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By: Marcos' US trip yields \$672M in investment commitments

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CNN

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FORBES

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By: Siladitya Ray

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Ma. Joselie Garcia

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By: Tony La Viña

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Cristina Eloisa Baclig

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VP Sara: There's need to address climate change for sake of children

By: Zacarian Sarao

On World Children's Day, Vice President Sara Duterte emphasized the need to address climate change, a threat which she says disproportionately impacts children and threatens their future.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Mindanao gears toward 50% renewable energy mix by 2030

By: Che Palicte

As Mindanao faces pressing energy and environmental challenges due to rapid industrialization and population growth, it has set a grand target of achieving a 50-percent renewable energy (RE) share in the overall energy mix by 2030.

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By: Roel Amazona

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

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CCC Week 2023 kicks off with commitment to net zero carbon dioxide

By: Jelly Musico

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) began the commemoration of the 16th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week 2023 (CCC Week 2023) with a tree planting and growing activity dubbed "Net Zero Challenge" at the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed in Paete, Laguna on Sunday.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD ONLINE

Marcos' US trip yields \$672M in investment commitments

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THE PHILIPPINES secured \$672.3 million in investment pledges during President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s weeklong trip to the United States, according to his office.

The pledges cover telecommunications, artificial intelligence (AI) for weather forecasting, semiconductor and electronics, pharmaceutical and healthcare, and renewable energy, Malacañang said in a statement.

The Palace said Mr. Marcos secured \$400 million worth of investment commitments for the telecommunications sector alone.

“President Marcos also secured significant commitments in technological advancements across key priority sectors in the Philippines, which include the deployment of the first two internet MicroGEO satellites dedicated to the Philippines,” it said.

The semiconductor sector also received \$250 million in investment pledges.

“An additional investment of \$1 billion for the semiconductor industry is up for discussion with US companies. The Philippines and the US have also agreed to work towards strengthening the Philippines' semiconductor supply chain,” the Palace said.

Last week, the US State department announced that Washington will collaborate with the Philippines “to explore opportunities to grow and diversify the global semiconductor ecosystem” under the US CHIPS Act's International Technology Security and Innovation Fund, a \$52-billion subsidy program for US semiconductor manufacturers and research.

The initial phase will involve a comprehensive assessment of the Philippines' semiconductor ecosystem and regulatory framework, as well as workforce and infrastructure needs.

Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical and healthcare sector got \$20 million in investment commitments.

During his trip, Mr. Marcos witnessed the signing of a deal between Ayala Healthcare Holdings, Inc. (AC Health) and Varian Medical Systems to make cancer care more

accessible to Filipino patients at the country's first specialty oncology hospital. AC Health is nearing the completion of the Healthway Cancer Care Center in Taguig City.

The Philippines' Lloyd Laboratories, Inc. and US-based Difgen Pharmaceuticals LLC, meanwhile, signed a deal covering the filing of abbreviated new drug applications and the marketing of jointly developed pharmaceutical products within the United States.

Lloyd Laboratories will also invest up to \$20 million to build and operate the first US Food and Drug Administration-approved manufacturing facility in the Philippines.

The Philippines also secured investment commitments worth \$2 million on AI for weather forecasting, and \$300,000 for renewable energy.

The Department of Science and Technology signed a deal with US-based company Atmo to develop Asia's largest AI-driven weather forecasting program for the Philippines, which faces challenges from climate change.

The Palace on Sunday said the Department of Information and Communications Technology had been ordered to work with satellite internet service Starlink to boost internet connectivity in the country.

Among the key partnerships secured by Mr. Marcos during his trip is an agreement that would pave the way for Washington to export nuclear technology and materials to the Philippines.

US-based Ultra Safe Nuclear Corp. and Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) signed a memorandum of agreement for a pre-feasibility study on the potential use of micro-modular reactors in the Philippines.

Mr. Marcos said economic partnerships are a key component of Philippines-US relations.

"That encompasses not only security concerns, but also economic concerns because the thinking in this day is that you cannot be strong and you cannot be able to defend yourself if you are economically weak," he told reporters in Honolulu, Hawaii on Sunday.

As part of his weeklong trip to the US, Mr. Marcos attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting and other events in San Francisco. He also visited Los Angeles and Hawaii.

