temperatures, drought and heavy rainfall. The challenges for implementing this vision at a time of ambitious economic development in China are multifold.

Yu criticizes much of Asia’s modern infrastructure for being built on ideas imported from Europe, which he says are ill-fitted to the monsoon climate over much of the Asian continent. He points to recent floods that have wreaked havoc in many Asian cities, which he says are caused by this architectural mismatch.

“There’s no resilience at all,” Yu says of the concrete and steel infrastructure of major cities, and of using pipes and channels to funnel away water. “Those are useless, they will fail and continue to fail.”

Instead, Yu proposes using natural resources, or “green infrastructure” to create water-resilient cities. It’s part of a global shift among landscape design and civil engineering professionals toward working more in concert with the natural environment. By creating large spaces to hold water in city centers—such as parks and ponds—stormwater can be retained on site, helping prevent floods, he says. Sponge infrastructure also, in theory, offers ways for water to seep down and recharge groundwater for times of drought.

“The idea of a sponge city is to recover, give water more space,” Yu said.

A turning point in China’s awareness of climate change and urban adaptation came a decade ago, Yu said. A devastating flood hit the capital city of Beijing in July 2012.

Beijing’s biggest downpour in 61 years overwhelmed drainage systems, swamped downtown underpasses and sent flash floods roiling through the city’s outskirts. At least 77 people died.

Yu at the time sent a letter to Beijing's party secretary, Guo Jinlong, calling for a change in how the government approaches city infrastructure. He continued to send letters to high-ranking officials and top leadership, including China's leader Xi Jinping.

At a government working conference the next year, China incorporated the idea of sponge cities as a national strategy, "giving full play to the absorption, storage and slow release of rainwater by ecological systems."

In 2014, the central government issued a directive: Recycle 70 percent of rainwater runoff in 20 percent of urban areas by 2020, and in 80 percent of such areas by 2030.

The following year it launched 16 pilot sponge city projects, adding 14 more in 2016. Officials also said they would award 600 million yuan (\$83 million) each year for three years to municipal cities, 500 million yuan to provincial capitals, and 400 million yuan to other cities.

The top-down mandate and subsidies spurred a boom in water-absorbing infrastructure, including in large cities including Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Cities around the world are similarly trying to integrate "bioswales" along the sides of roads, protect remaining marsh areas to absorb water, and increase the capture of roof rainwater.

An experiment underway

In China, one demonstration park is located in the northeast corner of the city of Nanchang, southern China. In mid October, engineers were putting finishing touches on a lush, picturesque 126-acre park designed to cushion the impact of both floods and droughts.

Formerly a coal ash dump site, the "Fish Tail" sponge park is built in a low-lying section of the city and intended to regulate water for surrounding neighborhoods and business districts. The fly ash, a byproduct of coal combustion, was mixed with soil to create mini-islands in the lake that allow water to permeate. Fang said the mixture, held in place by plant roots, prevents the ash from flowing into the water. Whether it prevents the release of toxic elements in the ash is an open question.

During dry periods, the water could be withdrawn, purified and used for plant irrigation.

Fang Yuan, an engineer at Yu's design institute, Turenscape, said the park serves as "an ecological aquarium," capable of retaining 1 million cubic meters of water during

floods and means the water can be used, instead of just discharging it into the sewage system.

The park also serves as a habitat for plants and wildlife disrupted by extreme weather such as drought.

An uncertain future

At times, the sponge city concept has been difficult to implement in China. Misallocation of funds, lack of expertise in sponge city planning, and other snags have doomed some projects.

In April, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development announced some cities had “insufficient awareness, inaccurate understanding, and unsystematic implementation of sponge city construction.”

The notice also warned against using funds earmarked for sponge city construction for other general infrastructure projects, such as buildings and roads.

Those guidelines were issued after massive rainfall and catastrophic floods in the city of Zhengzhou killed 398 people last summer. Floodwater inundated a section of the city’s subway, trapping hundreds of commuters. Rescuers flocked to the scene, but 14 people died in the subway disaster.

Notably, Zhengzhou was one of the pilot sponge cities, with a planned investment of 53.58 billion yuan (\$7.4 billion). Some questioned whether sponge city projects work at all.

But an investigation by the State Council released in January found that funds had been misspent. Only 32 percent of the 19.6 billion yuan that was invested went to what the government defined as sponge city concepts.

“Even at the critical moment when the whole country mobilized forces to support Zhengzhou’s rescue and disaster relief, they were still building flower beds,” the State Council report said.

Yu acknowledges there is an oversight problem. “Many of the cities just use it as propaganda—just to get a lot of money from the central government,” but then invest the funds in other projects.

Poyang Lake

While problems implementing absorptive cities are worked out, China's vulnerability to extreme weather is clear. A prolonged drought since July has dramatically shrunk China's biggest freshwater lake, Poyang.

In the village of Tangtou, on the lake's normally water-blessed northeast corner, residents scooped buckets of water from a village pond to tend their vegetables.

Since July, villagers say they've hardly seen any rainfall, let alone water in their corner of the lake.

"The whole lake was completely dry, and even the Yangtze River was dry," said 73-year-old Duan Yunzhen, as he scattered pond water onto his crops.

"We planted rice, cotton, sesame, and sweet potato—they are all suffering from drought," said 62-year-old Hong Zuhua.

The Associated Press video producers Olivia Zhang in Beijing and Wayne Zhang in Nanchang, China, contributed to this report.

Climate Migration: Filipino families to flee amid typhoons

By: Michael Casey, Joeal Calupitan and Aaron Favila

TACLOBAN—After Typhoon Haiyan's towering waves flattened scores of Philippine villages, Jeremy Garing spent days helping with recovery from the historic storm that left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and inflicted billions of dollars in damage.

"I keep helping other people, but then at the end, you find out that all of your family is gone," Garing said, recalling those terrible times in 2013. "It's so painful."

He and his wife Hyacinth Charm Garing lost seven relatives to the typhoon, including parents, siblings and their 1-year-old daughter. Holding up a cell phone photo of her smiling daughter Hywin, the 28-year-old mother still finds it hard to believe she is gone.

Part of the wave of 5 million people displaced by the typhoon, the couple now lives in an inland community about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the coast in a community that was created by the government in response to the death and devastation of Haiyan.

Days after the powerful typhoon, officials knew rebuilding wasn't an option because the historic storm wouldn't be the last. They announced a \$3.79-billion reconstruction plan that included housing for tens of thousands of storm survivors. They also announced plans to construct a protective dike to shield 33,000 residents from future storms and a 40-meter (130-foot) buffer zone from the shoreline where development is banned.

"It's safe from flooding. It's safe from active fault line and it's far from the coastal area," said Tedence Jopson, the city housing and community development officer for Tacloban, referring to the new community named Tacloban North.

"Remember because we are talking about climate change, our priority is really moving people away from the danger zone," he said, adding that the island nation is seeing more frequent typhoons.

Rebuilding after the typhoon was a colossal undertaking for an impoverished country that's seen more than its share of disasters. When the typhoon hit, the country was still recovering from a recent earthquake that struck a nearby island and from a Muslim rebel attack that razed houses.

