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By: Warren De Guzman

A day after a reported Filipino-Chinese incident near Pag-asa Island, US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson reiterated her country's support for the Philippines' claims in the South China Sea.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Private sector key to climate action in the PHL](#)

By: Kim-See Lim and Jean-Marc Arbogast

Beneath the palpable vibrancy of the Philippines, an island country, lies a fragile reality — climate change. Rising temperatures and climate shocks could seriously impact the nation's ability to meet its development goals, highlighting the urgency of a climate action roadmap while posing a vital question: how can the Philippines best tackle the impacts of climate change?

CNN PHILIPPINES

[PH delegation in COP27 mum on fossil fuel phaseout, advocates say](#)

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 21) — As the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) ended on Sunday, Filipino advocates in Egypt questioned the silence of the Philippine delegation regarding the phaseout of fossil fuels.

GMA NEWS

[Cynthia Villar: Gov't must not pursue reclamation projects as it magnifies climate change effects](#)

By: Hana Bordey

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MANILA BULLETIN

[DepED to highlight the role of education towards climate action in 6th NCCC](#)

By: Merlina Hernando-Malipot

To strengthen awareness of climate change adaptation and mitigation, the Department of Education (DepED) will hold the 6th National Climate Change Conference (NCCC) this week.

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COP27, or the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, concluded last Nov. 20, 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt. Based on the closing statement of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the two-week event took “an important step toward climate justice.”

MANILA STANDARD

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By: Tony La Viña

The Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, adopted last Sunday by the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the Framework Convention on Climate Change made history.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[‘President’s trips seek to rebrand Marcos in int’l community’](#)

By: Julie M. Aurelio

President Marcos’ recent string of trips abroad is an attempt at “rehabilitating and repackaging” his family’s name in front of the international community.

[The Philippines is one of the countries most affected by climate change. Here’s how we can adapt.](#)

The world is rapidly changing because of climate change, and it has not stopped affecting the daily lives of people worldwide. The Philippines is one of the countries most affected by climate-related disasters. While other countries are combating climate change in various ways, the Philippines can have an adaptive approach to the situation.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH welcomes new US initiatives on energy, agri, regional peace](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA – The Philippine government on Monday welcomed the new initiatives announced by the United States to strengthen its partnership and alliance with Manila.

PTV NEWS

[Native American tribes win fight for world’s largest dam removal](#)

LOS ANGELES — A federal regulator overseeing hydroelectric dams in the United States has reached a landmark decision to remove four older, problematic dams on the lower Klamath River in Northern California.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Catalyst to boost sustainable adaptations](#)

By: Arch. Ramon Abiera, EUAP

AS countries deal with climate change and increasing devastation caused by disasters, the Philippines must start adapting to help reduce the increasing cost incurred from natural disasters. Since the Typhoon "Yolanda" event, our government has taken steps in mitigating the risk and reducing the impact of climate change.

[DoST chief banners local technologies, innovations at NSTW 2022](#)

WITH less than a week to go, Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) provided a great preview of what the public would expect from the 2022 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) celebration.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[BusinessWorld Economic Forum to explore opportunities amid uncertainty](#)

MANILA, Philippines — While businesses have started bouncing back from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, several shocks have recently hit the global economy, such as the war in Ukraine, heightening inflation and slowdown in growth.

[Long road to climate justice](#)

By: Rey Gamboa

YouTube video blogger Joseph Pasalo recently documented the flooded state of the islands of Batasan and Ubay in the municipality of Tubigan in Bohol. Watching the 17-minute video showing the islands' residents coping with seawater intruding into their homes daily during high tides makes one realize that stories of islands going underwater are no exaggeration.

[Marcos Jr. push for nuclear, renewable energy hailed](#)

By: Delon Porcalla

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos was hailed by his allies in Congress yesterday for putting before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Thailand the initiatives that would benefit the Philippines, like nuclear and renewable energy ventures.