CNN

[Scientists sound the alarm as the world briefly smashes through 2-degree warming limit for the first time](#)

By: Angela Dewan and Laura Paddison

The Earth's temperature briefly rose above a crucial threshold that scientists have been warning for decades could have catastrophic and irreversible impacts on the planet and its ecosystems, data shared by a prominent climate scientist shows.

For the first time, the global average temperature on Friday last week was more than 2 degrees Celsius hotter than levels before industrialization, according to preliminary data shared on X by Samantha Burgess, deputy director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, based in Europe.

The threshold was crossed just temporarily and does not mean that the world is at a permanent state of warming above 2 degrees, but it is a symptom of a planet getting steadily hotter and hotter, and moving towards a longer-term situation where climate crisis impacts will be difficult — in some cases impossible — to reverse.

“Our best estimate is that this was the first day when global temperature was more than 2°C above 1850-1900 (or pre-industrial) levels, at 2.06°C,” she wrote.

Burgess said in her post that global temperatures on Friday averaged 1.17 degrees above 1991-2020 levels, making it the warmest November 17 on record. But compared to pre-industrial times, before humans began burning fossil fuels on a large scale and altering the Earth's natural climate, the temperature was 2.06 degrees warmer.

The breach of 2 degrees on Friday came two weeks before the start of the UN COP28 climate conference in Dubai, where countries will take stock of their progress towards the Paris Climate Agreement pledge to limit global warming to 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, with an ambition of limiting it to 1.5 degrees.

One day above 2 degrees of warming “does not mean that the Paris Agreement has been breached,” Burgess told CNN, “but highlights how we are approaching those internationally agreed limits. We can expect to see increasing frequency of 1.5 degree and 2 degree days over the coming months and years.”

Copernicus' data is preliminary and will require weeks to be confirmed with real-life observations.

The world already looks on track to breach 1.5 degrees of warming on a longer-term basis in the next few years, a threshold beyond which scientists say humans and ecosystems will struggle to adapt.

A UN report published Monday showed that even if countries carried out their current emissions-reduction pledges, the world would reach between 2.5 and 2.9 degrees of warming sometime this century.

But 1.5 is not a cliff edge for the Earth — every fraction of a degree it warms above that, the worse the impacts will be. Warming to 2 degrees puts far more of the population at risk of deadly extreme weather and increases the likelihood of the planet reaching irreversible tipping points, such as the collapse of the polar ice sheets and the mass death of coral reefs.

Richard Allan, professor of climate science at the University of Reading in the UK, called the breach a “canary in the coalmine” which “underscores the urgency of tackling greenhouse gas emissions.”

But he added that it was “entirely expected that single days will surpass 2 degrees above pre-industrial well before the actual 2 degrees Celsius target is breached over many years.”

The data comes on heels of the hottest 12 months on record, and after a year of extreme weather events, supercharged by the climate crisis, including fires in Hawaii, floods in northern Africa and storms in the Mediterranean, all of which have claimed lives.

Scientists are increasingly expressing alarm that data on temperatures are exceeding their predictions.

A string of reports checking the health of the Earth’s climate and humans’ actions to combat it in recent weeks show that the planet is careening toward a dangerous level of warming, and not doing enough to mitigate or adapt to its impacts.

A UN report last week found that according to countries’ climate plans, planet-heating pollution in 2030 will still be 9% higher than it was in 2010. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world needs to decrease emissions by 45% by the end of this decade compared to 2010 to have any hope of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. An increase of 9% means that target is way off.

Another UN report also found that the world is planning to blow the fossil fuels production limit that would keep a lid on global heating. By 2030, countries plan to produce more than twice the limit of fossil fuels that would cap warming at 1.5 degrees.

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[Global Temperatures Briefly Crossed Critical Threshold For The First Time Last Week](#)

By: Siladitya Ray

The mean global temperature briefly crossed a critical threshold of 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels likely for the first time on Friday, highlighting unprecedented global warming that scientists warn will have irreversible and disastrous impacts on the planet.

The 2015 Paris Agreement signed by global leaders agreed to work towards limiting the rise of global temperatures to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels—with a 1.5-degree increase being set as the preferred limit. Scientists have since warned that failing to adhere to the goal will have catastrophic impacts on the planet, including extreme weather, a significant rise in sea levels and major droughts. Friday's numbers don't mean the Paris Agreement has failed, as it's only a singular and brief occurrence. But it could serve as a potent warning sign on how quickly temperatures are rising.