For months, families lived in tents or homemade shacks as the government struggled to build housing. But over time, authorities built dwellings for up to 16,000 families in several locations, including the Tacloban North community. Nestled in what was once a forested valley, the tidy homes with brick-colored roofs are proving popular with storm survivors.

But many people still pine for their old lives and mourn the loss of loved ones.

Some keep photos of deceased relatives on their phones and are forced to pass a mass grave with rows upon rows of white crosses. A sign at the entrance reads in memory of “the men, women and children who perished and those still missing and...the countless people whose lives were changed forever.”

“Every Friday, I visit the cemetery to light a candle for my wife and don’t forget to pray to the Lord to help us with our daily chores,” said Reinfredo Celis, whose wife and brother died in the typhoon that hit on his birthday. “What is painful is I’m now alone.”

Being forced by climate change to move, within borders or beyond, is a growing reality expected to accelerate in the decades ahead. Over the next 30 years, 143 million people are likely to be uprooted by rising seas, drought, searing temperatures and other climate catastrophes, according to an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report published earlier this year by the United Nations.

Though an individual storm cannot be blamed on climate change, studies have found that typhoons are becoming stronger and wetter. In its State of the Climate in Asia 2021 report on Monday, the World Meteorological Organization concluded economic losses from drought, floods and landslides have risen sharply in Asia. Weather- and water-related disasters, the UN agency found, affected 50 million people and caused \$35.6 billion in damages.

“Weather, climate and water extremes are becoming more frequent and intense in many parts of the world as a result of climate change,” Petteri Taalas, secretary-general of the WMO, said in a statement. “We have more water vapor in the atmosphere, which leads to extreme rainfall and deadly flooding. The warming of the ocean fuels more powerful tropical storms, and rising sea levels increase the impacts.”

In coastal villages hit hardest by Typhoon Haiyan, known locally as Supertyphoon Yolanda, the damage is still on full display — damaged homes with roofs and walls caved in, foundations of others with only toilets remaining. The government has moved to demolish many of the remaining homes, though a few residents are refusing to relocate.

A cargo ship that washed ashore has become a popular tourist attraction. But Emelita Abillille, a fish vendor in the village of Anibong with her husband and five children, said she cries whenever she sees the ship.

While she would love to move from the disaster zone, she fears she couldn't make a living in North Tacloban, which has few shops and jobs.

"We are willing to move there," said Abillille, whose family has been offered a home in the new community. "Our problem is where will we get money for our food? We have to buy water there, food and our transportation. Where will I get the money?"

Jeremy Garing, too, has frustrations with the new community. The 35-year-old hairdresser must make the expensive daily commute to his job in Tacloban, although he bought a motorcycle to make it easier.

The consolation is that he knows his family—including a newborn daughter—will be there when he gets home.

"I really like it here. We will not move anymore. It's better here," said Garing, looking over at his sleeping daughter Chiara Mae. "It's safe."

[This is how tourism must shift to help address climate change](#)

By: Lebawit Lily Girma

If you're concerned about climate change and wondering whether you should travel to far-flung places as often as you used to before the Covid-19 pandemic, it's a valid question. You're not going to like the answer.

An estimated 11 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are due to tourism, and that's predicted to double by 2050, the year scientists have forecast as the tipping point for all sorts of ecological disasters. By then, our planet will have warmed 1.5C (2.7F) above preindustrial times. By the end of the century, the figure looks to be 2C (3.6F), with that half-degree making a huge difference. If emissions are left unchecked, this warming will accelerate, bringing forth a distinctly heightened level of cataclysmic weather patterns.

So how can tourism fix its emissions problem? It just needs 100 percent sustainable aviation fuels by 2050 to power air travel. It can grow, mostly by increasing the share of short-haul trips over time—from 69 percent in 2019 to 81 percent by 2050—while global travelers (that's you) rein in the number of long-distance flights you take every year... until at least 2050.

Once everybody sticks to this impossible-to-imagine scenario, you can return to jetting back and forth across the globe with impunity. You could do it even more if you like.

Those are the unsurprising, yet troubling, findings of a report from the Travel Foundation released in alignment with COP27 in collaboration with the Centre of Expertise Leisure Tourism and Hospitality, Breda University of Applied Sciences, European Tourism Futures Institute, and Netherlands Board of Tourism and Conventions. It was shared exclusively with Bloomberg ahead of its release.

The longest-distance flights are defined as round trips of more than 9,941 miles—e.g., New York to Cairo, or London to Bangkok. They are the hardest to decarbonize, the report explains, which is why they must remain static at 2019 levels for the next 27 years in order for tourism to reach net zero. (Net zero means to curb emissions as close to zero as possible.) This is despite simultaneously increasing other modes of low-emission transport, such as electric cars, high-speed trains and hydrogen buses.

“Our hope is to spark further dialogue and to help destinations and businesses recognize that the business-as-usual scenario is not all that likely in the future,” says Jeremy Sampson, chief executive officer of the Travel Foundation. He notes that the report's scenario comes with its own pain points and is not all that realistic.

The report focuses on movement from Point A to Point B and doesn't take into account other huge sources of emissions in the travel industry, such as cruises or embodied carbon in hotel construction.

How it was calculated

Paul Peeters, professor of sustainable tourism transport at Breda University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, performed simulations for the report using the "Global Tourism and Transport Dynamic Model" tech platform he developed in 2017, plugging in data he's been gathering since 2005.

Peeters's model considers the overall tourism industry, including all overnight trips—defined as at least one night away from home (international or domestic) for the purpose of vacation, business or visiting friends and relatives. It addresses up to 20 distances traveled, accommodation providers and major transport modes, minus cruise ships, through 2100. Seven optional factors are thrown into the simulation: sustainable aviation fuel, electrification and energy efficiency, infrastructure improvements, taxes, offsetting, travel behavior, and travel speed.

The first three (fuel, energy efficiency, infrastructure) reduced emissions the most, but even maximizing them was not sufficient to reach net zero by 2050 when accounting for the certainty that tourism will grow. Even maximizing all seven factors proved insufficient, Peeters says; hence the need to cap the growth of long-haul aviation at 2019 levels.

"Technically, it can be done," says Peeters. "The economy is growing. Your freedom to travel is basically the same, but the distances change. You should not fly six times per year from the US to Europe."

Left unchecked, long-haul aviation is expected to quadruple its emissions by 2050 to reach 41 percent of total tourism emissions, the report shows. As it stands, long-haul flights are not yet back at 2019 levels, Peeters said in a statement.

The larger takeaway of the report: It may be possible to act now, but the near-impossible extremes required to reach net zero by 2050 simply confirm that the tourism industry faces crisis.

Every sector of travel would have to throw all it has behind climate action without delay to make a dent in emissions. Travelers will need to think harder and care more about how and where they travel. Like most industries, tourism remains in slow motion as it begins to tackle its negative impact on a planet whose health is vital to it.

How this affects you now

After 18 years of relative inertia since the tourism industry made its first climate promises, 300 initial signatories, including the United Nations World Tourism Organization and the World Travel & Tourism Council, committed to the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism in 2021 to halve tourism's emissions by 2030 and eliminate them to near zero by 2050. This is in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement among 196 countries to reduce global warming, and to which the US just recommitted.

As this push accelerates, travel businesses and destinations are beginning to change how they operate. They intend to lead travelers—you—to experience places and activities differently.