[Think tank: Government should tackle corruption seriously](#)

By: Ranier Allan Ronda

MANILA, Philippines — The government should institute transparency and accountability amid widespread concern among Filipinos on the need to address corruption, according to a think tank.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

[Government, private sector vow to act on climate change promises](#)

By: Jasmin Romero

The Philippine government and the private sector have signed a “statement of commitment” vowing to turn their “climate change commitments into actions” during the 15th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

PTV NEWS

[Climate investment forum kicks off to celebrate climate change consciousness week](#)

The Climate Investment Forum kicks off this year spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission and participated by multiple government agencies and stakeholders.

SMNI NEWS

[Pagtugon sa hamon ng climate change sentro ng talakayan sa Climate Investment Forum 2022](#)

Sama-samang pagtugon sa hamon ng climate change sentro ng talakayan sa Climate Investment Forum 2022.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[US envoy reiterates support for PH claims in disputed sea](#)

By: Warren De Guzman

A day after a reported Filipino-Chinese incident near Pag-asa Island, US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson reiterated her country's support for the Philippines' claims in the South China Sea.

Unable to attend in person as she accompanied US Vice President Kamala Harris during her ongoing visit to the Philippines, US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson sent a recorded statement assuring government, business, and civil society leaders at the Stratbase ADR Institute Pilipinas Conference that Washington is solidly in Manila's corner.

"The United States calls upon the PRC to comply with the legally binding decision of the Arbitral Tribunal in 2016 which firmly rejected the PRC's unlawful claims. We recognize Philippine sovereign rights and jurisdiction with respect to maritime zones in the vicinity of Second Tomas Shoal (Ayungin Shoal) and Reed Bank (Recto Bank)," she said.

"US officials had been clear about our commitment to the mutual defense treaty. As Secretary of State Blinken stated on July 11th, an armed attack on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft in South China Sea, would invoke US mutual defense commitments. That is a direct quote. Secretary of Defense Austin reiterated this commitment on September 1st, stating and I quote 'US mutual defense treaty commitments extend to Philippine armed forces, public vessels and aircraft in the South China Sea.'"

However, Carlson also stressed that the US is also serious about cooperating with China on other matters, particularly in terms of economic interests.

"China is the world's second largest economy and the United States, the Philippines and virtually every country in the world seeks constructive relations with the PRC. We in the United States look to cooperate with China in shared interests, even as we are open and honest where we differ."

Carlson also shared the constructive meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Indonesia yielded some promising commitments for cooperation, particularly on climate.

Carlson said Manila will also be included in efforts to address climate change.

"Climate is also an area where the Philippines and the United States are working together to champion a rules based approach to solving key problems. The Philippines' vulnerability to climate change means Filipinos have an important voice in ongoing efforts to address this challenge. President Marcos's priority to develop clean energy

has led to a long line of US clean energy partnerships with the Philippines which will help spur economic growth and innovation, and will respond to the climate crisis," she said.

Carlson did not disclose further details on the clean energy projects.

But on Monday (Philippine time), the White House unveiled various initiatives to be launched by Harris in time for her Philippine visit, including establishing a dialogue on energy policy and cooperation, initiating talks for a civil nuclear cooperation agreement, supporting the development of a nickel and cobalt processing facility in the Philippines and partnering with local energy Energy Development Corporation to develop a geothermal power project in Mindanao.

Also included in the initiatives by Harris are strengthening the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) between Manila and Washington by allocating \$82 million for EDCA implementation and identifying new EDCA locations, as well as projects on trade, ports development, food security, sustainable agriculture, upskilling, digital economy, human rights and health security.

BUSINESS MIRROR

Private sector key to climate action in the PHL

By: Kim-See Lim and Jean-Marc Arbogast

Beneath the palpable vibrancy of the Philippines, an island country, lies a fragile reality — climate change. Rising temperatures and climate shocks could seriously impact the nation's ability to meet its development goals, highlighting the urgency of a climate action roadmap while posing a vital question: how can the Philippines best tackle the impacts of climate change?

The private sector will be key, reveals the new Philippines Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR), produced jointly by the World Bank and the International Finance Corp. (IFC). The report helps identify opportunities for climate action in the country, supporting low-carbon development, while recommending priority and impactful actions to protect its people, businesses, and the economy.