Earlier this month, C3S announced that 2023 is almost certainly set to become the warmest year in recorded history. The global average temperature from January to October this year is the highest on record—0.10 degrees Celsius higher than the hottest calendar year so far, 2016. After combining its data with the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's historical data, the C3S said it had determined that 2023 will be "the warmest year for the last 125,000 years." The EU agency's scientists were particularly concerned about how much higher global temperatures have been in 2023 compared to a 30-year reference period from 1991 to 2020.

The next major global climate summit, COP28, is scheduled to begin next week in Dubai. 2023's record numbers are likely to feature as a key point of discussion.

2023 Will Almost Certainly Be The Hottest Year In Recorded History, EU Scientists Say (Forbes)

MANILA BULLETIN

[DTI pushes for sustainable economic growth](#)

By: Ma. Joselie Garcia

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual urges potential foreign investors to collaborate with the Philippines for sustainability in economic growth, such as funding technology-based plastic recycling and renewable energy (RE) projects to protect the country's natural resources.

"We invite investors to join us on this transformative journey towards a sustainable and green future for all," Pascual told foreign investors last Nov 16 during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Philippines Sustainability Roundtable in San Francisco, California.

During the roundtable meeting, Pascual outlined the Philippines' sustainable initiatives to address climate change through RE and innovative plastic recycling.

"Our agenda is set against the backdrop of escalating global climate crisis [that] is both urgent and transformative," Pascual said.

"In the Philippines, our resolve is unyielding. We are participants in the dialogue on climate change and proactive architects of the sustainable future with renewable energy and robust recycling systems forming the twin pillars of our strategy," he added.

During the discussions, the DTI chief presented the country's strategic direction in advancing sustainable initiatives focused on increasing RE generation and addressing plastic pollution, aligned with the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP).

Pascual said that economic growth has unintentionally contributed to plastic pollution, prompting the government, academia, and civil societies to actively seek waste management solutions through studies, consultations, and awareness campaigns.

He introduced legislation to combat plastic pollution like the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and the National Plan of Action for Marine Litter.

He added that the Philippines has also strengthened its defenses against plastic pollution this year through the landmark Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law.

Pascual shared the EPR law's potential for multi-sectoral implementation, mandating plastic packaging producers to manage their product lifecycle, promote corporate accountability, and encourage recovery schemes, waste collection hubs, and recycling collaboration with local government units.

The DTI chief also highlighted the Philippine Energy Plan as the framework of the country's strategic direction aiming for a substantial increase in renewable energy capacity.

Additionally, he cited the nation's ambitious goals, targeting a 35 percent share in RE generation by 2030 and scaling up to 50 percent by 2040.

Further, Pascual acknowledged the government's resolute legislative support, particularly Executive Order Number 18 and the CREATE Law, aimed at attracting foreign investments by providing incentives and streamlining regulations with green energy objectives.

Supported by incentives outlined in the CREATE Act, these measures offer an enabling business environment dedicated to advancing the country's sustainability goals.

"Together, let us forge a path where economic growth, technological innovation, and environmental stewardship intersect, ensuring a legacy of sustainability for generations to come," Pascual said.

The APEC Philippines Sustainability Roundtable convened Northern California and Bay Area companies to discuss renewable energy and sustainability, focusing on operations in the Philippines.

MANILA STANDARD

[\[Opinion\] Climate justice and human rights](#)

By: Tony La Viña

We will continue with the discussion on the column last week wherein I wrote about Special Rapporteur Ian Fry's visit to the Philippines to study how climate change impacts our enjoyment of human rights.

Last time, we discussed the violations of human rights against EHRDs fighting for our right to a clean environment. This time, we will be focusing on the impacts of climate change Filipinos experience according to Fry's statement.

The general situation is we experience extreme weather events.

We are familiar with typhoons, floods, landslides, and droughts which are all worsening each year.

We are also vulnerable to rising sea levels as a country of many islands.

Fry confirms what we already experience; the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts.

He uses the infamous Super Typhoon Yolanda as an example. It was one of the deadliest tropical typhoons; the death toll being at least 6,300.

Fry visited many communities that experience these impacts strongly and he recounted this in his statement too.

First, he spoke of the Bataan Shipping and Engineering Company (BASECO) compound which is in Manila Bay.

They are vulnerable to storm surges and flooding because of high tides and the community is on low-lying land.

Additionally, the dredging in Manila Bay has worsened flooding, fisheries' production, and the ecosystem in the area.