Major holiday and tour operator TUI, for instance, began offering new sleeper train trips as a substitute for six short-haul routes in Europe. Tour operator Sunweb, in the Netherlands, is also focused on offering overnight train trips to Belgium and the French Alps this winter and to the south of France in summer 2023.

On a far more micro level, Ziptrek is the first adventure outfitter in Queenstown, New Zealand, to offer consumer-facing labeling to show customers what their emissions would be when selecting among competing zipline tours. "It's the right thing to do, and it's the trajectory of tourism," says Trent Yeo, executive director at Ziptrek Ecotours.

This is admirable. When it comes to climate change, we're all in this together. But it's minuscule in the face of the systemic changes governments and tourism boards need to enact. (Remember, nobody gets to New Zealand without taking a long-haul flight.)

The trick for the traveler will be to learn about your carbon footprint, if you don't already understand it, and to be able to sort among companies that are making a real effort versus those that are greenwashing their way into your travel decisions.

Booking.com, powered by climate-tech platform Choose, will soon show carbon emission listings on flight and hotel results, allowing travelers to filter lower carbon emission results from a range, for instance. "It is to take it one step further and include individual travelers, who are the bookers, to understand their carbon footprints early on in the decision process," says Andreas Slettvoll, CEO of Choose.

Iberostar Group released its own ambitious decarbonization roadmap on November 8 at COP27, which is partly marketing (it wants 60 percent of guests to choose the brand for its sustainability actions by 2025) and partly action (a 2030 net zero goal and nature-based carbon compensation projects at its 97 resorts across four continents).

Eco-efficient marketing

Because consumers alone will not solve anything, governments, hotels, tour operators, cruise operators and the aviation industry need to lead with additional policies to encourage better decision-making.

To that end, the Netherlands is considering an eco-efficiency index of its visitors, says Ewout Versloot, a sustainability strategist working with the tourism board. This means dividing the amount of revenues a tourist brings in by the amount of carbon dioxide emissions the tourist triggered traveling there. That index would indicate which long-haul market the government should direct marketing dollars toward to help reduce emission impacts.

“If we realize that we might be less dependent on long-haul source markets, maybe we can identify those markets that might be most valuable to us,” Versloot adds, noting this approach is part of the Netherlands’ road map to climate neutral tourism that was released in September.

Peeters agrees. Finding markets that are a little shorter haul is desirable; even a 10 percent reduction in emissions is a welcome achievement for destinations, he says. Tour operators might also change the destinations they offer, particularly to travelers generally focused on booking any “sun and sea” experience rather than a specific place.

Winners and losers

This sort of destination picking required by the Travel Foundation’s report brings up the inevitable inequities that tourism-dependent destinations and regions in the Global South would face—for instance, Barbados, Indonesia and Thailand, as well as all of Africa and South America. When richer countries are the main culprits in emitting carbon dioxide, who should bear the economic loss of diverting tourist dollars to destinations closer to them?

“Do we need to cap the Global South or do we need to cap some of the highest-volume airports in that long-haul aviation? This is exactly the discussion we need to be having in this unprecedented, collaborative way,” says Megan Morikawa, global director of sustainability at Iberostar Group. “If we’re making assumptions on who the winners and losers should be, we’re going to end up making decisions that might make equity issues even worse.”

As it stands, destinations in the Global South are already feeling outsized human impacts from climate change and vainly awaiting compensation from richer nations.

Exacerbating the problems are lack of access to greener technologies that Europe can access and to funding for tourism businesses to adapt and decarbonize rapidly.

For Kyle Mais, chairman of the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, this concerns destinations that are farther from the US—the region’s main visitor—than say, Jamaica is. “There will be difficult conversations out of COP27, but we stand ready to play our part.”

“Tourism ‘as a force for good’ should be stripping out carbon,” the Travel Foundation’s Sampson says. “A shift to less flying around during a period of time has the potential to make tourism genuinely more local and a better experience for visitors. This type of tourism can also deliver better benefits for the community while reducing some of the unintended burdens from tourists.”

What’s clear from this report is that drastic changes are needed from the tourism industry: Individual travelers should question their choices, such as long-haul trips, but it’s the travel industry that needs to let go of the status quo. For now, even in the face of a climate crisis that’s increasingly impacting destinations, the sector is making big promises while changing little under the hood. Without meaningful progress, your trips of a lifetime may become exactly that—viable only as you live and not for the generations to come—and your bucket lists a pipe dream.

MANILA BULLETIN

[ELEVENTH HOUR: Stories of loss, resilience, and restoration delivered at COP27](#)

By: Climate Reality Project

Creating spaces for culture and the arts in the decision-making arena for climate action, Poets for Climate opened two exhibits on the sidelines of the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt.

Poets For Climate is a collaborative project between the Climate Reality Project branches in Africa, Canada, and the Philippines that aims to harness humanities and the arts in amplifying the vicious cycle of loss and damage experienced by vulnerable communities. It is a response to When Is Now, a global poetry and art movement initiated by the Agam Agenda with 58 vulnerable countries of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

The Poets for Climate Digital Exhibit, which is hosted by the Government of Indonesia in its COP27 pavilion, was launched on Nov. 7 during the talkshow entitled “Narrating Endeavors to Tend the Earth.”

Both the Global North and the Global South are starting to see the limits to adaptation and how the climate crisis is compounding the risks for communities with limited resources and access to social safety nets. Poets and other artists, especially from the youth sector, play a crucial role in opening up the conversation on the realities of climate change on the ground and the urgency of real systemic changes needed,” said Nazrin Castro, Climate Reality Philippines branch manager during the launch of the digital exhibit at the Indonesian Pavilion.

The second exhibit, hosted by the CVF and the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group of Ministers of Finance, was launched on Nov. 11 with the title “The Making and Unmaking of Places: Stories of Loss, Resilience and Restoration Using Poetry and Art.”

“Science and policymaking are essential to the climate change (movement). But science and policymaking are also insufficient. We need more of the humanities. We need more of the arts. What we’re doing today is nothing less than calling for a global poetry rebellion so that the public has more ways to contribute, to link arms, and to hold hands to drive world leaders to do what they have to do,” Renato Redentor Constantino, CVF-V20 Advisor and Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities Executive Director, said as he thanked the Climate Reality branches of Africa, Canada, and the Philippines for the support of Poets for Climate to the When Is Now campaign.

Launched in July this year, Poets for Climate has conducted five virtual Pebble Poem Workshops and has generated more than 100 poems for When Is Now from around 75 youth leaders, climate advocates, and poets from Cameroon, Canada, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Zambia. It has also unveiled murals in the cities of Johannesburg in South Africa, Montreal in Canada, and Iloilo and Isabela in the Philippines.

Bridging the gap between the Global North and the Global South

“In engaging in these [Pebble Poem] Workshops with the Philippines and Canada branches, it was a privilege and an experience of a lifetime bringing Climate Reality Leaders and activists together,” said Amy Giliam-Thorp, African Climate Reality Project branch manager.

“What we realize is that the power of the When Is Now campaign lies in its use of climartivism (climate, arts, and activism). That powerful combination of arts, poetry, and activism enabled people to showcase and tell their stories, their lived experiences, as a way of creating meaningful spaces that bring more people into the conversation,” she added.