Given that the Philippines aims to become a high-income economy by 2040, this is crucial. Without action, climate change will impose significant economic and human costs, impacting the poorest the most. As the nation tops this year's World Risk Index, extreme weather events in the Philippines such as floods and typhoons frequently leave behind damages and destruction worth millions of dollars — at times billions. In addition, slow-onset trends of rising temperature, changing rainfall patterns, and rising sea levels, are equally threatening, which brings adaptation to the top of the climate agenda.

Adaptation cannot eliminate the costs of climate change, but it can substantially reduce them. This is key. The CCDR estimates show that the economic damages in the Philippines could reach up to 7.6% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030 and 13.6% of GDP by 2040. All sectors are likely to be affected, with capital-intensive sectors expected to suffer most from extreme events, and agriculture suffering the most from slow-onset trends.

In response, the CCDR underlines that smart policies can remove obstacles, enabling the private sector to take climate action, which requires large-scale investments. Public resources alone cannot meet those funding needs, especially with constrained fiscal space due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The private sector will therefore have to play a bigger role in meeting the growing demand for climate action.

As the country's main growth engine — creating jobs and driving the economy — the private sector's key task at hand is to turn climate risk and associated potential costs into a viable business opportunity, in both adaptation and mitigation. The challenge is to do it in such a way that the potential benefits outweigh the potential costs.

As a leading financier of climate investments globally, we see climate action as a tremendous investment opportunity — it can be beneficial to all stakeholders involved

along with positive outcomes for climate in both short- and longer-term. In alignment, the CCDR outlines key areas for collaboration with the private sector, specifically renewable energy, green buildings, and sustainable finance.

ROAD AHEAD

Though the Philippines is a relatively low emitter of greenhouse gases, emissions are expected to rise from 234 MtCO₂e (Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) in 2020 to 399 MtCO₂e in 2030. The energy sector accounts for 54% of total emissions, while agriculture is the second largest source, accounting for a quarter of emissions.

So, shifting toward renewable energy will be key for the Philippines. Accelerated decarbonization would reduce electricity costs by about 20% below current levels, which is good for the country's competitiveness and would also dramatically reduce air pollution.

Recently, we've been working with a leading integrated energy company in the country to assess the viability of renewable energy as a source of base load power in the Philippines. We are exploring a mix of technologies that can potentially displace fossil fuel-based power sources and reduce CO₂ emissions in the Philippines. That can be a game changer.

Another key area in decarbonization, the CCDR highlights, is green buildings, which can cut emissions and ultimately reduce power bills for people. The Philippines has already made considerable progress in that area. IFC developed the EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) green building certification system— and it has already certified more than 875,000 square meters (sq.m.) of space in the Philippines, preventing 23,000 tons of CO₂ annually and unlocking opportunities for key industry players.

While EDGE is critical to mitigate climate change, resilience of buildings should be the underlying factor for climate change adaptation. That is why developers are using the Building Resilience Index — launched in 2021 — to assess applicable hazards based on location, exploring ways to improve resilience of buildings, and disclosing the resilience level to improve transparency. More than 10 real estate developers in the Philippines are now using this tool across 1.8 million sq.m. of floor space.

Finally, the CCDR recommends working with local financial institutions and regulators to ramp up climate finance. Creating markets for climate business through innovative financial products should be a continued priority, including green and blue bonds, as well as adoption of best international standards. While strong capital markets are key to spurring further financing for green projects, protecting the coastal blue economy is critical. This is because solid waste management and marine plastics are a threat to elements of the blue economy as well as urban public health.

While achieving climate goals and ensuring a greener economy requires significant financial resources, it is not just about the money. It is also about leveraging the expertise and technologies of the private sector. Attracting foreign investors is therefore essential. Much of the technology needed to combat climate change exists in foreign markets and foreign investments can additionally bring best practices required to adapt these new technologies to the Philippine market.

Likewise, public-private partnerships (PPPs) — when properly structured — can offer an efficient and viable way to channel scarce resources available for climate action, while ensuring a fair distribution of risks and rewards among stakeholders. We welcome the government's push in this area. As the CCDR highlights, the Philippines has a wealth of experience and a strong track record of PPPs that can be applied in the climate space.

Moving forward, as we increasingly understand that countries need to work together for a low-carbon world, we are optimistic the CCDR will help inform the nation's dynamic climate-action agenda, helping the Philippines do its part for a resilient future.