Meanwhile, during the visit to Tacloban, Fry discovered the community has not fully recovered from Super Typhoon Yolanda.

Ten years have passed and yet some are still living in temporary housing. People here are also experiencing extreme heat which affects their time to tend to their fields or fish.

There is no denying some of the worst climate change impacts are experienced by Filipinos.

In addition to this, we appear to have a hard time adapting to these changes.

This has stolen our citizens' livelihoods. Some have lost their homes. Many lives have been taken. Even our rich biodiversity is at risk with the changing climate.

Local communities are facing consequences for mistakes they were not even responsible for.

Seeing these consequences in the statement confirm human-induced climate change in itself is a human rights violation.

Millions are affected yet we are not doing enough globally to mitigate the effects.

People continue to be displaced.

Institutions continue to support construction projects that make it worse.

We continue to be violated.

I echo the findings of SR Fry:

"Climate change is negatively impacting human rights in Philippines, including the rights to water and sanitation, food, culture, education, healthy environment, health, work and housing.

"It is very evident that the Government has made efforts to address the impacts of climate change by developing a number of reports and pieces of legislation.

"The clear message I received, however, is that while the Government has produced many policies and laws relating to climate change, there is a distinct lack of implementation on the ground.

"Furthermore there is a development agenda being pursued by the government which contradicts the highly fragile nature of the country.

“Of the local government units I visited, most were trying to implement adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects to protect their communities, although some of these practices, such as forced relocation, are drastic and violate the rights of people to make their own choice about their right to housing. “Nevertheless, some communities appeared to be reasonably happy with their relocation.

“I am deeply troubled by the treatment of environmental human rights defenders, particularly Indigenous Peoples.

“The use of intimidation, harassment, abductions, prosecution, jail sentencing and extra-judicial killings by the military based on trumped up charges against human rights defenders is contrary to many international human rights obligations.

“This year represents the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“The Declaration states that “everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

“I strongly encourage the Philippines government take urgent and decisive measures to respect this right.”

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[PH youth, most vulnerable to climate change, also most active in fighting crisis](#)

By: Cristina Eloisa Baclig

While the world is nearing the point of no return on climate change, and with the Philippines being the global epicenter of the climate crisis, Filipino children are taking matters into their own hands through their own initiatives.

A recent global analysis by the United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) found that weather-related disasters caused 43.1 million internal displacements of children in 44 countries between 2016 and 2021.

The report said the Philippines is ground zero of the crisis “bearing the highest absolute number of child displacements at 9.7 million.” It said about 2.5 million children nationwide are at risk of being displaced by storm surges in the next 30 years.

“This risk is exacerbated by the fact that the country’s coastlines are highly susceptible to storm surges, and it can impact even densely populated cities such as Manila, Cebu, and Davao,” Unicef explained.

Despite having preparedness measures and innovations that could help when disasters strike, the report said the sheer number of children who could be potentially displaced by a single disaster event in the country is alarming.

A separate study in 2021 said children across 10 countries (Australia, Brazil, Finland, France, India, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, the UK, and the USA) experience climate and eco-anxiety or “distress relating to the climate and ecological crises.”

Over half of the 10,000 children surveyed for the study said they were “very” or “extremely worried.”

The Philippines recorded the highest number of surveyed children who felt “very worried” and “extremely worried” about climate change: 84 percent (49 extremely worried, 35 very worried).

According to Unicef Philippines, children in the Philippines experience extreme levels of climate anxiety, yet they are also the most resilient and engaged in tackling the crisis.

“Every child must be assured about their future and protected from events that affect their mental well-being,” it added.

In this year’s celebration of World Children’s Day, the Quezon City government and Unicef Philippines recognized the voice, involvement, and leadership of children and youth in climate change efforts.

PH youth lead fight vs climate change

Results from surveys from the Local Conference of Youth 2023 (LCOY) and Unicef’s U-Report Philippines showed that young Filipinos are ready to do their part in addressing climate change and its impacts.

When asked about how ready they were to take action on climate change and disaster preparedness, 88 Filipino youths shared varied views and opinions:

48% said they are “extremely ready, but ongoing training and support would be helpful”

23% said they are “very ready and eager for more training and support”

11% said they are “moderately ready and open to additional training and support”

10% said they are “not ready, but willing to learn with training and support”

8% said they are “somewhat ready, with a desire for more training and support

A separate survey with 376 child respondents showed that 81 percent said they were aware that their actions could make a positive change in improving the climate policies in the country.