The Poets for Climate roadshow at COP27 aims to create connections and solidarity between the Global North and Global South by integrating stories of loss, damage, and resilience into policymaking and decision-making spaces.

“Canada is an economy that relies so extensively on fossil fuels while also exploiting people around the planet, as well as indigenous people (in Canada). We have this history and we have the responsibility,” said Andre-Yanne Parent, Climate Reality Canada branch manager, during the CVF-V20 event.

“(Through Poets for Climate), we are able to give a space for Canadian Climate Reality Leaders to connect and build relationships so that they could come from a place of empathy, compassion, and understanding of other people’s reality and also understand what they share in common,” Parent added.

Noting that the COP27 roadshow is just the beginning, Parent announced during the CVF-V20 event that Poets For Climate will also be at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity happening in Canada in December. A series of light projections featuring Poets For Climate poems across Montreal and Canada are in the works to demand urgent action from world leaders and decision-makers.

The youth's message to world leaders

Nakeeyat Dramani Sam, CVF Global Young Peace Ambassador, also graced the launch of the CVF-V20 exhibit to deliver a message from the youth to world leaders and decision-makers.

Highlighting the impacts of climate change in vulnerable developing countries, Sam urged the leaders of developed world to step up. "When we talk about #WhenIsNow, the answer is the time is now," she said. "Please, let us come together as one people."

Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, Marshall Islands Climate Envoy and CVF Ambassador for Culture, highlighted the need to provide spaces for the youth within climate movements. "Highlighting unique youth perspective through art work has been a valuable part of the When Is Now initiative," Jetñil-Kijiner said.

Aside from messages from Sam and Jetñil-Kijiner, the CVF-V20 event featured poetry reading by Ewi Stephanie Lamma, Climate Reality Leader from Cameroon and recipient of the UN Agora Award for Climate Action; Jefferson Estela, Youth 4 Climate Strike Philippines co-founder; Nabiha Shahab, Climate Reality Leader from Indonesia and Harvest Moon contributor; Enoch Anyane, Climate Reality Leader from Ghana and Strategic Youth Network for Development Campaigns and Organizing coordinator; and Nikka Gerona, Climate Reality Leader from the Philippines and delegate to the UN Climate Change Conference of Youth 17.

Marcos made right move with Macron—solon

By: Ellson Quismorio

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. made the right move by talking to French President Emmanuel Macron on possible partnerships in nuclear energy, Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda said.

“The lesson that must be learned from Covid, as it should have been from the Global Financial Crisis, is that countries shift or revert towards dirty energy after crises because they see it as cheap, only to later on see their prices spike up above pre-crisis levels. That always happens,” said Salceda, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

“So, President Marcos’s efforts to diversify our energy portfolio respond to the most urgent national needs for clean and cheap energy and for climate change mitigation,” he noted.

Marcos brought up nuclear energy development in the Philippines with Macron when the two leaders met at the just-concluded Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

Earlier this year, Salceda called President Marcos the country’s first “renewable energy President”, since he’s the first President to have been elected on a strong platform of renewable energy.

“While nuclear as RE is debatable, it is definitely cleaner than coal, which comprises more than half our dependable capacity,” the Bicolano said.

He further said that while nuclear accidents can be avoided with technology, coal “always kills, with slow death by environmental asphyxiation”.

“I am in talks with stakeholders from RE-heavy countries like Norway and Switzerland, and with the banking sector to see how we can boost financing for RE projects in the country. This will help foreign investors boost the impact of their investments in the Philippines,” Salceda said.

Salceda said that he particularly wants foreign investment in RE “due to their technical expertise and their innovations”.

“The money is there. The Philippines is a very highly investible country with huge RE potential. But we need technology, know-how, and innovation. That is what foreign RE investors can offer us,” he further said.

[Marcos zeroes in on 3 'serious global problems' at APEC leaders meeting](#)

By: Betheene Unite

BANGKOK, Thailand—President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos has raised before world leaders three “serious global problems” critical to rapid economic recovery.

These issues are food security, global health systems, and climate change, Marcos said during his participation at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Bangkok, Thailand on Thursday, Nov. 17.

“First, food security is a serious global problem. This 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,” Marcos said as he joined two other leaders namely Robert E. Moritz, Global Chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Klaus Schwab, Founder and Chairman of World Economic Forum, in the forum.

Marcos said these issues are “closely interconnected,” stressing that steep declines in agricultural output and productivity from widespread damage to farms and to crops have been increasing and they are linked to climate change.

He explained that rise in commodity prices, coupled with supply chain disruptions and inflationary pressures, “have obviously contributed to the rising prices of food.”

He added that “the current conflict between two of the world’s largest agricultural producers has led to a scarcity of grains and fertilizers felt painfully across the globe.”

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

The President amplified the need to reinforce global health systems not only against the Covid-19 but other emerging infectious diseases.

He stressed that the government cannot afford another crippling series of lockdowns and travel bans that deflate consumer confidence, dampen the recovery of tourism, and derail the stability of global markets.

“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.

The chief executive then zeroed in on climate change, which, he said, is “the most pressing existential challenge of our time.”

He brought up the Philippines’ initiative to combat climate change by achieving a higher share of renewable energy in the power generation mix of 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

The President said the Philippines is one of the countries at great risk from the climate crisis, as it stands to lose more than six 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,” he said.

He also pledged that 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 [and] circular economy models for recycling and upcycling, including the Bio-Circular Green (BCG) Economy Model of APEC host Thailand.

Marcos ended his remarks by calling on the APEC member economies to continue to build on APEC’s long-running partnership with the private sector.

“These partnerships with the private sector are a centerpiece of the transformation of the Philippine economy. APEC’s value and relevance are its ability to work with business. There is no other organization or forum that actively seeks [out] the concerns of business the way APEC does at the — and this tight engagement is what makes APEC unique, functional, and important. And therefore it is an engagement that must not only be preserved but it must be strengthened,” Marcos said.

[Opinion] PCCI's 10-point agenda in line with gov't vision

By: PCCI Chariman William So

The conference successfully concluded with the handing over of the PCCI policy resolutions to President Marcos, which encapsulates the collective aspirations of the Philippine business to the new administration particularly in steering the country towards a higher growth trajectory.

First on the list is food security. The resolution urges the national government to a) amend the Agrarian Reform Law to increase land retention limit from five to 24 hectares, b) implement a debt condonation program for unpaid amortizations of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries, and c) convert Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) into fee simple titles.

Second is health. The resolution urges the national government to reform PhilHealth into a science-based and transparent healthcare system and encourage Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in the implementation of the Universal Healthcare Law.

The third resolution is on employment. It urges the national government to work together with the private sector to a) reenergizes the economy by supporting new investments to generate employment, b) provide assistance to pandemic surviving MSMEs, c) amend all restrictive and punitive labor laws and enact laws that will increase productivity.

Fourth is education. The resolution urges the national government to amend the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Law to create a Philippine Qualifications Authority (PQA) which will establish and maintain qualification standards for all levels of education and training.

Fifth agenda is national security. It urges the government to deepen cooperation with neighboring states, expand participation in regional and multilateral defense agreements while accelerating the modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Sixth is digitalization. The resolution is urging the national government to develop and implement a nationwide internet connectivity program that is reliable and competitive by passing into law the open access in Data Transmission Act.