CNN PHILIPPINES

[PH delegation in COP27 mum on fossil fuel phaseout, advocates say](#)

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 21) — As the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) ended on Sunday, Filipino advocates in Egypt questioned the silence of the Philippine delegation regarding the phaseout of fossil fuels.

"At COP27, dozens and dozens of governments joined in to say that fossil fuels must be phased out — yet a handful of nations intent on blocking the energy transition prevailed. Many others, like the Philippines' own delegation, shamefully kept mum despite representing highly vulnerable peoples," said Gerry Arances, executive director of Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED).

Advocates said fossil fuels, such as coal, must be phased out to meet world targets for curbing climate change, especially to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures, as stated in the Paris Agreement.

"That is so crucial in making sure that we have a 1.5-degree Celsius world so that loss and damage gets minimized and adaptation gets easier," said climate activist Mitzi Tan.

Tan reminded both world and local leaders that increasing levels of global warming will affect current efforts for adaptation or "the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects."

This call was anchored on a special report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that said exceeding the limit will make climate change effects irreversible. It has been reported that global average temperature was already about 1.2 degrees Celsius in 2020.

"We question the lack of bold statements by the COP27 Philippine government delegation regarding fossil fuel phaseout, especially since the administration of President Bongbong Marcos is actively promoting the expansion of the country's natural gas fleet," said Aksyon Klima Pilipinas convenor Rodne Galicha.

Galicha said such silence "points to the inconsistent, contradictory policy direction" of the Marcos administration on achieving a rapid, just and equitable energy transition and climate action.

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is keen on revisiting nuclear power policies in the country to address climate change, as shown in his previous bilateral talks with France and United States.

Alab Ayroso, national coordinator of Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP), said she felt a "lack of transparency" in the delegation even if civil society organizations had consultations with them during the summit.

"We had the meeting towards the end of the summit and for the most part, we were in the dark of what the official positions of the [Philippine] delegation on the specific climate issues and how they will approach it, particularly in pushing for a climate finance mechanism," Ayroso said.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippine delegation had "work streams" divided into four categories in COP27: loss and damage, adaptation, climate finance, and the inclusion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions avoidance in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The agency also noted that the country's delegation gave inputs to the text on institutional arrangements to operationalize the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage.

"Loss and damage" refer to the negative effects and harm caused by climate change, exacerbated by human activities.

"Included in the text are mentions of human rights, indigenous people, and impacts to communities. One of the subsequent steps would be establishing an operating entity such as a fund or a facility to wholly address loss and damage," it added.

The DENR also said the country also supported the following: appropriate non-market approaches focused on climate policy, such as fiscal measures, progressive phasing out of subsidies for fossil fuels, promoting renewable energies, and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Loss and damage fund

Meanwhile, advocates lauded the agreement to set up a "loss and damage" finance facility at the end of COP27. They noted that the historic victory was made possible with "the collective power of vulnerable and marginalized communities."

"This is a positive step in inching towards justice for those most affected by the climate crisis, and in holding to account historically polluting nations," CEED's Arances said.

While there are still no rules or guidelines set for the loss and damage fund, Tan said this fund could be tapped for immediate calamity relief, reparations for communities affected by severe weather disturbances, or even hazard pay for workers.

"The Philippines pushed for the adoption of a precise definition of 'loss and damage' to include impacts from extreme climate events and slow onset change, to cover economic and non-economic losses, and to establish a mechanism that would fund and deliver technical support to help countries manage loss and damage," the DENR said.

Greenpeace Philippines, on the other hand, said it believes that the government must use this moment to strengthen its support for local communities by demanding accountability from the biggest climate-polluting nations and fossil fuel companies.

"This development on loss and damage is a huge milestone for Filipino communities, and it must not be put to waste," said Virginia Benosa-Llorin, campaigner with Greenpeace Philippines.

GMA NEWS

[Cynthia Villar: Gov't must not pursue reclamation projects as it magnifies climate change effects](#)

By: Hana Bordey

The government should not push through with reclamation activities as this type of project magnifies the effects of climate change in the Philippines, Senator Cynthia Villar said Monday.