“Children in the Philippines are bearing the brunt of climate change. They need to be given more opportunity to meaningfully participate in the decisions and actions that affect them,” said Unicef Philippines representative Oyunsaikhan Dendevnorov.

“The voices, perspectives, and ideas of children and young people must be heard at the highest levels and taken seriously. Many children and youth are already doing their part,” she added.

Last Sunday (Nov. 19), an event called “Ngayon, Para Bukas! A Call for Collective Climate Action” was held in time for World Children’s Day and Climate Consciousness Week.

Among the youth-led programs highlighted by Unicef during the event included an organization protecting Irrawaddy dolphins in Western Visayas, an initiative teaching environmental and agricultural programs to public schools, a network of young

environmentalist journalists, and an advocacy group that empowers communities living around the Pasig River.

More action needed

Unfortunately, the surveys also revealed that many Filipino children felt that they were not receiving the training and skills they needed to help them respond to climate change and its impacts.

Based on the survey results and dialogues with children and youths in the Philippines, U-Report Philippines, LCOY, and Unicef Philippines crafted the Filipino Youth Statement on Climate Action and Disaster Resilience 2023, which calls on the Philippine government to:

- Advocate for community-centered platforms for young people's education and participation in climate action and disaster resilience.
- Develop effective, inclusive, and accessible storytelling for the climate and environment.
- Establish a mental health support network among children and youth working on climate action and disaster resilience.
- Build resilient communities that can effectively prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters and climate change impacts.
- Establish inclusive, accessible, and safe spaces for all vulnerable sectors.
- Implement ridge-to-reef nature-based solutions involving children and youth.
- Empower children and youth to take action towards an inclusive, accessible, just, and regenerative agricultural and fisheries system.
- Empower children and youth to advanced accessible, just, and sustainable renewable energy and aquatic resources.
- Increase children and youth participation in strong implementation of effective waste management policies and programs.
- Create a safe and enabling environment for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and environmental defenders through protection, meaningful engagements, and cultural strengthening.
- Support Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that promote eco-conscious businesses built towards a circular economy.

Climate crisis: Child rights crisis

The Philippines ranks first in terms of disaster risk according to the World Risk Index for 2022, as well as the first in the East Asia and Pacific region on the Child Climate Risk Index (CCRI).

“Extreme weather events are increasing in frequency, and slower onset climate impacts, such as rising sea levels and increasing temperatures are affecting the health, nutrition, and education of children in the country,” Unicef Philippines said.

“Poor children, children with disabilities, children who belong to indigenous groups, children in situations of armed conflict, and girls, are especially vulnerable,” it added.

Climate change, Unicef said, is a child’s rights crisis. Environmental harm and climate change pose a significant threat to children’s rights globally.

“The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. Governments must protect the rights of every child, especially boys and girls living in countries that have contributed least to this problem but are enduring the most dangerous floods, storms, and heat,” said Dendevnorov.

VP Sara: There's need to address climate change for sake of children

By: Zacarian Sarao

On World Children's Day, Vice President Sara Duterte emphasized the need to address climate change, a threat which she says disproportionately impacts children and threatens their future.

"The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis," declared Duterte in a statement, during the commemoration of World Children's Day with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) in Quezon City.

"From rising sea levels and harsh weather to air pollution and resource scarcity, the climate crisis affects children's lives, education, and health. And climate change is hitting Filipino kids hard," she added.

Duterte noted that the country is prone to natural disasters such as typhoons and earthquakes, as well as human-induced disasters like conflict, insurgency, and terrorism.

She also cited reports such as the World Risk Index for 2022, which ranks the Philippines first in disaster risk; and a 2019 World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, which estimates the Philippines' average annual asset losses due to disasters at US\$1.4 billion, while well-being losses are higher at an estimated \$3.9 billion annually.

These displacements, said Duterte, cause increased diseases, respiratory illnesses, and long-term mental health issues among children.

It also affects children's learning as it forces them to miss school, which in turn affects their future.

"Disasters have far-reaching consequences, especially the trauma in children. Kami nga na mga magulang, nata-trauma kami. Paano nalang ang mga bata (us parents get traumatized. What about the children?)," said Duterte.

Because of this, Duterte emphasized the need to invest in climate-resilient communities and infrastructure to protect children from the effects of climate change.

"Along with other government and donor agencies, we must give our children and youth meaningful participation in fighting climate change," said Duterte.