Seventh resolution is environment and climate change. It urges the national government to address climate change and environmental protection by developing public-private partnerships (PPPs) to establish world-class water and waste management infrastructure.

The resolution eight is on power. It is urging government to accelerate the integration of the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids to enable the free flow of electricity nationwide and for the DOE to amend the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Renewable Energy Act to allow 100 percent foreign investment in solar and wind projects.

The ninth resolution is on transportation. It urges the national government to provide world-class integrated transport systems and decouple the regulatory and commercial functions of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and other similarly situated transport agencies.

Lastly, is on international trade. It urges the national government to hasten the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and to join bilateral free trade agreements and trans-pacific partnerships to minimize barriers to the free flow of goods and services.

The President assured PCCI that he will direct government agencies to assess the feasibility and success of the recommendations listed, which are in line with his administration's thrust.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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

By: Vincent Cabreza

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Environmental targets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eased restrictions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[PH slips in inclusion index, putting women, children at risk](#)

By: Kurt Dela Peña

MANILA, Philippines—“No one should be left behind” was the ultimate goal of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, but as “cascading and interlinked” global crises slowed progress toward achieving this, millions of women and children are now at risk of being left at the rear.

This was stressed by officials of WeWorld and ChildFund Alliance as the 2022 WeWorld Index, which monitors the living conditions of women and children in almost 170 countries, was released, highlighting the barriers that hinder their future.

As stated by Simon Whyte, chair of ChildFund Alliance, new and evolving barriers—poverty, conflict, forced migration, climate change, and online risks—“are currently affecting millions of women and children, and they inevitably will affect exponentially more, if left unaddressed.”

“These risks include global events such as the COVID-19 crisis, the invasion of Ukraine, increasing drought conditions affecting food production, and rising global temperatures that are making insufferable heat waves more the norm,” he said

It was stressed by Whyte that such events are resulting in surges in mass migration, school closures, poverty, food insecurity, illness and death. Likewise, he said: “They are creating increased risks to children as millions more go online for learning and socialization.”

Regrettably, Filipino women and children were not spared from these challenges as the Philippines, which received a score of 74.4 in inclusivity, slipped to 80 this year from 77 in 2021 and 78 in 2015.

The countries that received a score equal or more than 85 have “very good inclusion” for women and children, while those that got 75 to 84 have “good inclusion,” 65 to 74 indicates “sufficient inclusion,” 55 to 64 means “insufficient inclusion,” while 45 to 54 and equal or less than 44 indicate “severe exclusion” and “very severe exclusion.”

Based on data from the ChildFund Alliance, the Philippines is among 38 countries considered to have “sufficient inclusion,” next to Ecuador (74.6), Brazil (74.7), and Paraguay (74.9).

This, as the Philippines, out of 166 countries, was at 97th in the Context Sub-Index, which looks at the contexts in which women and children live. The country was 93rd in

the Children's Sub-Index then 63rd in the Women's Sub-Index, the ChildFund Alliance said in its report that was released last week.

Lower than regional average

While the Philippines' score was higher than the global average, which was 63.6, it was still lower than the 75.1 average score in East Asia & Pacific—the third region with the highest average.

West Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand (86.6) and Central and East Europe (76.8) were the regions with the two highest averages. The rest of the regions on the list were Latin America and Caribbean (74.7), Middle East and North Africa (69.1), South Asia (60.8), East and South Africa (52.6), and Central and West Africa (46.5).

As stated by the ChildFund Alliance, Singapore, which was 11th in the 2022 WeWorld Index, was the country in East Asia and Pacific that received the highest score—87.3. Next to it were South Korea (82.9), Brunei (77.8), and Malaysia (77.7).

Then next to Malaysia were Japan (77.3), Thailand (77.3), Mongolia (76.2), China (75.5), Philippines (74.4), Vietnam (73.7), Fiji (73.5), Indonesia (73.0), Timor-Leste (66.9), Cambodia (65.7), Myanmar (65.4), Laos (63.2), Vanuatu (62.0), and Papua New Guinea (57.2).

The ChildFund Alliance said East Asia and Pacific were among the regions that had the most considerable progress in the Context Sub-Index and Women's Sub-Index, but were the only region to experience a worsening in the conditions of children.

It was stressed that ever since the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was launched in 2015, “the world has become less inclusive for children, making it even harder to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in this last Decade of Action” and that “the ‘children's education’ dimension has suffered the most serious deterioration.”

Barriers

As stressed by the ChildFund Alliance, five global barriers are holding back the achievement of an adequate level of inclusion: poverty, conflict, forced migration, climate change and online risks for children.

Based on data from World Bank as of 2020, 10 percent of the world's population still lives in extreme poverty, and the most at risk groups are disproportionately affected. Among them, children are more than twice as likely to be poor as adults.

With one in six children living in a conflict zone, as revealed by the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, the ChildFund Alliance said “the impacts of conflicts do not cease to exist when the attacks are over, but unfold themselves in their aftermath, with devastating consequences, especially for the most vulnerable people.”

Likewise, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund, almost one in three children living outside their countries of birth are child refugees. For adults, the proportion is less than one in 20.

It was also stressed that climate change, which is triggered mainly by high-income countries, will have catastrophic effects, especially on low-income countries and the most vulnerable like women, children, adolescents, and indigenous communities.

But as life becomes digitized, incidents of digital harm will also increase, the Child Fund Alliance said, explaining that online risks are all the adverse situations one can encounter while navigating the virtual world—cyber-bullying, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, and exposure to illegal content.

Based on data from the Interpol, every day, seven victims of online child sexual exploitation are identified all over the world.

WeWorld dimensions

The WeWorld Index, published every year since 2015, arises from the need to illustrate the living conditions of women and children worldwide. It is a composite index that measures women’s and children’s inclusion in key dimensions:

- Environment
- Housing
- Conflicts and wars
- Democracy and safety
- Access to information
- Children’s health
- Children’s education
- Children’s human capital
- Children’s economic capital
- Violence against children
- Women’s health
- Women’s education
- Women’s economic opportunities
- Women’s decision-making participation
- Violence against women

It was stressed that the dimensions, which were introduced in the latest edition of the WeWorld Index, allows for additional processing—assessing whether and how the 15 dimensions that make up the Index are correlated with each one.

“It is evident that the context in which one is born plays a key role in determining living conditions [...] The ‘Housing’ dimension has strong correlations not only with other context dimensions, but also with women’s and children’s health and education, the violence perpetrated against them, and women’s economic opportunities.”

“The right to adequate housing is essen5 In statistics, correlation is defined as any statistical relationship, whether causal or not, between two variables or data,” the ChildFund Alliance said.

“As conceivable, the ‘Democracy and safety’ dimension relates to ‘Conflicts and wars.’ In these times, it is good to remember that the state of health of a country, its social protection systems, and its citizens depend on its internal stability and institutions,” it stressed.

Inclusive development’s building blocks

As stated in the WeWorld Index, four areas of action to assert and exercise women’s and children’s rights are taken into consideration—health, education, the economy, and society.

“To achieve full inclusion of women and children, they must be put in the condition to develop their capabilities, implement their rights, and experience the positive power of doing and being what they want to be in the said areas.”

It was explained by the ChildFund Alliance, in each of the building blocks, women and children may be hindered in the acquisition of their capabilities by specific and mutual risk factors.

“The actions carried out in the four building blocks—aimed at fostering their capabilities and the norms modification—affect the environmental and cultural setting too, which contributes in turn to asserting new rights for everybody, including men.”

Health

It said undernourished children experience growth issues and run a higher risk of being infected or dying, but also developing limited cognitive abilities, which will undermine their school performance.

Likewise, “an undernourished woman will have perinatal complications and give birth to premature or underweight babies, running higher risks of being infected or dying during delivery.”

Education

If children have access to quality education early in their lives, they will perform better at higher school levels, run fewer risks of dropping out of school and earn high qualifications. They will become more aware and educated adults, and pass on to their children the value of education.

Educated women, meanwhile, have access to better paid and more protected jobs and can get back (earlier) to the paid labor market, with positive consequences for themselves and their children.

Economy

It was explained by the ChildFund Alliance that children living in a family in good economic conditions, where both parents work and the woman is equal to the man, enjoy good health and have proper nutrition.

Parents in good economic conditions, especially mothers, invest more in their children’s education, even in the long term. Hence, their children run fewer risks of dropping out of school to contribute to family income or being abducted into the child-labor exploitation circuits.

“A working mother is a model for her children—above all for girls—and will guide them in their future choices. Girls will be more inclined to study longer and, in the future, to enter the labor market,” it said.

Society

It was stressed that in a free and democratic country, women participate in public and political life, promoting gender and generational equality objectives, while women transmit to their children the value of honesty and democratic principles, fighting against corruption and practices damaging the collective well-being.

“If society recognizes children as legal entities, and their opinions are taken into consideration, they have negotiating power in the family, and their parents will be more likely to listen to them. “

Drastic change needed now

As revealed by the WeWorld and ChildFund Alliance, in seven years, the world has improved by only 1.4 points in the WeWorld Index, indicating that at this rate, it would take 182 years to achieve a level of adequate inclusion for women and children all over the world.

“Inclusion affects multiple spheres of life: from access to education, health services, and living in safe places, to equal rights in social participation—from access to public services to the ability to fully and freely express one’s personality.”

Marco Chiesara, president of WeWorld, said “the report highlights that the great challenge of our times is to guarantee a future for boys and girls.”

Meg Gardinier, secretary general of ChildFund Alliance, stressed that “it is critical that the world pay attention to how the effects of these five barriers intertwine with each other, creating a threatening combination that could potentially compromise the future of an entire generation and of those to come.”

“Though significant work remains ahead, I am encouraged by the collaborative efforts of ChildFund members and our partners to create a more inclusive world where children and women are guaranteed their rights and are able to achieve their full potential.”

Two tropical cyclones may enter PAR in November — Pagasa

By: John Eric Mendoza

MANILA, Philippines — There are no weather disturbances seen to enter the country in the coming days, but the state weather bureau on Sunday said we should watch out for two tropical cyclones by the end of November.

“Sa ngayon magandang balita po dahil matapos malusaw ang low pressure area kahapon, wala tayo nakikitang weather disturbance na papasok sa ating Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) sa mga susunod na araw,” said Benison Estareja, a weather specialist of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

(Good news for now, because after the low-pressure area dissipated on Saturday, we see no weather disturbance entering the PAR in the coming days.)

“But please take note, for the month of November, possible pa din ang around dalawang bagyo na papasok ng ating PAR at mataas ang tiyansa na ito ay mag-land fall,” Estareja added.

(But please take note that for the month of November, around two tropical cyclones could possibly enter PAR, and it has a high chance of making landfall.)

Despite this, the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) would still bring rain in most parts of the country on Sunday.

Mimaropa (Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan), Bicol Region, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Quezon, Northern Samar, and Eastern Samar will experience cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the ITCZ.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience fair weather conditions with partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

Pagasa did not raise a gale warning in any seaboard nationwide.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

China pledges Bio-Circular-Green Economy as APEC summit kicks off

ANKARA – The 29th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization (APEC) Summit kicked off on Friday in Thailand, with leaders from member countries meeting in person for the first time in four years.

Leaders from member countries have already arrived in Bangkok, Thailand's capital, for the summit, which is being held under the theme "Open, Connect, Balance."

During the two-day summit, they are expected to discuss the region's economic and climate challenges.

Thailand Prime Minister and APEC host Prayut Chan-o-cha said he wanted this week's meeting to discuss how leaders can help in the transition to sustainable economic growth and development, the Bangkok Post reported.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Emmanuel Macron, US Vice President Kamala Harris, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and other leaders and representatives from 21 countries and territories in APEC are attending the summit.

It is the first in-person meeting of APEC leaders since 2018.

Speaking at the summit, Chinese President Xi urged the member countries to join hands to build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future and take Asia-Pacific cooperation to a new height.

"We should always assume the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries," Xi said, according to a transcript released by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

He added that no one should interfere in other countries' internal affairs and that everyone should respect the development path and social system chosen independently by the people of each country.

"We should take seriously the legitimate security concerns of every country, and promote peaceful settlement of differences and disputes among countries through dialogue and consultation," he said.

As the world faces climate change, he assured that China is ready to support the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy.

"We need to enhance economic and technical cooperation, speed up coordinated digital and green development, advance the transition and upgrading of energy, resources,

and industrial and consumption structures, and promote green economic and social development," he said.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining APEC's role as the primary channel for regional cooperation and steering Asia-Pacific cooperation in the right direction.

"We need to follow the spirit of our Asia-Pacific family, look after one another like passengers in the same boat, and steadily move toward an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future," Xi said.

[PH, Bangladesh urged to explore opportunities in IT, agri, health](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA – The Philippines and Bangladesh should further explore business opportunities in the information technology (IT), agriculture, and health sectors, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said Thursday. In a seminar to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Philippine-Bangladesh bilateral ties, the top diplomat said relations on the economic front had grown steadily over the past few years.

Trade between Manila and Dhaka, he said, increased from approximately USD48 million to USD105 million in 2021, overcoming the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

He also mentioned the recent USD3.9 million investment made by Bangladeshi BPO company TELSU Inc. and the continuous operation of Liwayway Corp. in Gazipur since 2019.

"I hope that this upward trend in our trade and investment relations will continue and that the full potential of our economic partnership will be realized in the next few years," Manalo said.

"There are still many business opportunities to explore in areas such as telecommunications, IT, agriculture, and the health sectors, just to name a few."

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul Momen agreed with the need to "initiate new collaboration" in agriculture, digital economy, and education while strengthening cooperation in regional and international forums.

In the same event, Bangladesh Ambassador to Manila Borhan Uddin said now is the time to "review bilateral cooperation in the last 50 years, what we have achieved, and what could be achieved".

"(Although) we have made significant achievements from our bilateral cooperation, there is no reason to be complacent with that. We have to make robust and exponential progress," he said.

"Being developing countries, there might be a sense of competition in some sectors. If we complement each other without being competitive, I believe both countries can equally benefit from the common sources."

The two nations established formal diplomatic relations on Feb. 24, 1972, with the Philippines being one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh's independence.