According to Duterte, adults have a crucial role in creating an environment where children can thrive and contribute to a sustainable future.

“We can start by reducing our carbon footprint and living sustainably,” said Duterte.

“We must also promote programs that encourage kids to improve their community’s disaster resilience,” she added.

Duterte also said that the Philippines can set an example by creating a national plan to engage children and youth in disaster risk reduction and climate action at the local and national levels by establishing children and youth groups, providing community education, training, learning exchanges, and lobbying and influencing policy.

“The Philippines can lead by solving the climate crisis and protecting children’s rights,” she added.

The vice president said that the upcoming COP28, or the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) presents a critical opportunity for the Philippine government to design and implement child-responsive climate action that prioritizes the needs and perspectives of children.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Mindanao gears toward 50% renewable energy mix by 2030

By: Che Palicte

As Mindanao faces pressing energy and environmental challenges due to rapid industrialization and population growth, it has set a grand target of achieving a 50-percent renewable energy (RE) share in the overall energy mix by 2030.

In a press briefing Monday, Monalisa Dimalanta, chairperson of the Energy Regulatory Commission, noted that Mindanao is already at 37 percent in terms of renewable energy generation capacity – higher than the national target of 35 percent.

At a peak demand at 2,167 megawatts (MW) based on the Department of Energy's 2022 data and installed capacity at already 4,570 MW, Mindanao is the only island that has excess capacity, according to Dimalanta.

"I think it's doable, that's why I'm excited to see the outcome of this congress because there has to be that detailed plan. Getting to 50 percent is not just a matter of increasing the generation, it has to be balanced," Dimalanta said, referring to the two-day Mindanao Clean Energy Forum 2023 and Renewable Energy (RE) Congress that started here Monday.

To hit the 50-percent goal, Dimalanta said it is necessary to consider generation, cost, and system requirements.

Jose Raul Saniel, president of the Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives and general manager of Zamboanga del Sur Electric Cooperative, sees the possibility of achieving the 50-percent RE mix in 2030.

"For us to be able to achieve this, Mindanao's economy must grow. There should be big investments coming in so that we, the electric cooperatives, can contract with RE and cope with the increasing demand for power in the future," he said.

"If you look at the electric cooperatives right now, most of our contracts are long-term with fossil-based fuel. This forum is a perfect venue for us to be able to consider renewable energy."

Mindanao Development Authority Executive Director and Undersecretary Janet Lopez said Mindanao is on track toward the 50-percent objective and is currently harnessing the potential of RE solutions.

“By setting the goal of achieving a 50-percent RE mix by 2030, we are not only demonstrating our commitment to mitigating climate change but also unlocking new economic opportunities and ensuring energy security. It’s time to elevate our ambitions and level up our actions,” she said.

Mindanao, with its abundant natural resources, is well-positioned to be a trailblazer in the transition to renewable energy, Lopez said.

“The island region has immense potential for harnessing clean energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower,” she said.

Samar kicks off planting of giant bamboo

By: Roel Amazona

To address climate change and promote sustainable practices, the Samar provincial government and partners have launched giant bamboo planting on Monday.

Spearheaded by Governor Sharee Ann Tan, the initiative aims to boost the bamboo industry within the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) and at the same time, help to mitigate climate change impacts and foster economic growth.

Officials joined the kick-off at the SINP office in Paranas town.

Implemented in collaboration with various entities, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Northwest Samar State University, Samar State University, and support from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the project focuses on reforesting degraded forest lands and watershed.

Giant bamboo, also known as dragon bamboo, will be planted across seven project sites in five towns – Basey, Sta Rita, Matuguinao, Gandara, and San Jorge, according to Forester Wilfredo Lacambra of Samar Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office.

“This effort will involve 1,154 residents from 26 villages engaging in activities such as site preparation, planting, and documentation and cash-for-work program under the DSWD,” Lacambra said in a phone interview Monday.

The program targets to plant 550 hectares with 110,000 bamboo seedlings in the next five years with PPHP43.98 million in funding from the provincial government and DSWD.

In the first year, the program would require PHP15.43 million with PHP3.93 coming from DSWD under its Recovery and Rehabilitation Program, and PHP11.5 million from the provincial government, which will finance the supply of farm inputs, farm tools, and construction materials for the establishment of nursery among others.

A PHP8.12 million is needed for the next four years for the maintenance and protection expenses, which will be provided by the province.