Through the years, various agreements in trade and investments, culture, merchant shipping, and youth and sports brought cooperation between the two to new heights.

For Manalo, Dhaka and Manila could further boost interactions on ways to address climate change and other emerging challenges, including food security, which is a priority area for the government.

"I note that the government of Bangladesh will soon hold its general elections in 2023. Rest assured that the Philippines will continue to work with Bangladesh's leaders in strengthening our cooperation in areas of mutual concern for the benefit of both our peoples," he said.

RAPPLER

[PH demands at COP27: 'Loss and damage' definition, climate finance, emission avoidance](#)

By: Iya Gozum

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine delegation arrived in Egypt for the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change with one thing in mind: demand developed parties to pay up for the climate impacts they caused.

With nations deeply divided over some sticking points, the conference itself has been extended a day.

As one of the countries that bear the brunt of climate impacts, the Philippines delegation's priorities and positions during COP27 included expanding the definition of loss and damage, pushing for climate finance, and calling for rich countries' transparency on funds.

The Philippines' 29-person delegation included Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga and Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson Robert Borje.

Here are the priorities and positions they expressed at the climate summit, according to the DENR.

Include extreme climate events, slow onset change in loss and damage definition
Among the biggest agendas and one of the most contentious issues at COP27 is loss and damage. Loss and damage refers to climate impacts that cannot be simply solved by mitigation and adaptation policies.

Even before COP27 started, advocates and vulnerable countries were already amping up the discussion on loss and damage funds. This includes the Philippines, a country well aware of the impacts of worsening typhoons.

In fact, the country pushed for further expanding the definition of loss and damage to include extreme climate events and slow onset changes such as rising sea levels, forest degradation, and loss of biodiversity.

The Philippine delegation demanded that a mechanism be established to provide technical and financial support for countries coping with the loss and damage caused by climate change.

Despite the clamor to establish a loss and damage fund, there were still resistance from some countries, especially in light of the energy crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Fund the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage

The Santiago Network is a platform established to connect vulnerable countries with providers of technical assistance.

The Philippines agreed to operationalize and fund the network.

During the previous COP, two Filipinos, lawyer Vicente Paolo Yu III and Philippine negotiator Felix William Fuentesbello, helped shape the platform.

Develop an insurance scheme to provide finance help to affected countries
Along with loss and damage, climate finance is at the heart of many affected countries' agenda, as they continue to seek accountability for worsening climate impacts.

The country's delegation brought up an insurance scheme to help countries cope and create a solid system of "predictable financial support."

Currently, climate finance is coursed through development banks and entities such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund.

However, movement leaders were quick to point out that financial help is an obligation that developed parties need to fulfill.

During a press briefing on Friday, November 18, Wanun Permpibul of Climate Watch Thailand emphasized that climate finance shouldn't be considered as donations.

Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development, warned against using climate finance as a way to make profits.

"Climate finance should be provided as grants based on climate debt, not another opportunity for rich countries and corporations to profit from poor and vulnerable countries," Nacpil had said in a statement last Monday, November 14.

Fast-track negotiations on adaptation

The delegation pushed for expediting negotiations on adaptation.

Fast-tracking these negotiations would mean reducing risk and vulnerability of poorer nations during the onslaught of disasters and extreme weather.

More lives, jobs, and homes could be safeguarded and made resilient if adaptation measures are put in place swiftly.

Demand transparency on climate finance

There is still some resistance from wealthy nations to keep their climate commitments.

Rich countries fall short of what developing countries need to weather disasters: \$1 trillion a year in external financing for climate action.

The commitment to pay up for the damages must come with transparency, the Philippine delegation asserted.

Developed parties must “be transparent in reporting their approaches and strategies for scaling up climate finance,” the DENR said in a statement.

Call for developed countries to lessen emissions, abide by safe carbon budget
The Philippine delegation also emphasized their support for “progressive phasing out of subsidies for fossil fuels, promoting renewable energies, and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.”

Rich countries should also put in place policies and green infrastructure to lessen their emissions and abide by the remaining safe carbon budget.

The delegation advocated for emissions avoidance to be included in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which allows countries to “voluntarily cooperate” to reduce emissions but has so far failed to inspire concrete actions.

According to a UN report, the world should cut 45% of emissions within eight years if it were to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Transforming the global economy to low-carbon would require an investment of at least \$4 to \$6 trillion annually.

THE MANILA TIMES

[APEC can be part of solution to PH economic crisis](#)

By: Ed Paolo Salting

COMPLEMENTARY policies are needed as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies embark on structural reforms to promote a sustainable recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and future economic shocks.

The 2022 APEC Economic Report, released last week as leaders of the regional economic forum met in Bangkok, called for further green initiatives that could be facilitated through fewer regulatory barriers, improved access to credit and the promotion of sustainable finance alignment tools.

"Structural reform will be required as a response to the economic slowdown caused by Covid-19, and actions to combat climate change and other environmental challenges have become significantly more urgent," the report said.

More is needed, in particular, with regard to getting a better understanding of the process to develop and implement green regulatory measures.

"The participation of the business community and consumers is important in transforming the economy into a greener one. Resolving environmental challenges is a long-term process and policy uncertainty is one of the main barriers to transitioning to a green economy," the report said.

"Skills in the government and private sector are also critical to the implementation of effective green structural reforms and integral to the transition toward a low-carbon economy," it added.

Structural reforms can be supported by incentivizing green innovation and technologies, developing new sectors, and smoothing the transition for workers and industries by helping them adjust to new conditions.

"Competitive product and services markets are important to foster green innovation and technology adoption, and remove barriers to entry, particularly for small, innovative firms," the report said.

"Innovation will be critical to increase productivity and dynamism in this new context."

DoST: Climate change affecting PH the most

By: Francis Earl Cueto

WITH the effects of climate change being clearly seen with stronger typhoons lashing the Philippines and causing much damage to lives and property, the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) on Friday called for more collective action from both Filipinos and people from other countries.

Dr. Sancho Maborang, DoST undersecretary for regional operations, cited the "massive repercussions to and impact of climate change, especially on the Philippines" during a forum organized by Advantage Austria and Impact Hub Manila.

The DoST said the Philippines is among the countries most at risk from climate change hazards.

Meanwhile, it noted that rainforests play a key role in curbing the negative effects of climate change by producing oxygen, helping recycle and clean the water, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and absorbing rainwater to prevent floods and landslides, among others.

Maborang pushed for greener technologies and partnered with pro-environment groups for a more local and global sustainable drive against climate change.

Florian Puchinger of Advantage Austria said there is a need to explore ways so that agriculture and aquaculture will not be overexploited or depleted.

Bettina Stockinger, business manager of Blue Planet Ecosystem, said the global food system is also being affected by climate change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Climate change 'overarching' concern at APEC

By: Helen Flores

MANILA, Philippines — Climate change was the “overarching” concern among world leaders at the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, President Marcos said upon his return to the country late Saturday night.

Marcos arrived at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City at around 10:39 p.m. Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte led the heads of agencies who welcomed the President and members of his official delegation.

“The overarching global concern for everyone is and should be global – the climate change issues that are coming,” Marcos said in his arrival speech.