“The initiative not only seeks to combat climate change but also aims to generate employment, improve living standards, and empower women in the agriculture sector,” Lacambra added.

The project is expected to bring socio-economic impact on the community as this would eventually augment the income of many households and employment.

The Samar Bamboo Project would not only focus on the five towns but could be replicated and scaled up in other areas.

Prior to the planting, officials joined the Samar Bamboo Investment Forum on November 15 at the SINP headquarters in Paranas town where partners expressed their commitment to develop the local bamboo industry.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Jelly Musico

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) began the commemoration of the 16th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week 2023 (CCC Week 2023) with a tree planting and growing activity dubbed “Net Zero Challenge” at the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed in Paete, Laguna on Sunday.

The Net Zero Challenge (NZC) is part of the CCC’s Carbon Neutrality Program in the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed, which aims to offset carbon emissions through nature-based solutions.

This initiative is projected to sequester 75.5 tons of carbon dioxide from 2023 to 2027. The tree planting and growing goes beyond commitments to achieving zero carbon emissions. It also offers advantages in disaster risk reduction, where trees stabilize slopes to minimize the likelihood of landslides and flash floods in the area.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, led the activity, which was attended by Paete Mayor Ronald Cosico, Paete Vice Mayor Vergilio Madridejos Jr., and representatives of Laguna Governor Ramil Hernandez, Laguna 2nd District Rep. Ruth Hernandez, and Kalayaan town Mayor Sandy Laganapan.

In his speech, Borje emphasized the significance of 5Ps: planet, people, plant, partnership and prosperity.

“We are here for our planet. We are here for the people who are affected the most by climate change. We need to plant more trees, dahil malaki ang naitutulong ng mga puno bilang carbon sinks (because trees play big role as carbon sinks),” Borje said.

“Bukod dito, ang mas maraming puno ay nakakatulong sa pagsigla ng ating watershed, nakakatulong din ito sa pagpigil ng baha at pagguho ng lupa (In addition, more trees help revitalize our watershed, it also helps prevent floods and soil erosion). Partnerships with other national government agencies, LGUs [local government units], civil society organizations and communities will give us a better chance of achieving our goal of resiliency and prosperity, lalo na kapag inalagaan natin ang ating kalikasan (especially if protect our environment),” he added.

Cosico expressed his support for the CCC's net zero initiative, emphasizing the need to promote and utilize renewable resources.

“Sa mga ganitong gawain, ang inyo pong linkgod ay very supportive. Tama talagang dapat na natin pagtuunan ng pansin ang climate change. Iba't iba na ang nangyayari sa ating bansa. Tayo, sa bayan ng Paete, nararanasan na rin natin (ang epekto ng climate change). Talagang tayo'y kinakailangan nang magtanim, magtanim, at magtanim dito sa ating bayan ng Paete (I really support this kind of activities. We really have to focus on climate change. Different things are happening in our country. In Paete, we are already experiencing the impact of climate change. We really need to plant more trees here in our town of Paete),” Cosico said.

Together with various organizations and stakeholders, including the Philippine Red Cross and the Net Zero Carbon Alliance, the CCC led the planting of 625 seedlings across a one-hectare expanse within the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed.

In partnership with the National Power Corporation (NPC) and the Paete Sagip Sigla Palay Farmers Association Inc, the Climate Change Commission, through the NZC, targets to plant 15,625 seedlings across a 25-hectare area in the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed, covering the towns of Lumban, Kalayaan, and Cavinti, Laguna.

This initiative offers disaster risk reduction as well as adaptation and mitigation co-benefits that will reduce the damage caused by natural hazards to lives and livelihoods, and bring positive effects on air quality, biodiversity and greenhouse gas emission reduction.

The CCC works continuously to achieve a carbon-neutral, sustainable future, and hopes to replicate similar partnership and resource arrangements with other national government agencies.

“We hope to replicate the partnership and resource arrangements with other NGAs [national government agencies] and LGUs. Ito pong (The) cooperation agreement between the National Power Corporation and the Climate Change Commission makes it possible for partnerships with LGUs like Paete to achieve mitigation targets and build adaptive capacities,” Borje said.

The 16th Annual CCC Week is a week-long event that underscores the importance of community collaboration and collective action to address climate change.

It runs from Nov. 19 to 25 with the theme "Bayanihan Para sa Klima: Bagong Bansa Matatag."

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