“Every discussion that we had, you can talk about the economy, you can talk about geopolitics, you can talk about anything. You go into detail – you can talk about fisheries, you talk about governance, you can talk about anything. And the subject of climate change will make itself felt,” he said.

“And so again, this is something that we all seem to have realized and we have come together to do – to try to mitigate,” he added.

While various agreements relating to climate change adaptation have been sealed in the past, the Chief Executive said APEC countries have admitted that “there’s very little that has been actually done.”

Marcos earlier urged APEC to address climate change, “the greatest existential threat” affecting the region. The regional economic bloc can and should contribute to a trade and investment environment that assists economies in cutting greenhouse gas emissions, facilitating climate financing and ensuring genuine and effective technology transfer for the most vulnerable developing countries, he said.

The President described his participation at the 29th APEC Leaders’ Meeting as a “very useful and productive process.”

“One of the most important things at least for me was – the reason I thought that I must attend these conferences is that I know now – I have spoken to, I have discussed many issues with all the leaders of our region, of the Asia Pacific. So they now know me and they know what I’m about – we have discussed things. They know what the Philippine position is on several issues,” the President said.

The two-day APEC summit was attended by the 21 member economies – Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia,

Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

Marcos was also able to meet with leaders of Australia, China, Canada, France, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia, among others on the sidelines of the summit.

“The bilateral meetings that are held on the side of the actual summit, the bilateral meetings are for us to forge stronger relations with different countries up to, as I said once again, France, President (Emmanuel) Macron was there and we had a very fruitful discussion. And Canada, which is as you would think was very far away, but nonetheless has involved itself very much in the APEC,” he said.

He also cited the agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to pay some 10,000 overseas Filipinos employed by construction companies, which declared bankruptcy.

“We were even able to get an agreement from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the payment of claimants who were not paid because the pandemic bankrupted their employer. So that is a tangible thing that was as a result of bilateral (meetings),” he said.

Marcos added there are agreements that the Philippines is going to pursue with Canada and France.

Before flying to the Philippines, Marcos met the Filipino community in Bangkok, whom he described as a “very enthusiastic crowd.”

“We had a very enthusiastic crowd and as ever, it was – after all the serious and very important discussions, it was a breath of – it’s always a breath of fresh air to spend time with fellow Pinoys around the world,” he said.

There are more than 30,000 Filipinos in Thailand, mostly working as English teachers and employees in the kingdom’s hospitality industry.

Philippines, South Korea reaffirm economic cooperation

By: Catherine Talavera

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and South Korea reaffirmed their interest to work together in facilitating cooperation centered on research and development, renewable energy, and green technology, according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual met with South Korea Trade, Industry, and Energy Minister Duk-Geun Ahn on the sidelines of the APEC Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

“The two ministers had a productive discussion on trade and investment issues, which is aimed to strengthen the bilateral relationship of the Philippines and South Korea,” the DTI said.

According to the DTI, both countries agreed to facilitate cooperation centered on research and development, renewable energy, and green technology.

The trade department said both ministers expressed a positive outlook toward the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between the Philippines and South Korea and the forthcoming visit of President Marcos in South Korea in the first quarter of 2023.

Earlier, the Philippines and South Korea have agreed to further develop supply chain and energy cooperation during the second meeting of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC) in October.

On supply chains, the DTI said both countries agreed to maximize areas for complementation in green metals and related industries such as electric vehicles and semiconductors, focusing on building stable and sustainable supply chains for critical raw materials for production and manufacturing.

“We are positioning the Philippines as a key player in the supply of critical minerals given our vast resources of green metals such as nickel, cobalt, and copper – inputs for the production and manufacture of electronic goods and batteries for electric vehicles. With Korea’s manufacturing capabilities especially in electronics, we hope to pursue a meaningful partnership in this area,” Trade Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo said earlier.

South Korea Deputy Minister Dae-jin Jeong of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) enjoined both countries to work together to pursue the said endeavor.

“We will engage in technical discussions to pursue our strategic partnership through the proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) on core raw materials and critical supply chain cooperation. The Philippines ranks 10th worldwide in terms of mineral

production and is especially rich in nickel, chromium, and copper,” Jeong said during the JCTEC meeting.

In terms of energy cooperation, the two countries committed to establish a cooperation-based mechanism on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and nuclear power, aligned with the need to respond to climate change challenges amidst ongoing global initiatives towards carbon neutrality.

During the meeting, the two countries acknowledged the continuing efforts of both sides in enhancing market access of key products, including the signing of the Philippines-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (PH-KR FTA) targeted in 2023.

Activities to promote the utilization of the FTA through seminars and information sessions were also discussed, according to the DTI.

In support of industrial initiatives, the two nations also agreed to maintain active engagement on ongoing official development assistance (ODA) projects and to explore other areas for complementation such as collaboration related to the Philippines’ PUV modernization program.

Likewise, the importance of regional mechanisms in building towards mutual economic gains, among which is the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was highlighted during the meeting.

Last September, the Philippines and South Korea joined other IPEF partners in endorsing the statements for the four pillars on trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

[Daan-daang puno itinanim sa La Mesa Nature Reserve](#)

Daan-daang puno itinanim sa La Mesa Nature Reserve bilang bahagi ng climate change consciousness week.



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Daan-daang puno itinanim sa La Mesa Nature Reserve | TV Patrol

DZBB

Climate Change Commission, nagsagawa ng tree planting activity sa La Mesa Eco Park

By: Luisito Santos

Nagsasagawa ngayon ng tree planting activity itong Climate Change Commission o CCC dito sa La Mesa Eco Park dito sa Quezon City.

Ayon sa CCC bahagi ito ng kanilang paggunita sa ika-15 annual global warming and climate change consciousness week na nagsimula ngayong araw.

Aabot sa 200 puno na mga narra, dau at sablot na isang rainforestry na kasalukuyang ginagawa ngayon dito sa bahagi ng La Mesa Watershed Protected Area.

Pinangunahan ang aktibidad na ito ni CCC Commissioner Vice Chair at Executive Director Robert Borje at gayun din ito si Commissioner Rachelle Anne Herrera.

PTV

[Tree planting activity, isinagawa ng Climate Change Commission para sa pree planting activity, isinagawa ng Climate Change Commission para sa paggunita ng 15th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week](#)



RADYO PILIPINAS

Climate Change Commission muling nagtanim ng mga puno upang maibsan ang matinding epekto ng climate change

By: DK Zarate

Kasunod ng kagustuhan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na maibsan ang epekto ng climate change muling nagsawa ng tree planting and growing ang Climate Change Commission.

Ito ay ginanap sa Lamesa Nature Reserve, Sabado ng umaga katuwang ang mga civil society organization, private sector, national government at mga estudyante.

Ayon kay Climate Change Secretary Robert Borje, bahagi ito ng kanilang paggunita sa ika-15 annual global warming and climate change consciousness week na nagsimula ngayong araw.

Aabot sa 200 puno ang itinamin kabilang na ang Narra, Dao at Sablot na isang rainforest tree ang itatanim sa bahagi ng La Mesa Watershed Protected Area.

Kung maalala, nagpahayag ng matinding pagnanais si Pangulong Marcos Jr. na bigyang pansin ang pagtanim ng puno kasunod ng landslide sa Maguindanao kung saan marami ang namatay sa bagyong Paeng.

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