"I believe that our government should rethink and not pursue reclamation activities that earnestly threaten our already vulnerable coastal communities and habitats, intensifies flooding and magnifies soil liquefaction," said Villar, chairperson of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, in a recorded speech for the Climate Investment Forum 2022.

"We should not go with our business-as-usual attitude as we face a climate emergency. We are all called to do our part to counter the ill effects of climate change," she added.

Villar likewise urged the public to take climate change seriously as its effects are "more pronounced and felt" in the Philippines.

The government should rally the communities and take appropriate strategies to make the Philippines climate-resilient, she added.

In the latest World Risk Index report, the Philippines has the highest disaster risk among 193 countries around the world.

The Philippines scored high in its exposure, vulnerability, susceptibility, lack of coping capacities, and lack of adaptive capacities in the face of disasters.

During the Senate plenary debates on the 2023 budget, Senator Joel Villanueva raised the information from scientists and fisherfolk groups which claims that there are around 187 reclamation projects all over the country.

Villar, who sponsored the DENR's budget in the Senate, said there are 19 reclamation projects in Manila Bay, two in Cebu and two in Samar. However, there was no data from other regions.

MANILA BULLETIN

[DepED to highlight the role of education towards climate action in 6th NCCC](#)

By: Merlina Hernando-Malipot

To strengthen awareness of climate change adaptation and mitigation, the Department of Education (DepED) will hold the 6th National Climate Change Conference (NCCC) this week.

DepED, through its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), has partnered with the University of the Philippines Los Baños University Library for the conduct of the 6th NCCC scheduled on Nov. 23 to 25.

With the theme “Responding to Climate Change: Role of Education towards Climate Action,” the 6th NCCC also aims to “increase the participation” of learners, the academic community, and DepEd personnel in climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions.

Based on the program, Vice President and DepEd Secretary Sara Z. Duterte-Carpio is expected to deliver the keynote speech. UPLB officials are also expected to give inspirational messages related to the event.

The 6th NCCC is part of DepED’s commitment to climate action and as mandated by the Republic Act 9729, otherwise known as the Climate Change Act of 2009 which provides, among others, the role of the department in integrating with its plans, programs, policies and activities the concepts of climate change.

Currently, DepED is integrating climate change principles and concepts into the primary and secondary education curricula or subjects.

Moreover, the DRRMS serves as the lead focal and coordinative unit of the DepED in Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).

The DRRMS, in response to the urgent call for climate action and empowerment, will hold the 6th NCCC which aims to provide a space for knowledge-sharing and learning platforms consistent with the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC)’s identified range of education options for climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and the National Climate Change Action Plan for 2011 – 2028 priority for knowledge and capacity development on climate change

The said conference is organized with the support of UPLB University Library through its ALIVERary BOOKS Program.

The event aims to strengthen awareness of climate change adaptation and mitigation and increase the participation of learners and DepEd personnel and stakeholders in climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions.

Specifically, the conference also aims to provide a space for an exchange of discussion from views, perspectives, and experiences on climate change and what to do about it and discuss differentiated roles of learners, teachers, and schools on climate change and climate action.

Moreover, the 6th NCCC aims to provide a platform for discussion and collaboration among learners, personnel, academe, civil society, and other stakeholders

The expected outputs at the end of the implementation of the NCCC include the conduct of climate education and climate action advocacy campaign; participants have an improved understanding of the science of climate change; and an appreciation of the differentiated roles and responsibilities towards climate action.

The 6th NCCC will be livestreamed via the official Facebook pages and YouTube channel of DepEd Philippines, DepEd Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service, and UPLB University Library.

[\[Opinion\] COP27 concludes with a step toward climate justice](#)

COP27, or the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, concluded last Nov. 20, 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt. Based on the closing statement of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the two-week event took “an important step toward climate justice.”

“I welcome the decision to establish a ‘loss and damage fund’ and to operationalize it in the coming period,” Guterres said, as he underscored the fact that voices of those on the frontlines of the climate crisis must be heard.

“Loss and damage,” as the UN defines it, “are those arising from the adverse effects of climate change, which include those related to extreme weather events but also slow onset events, such as sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.” To put it simply, “loss and damage” is the result of human-induced climate change, which has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people.

Through the years, establishing a funding mechanism to compensate vulnerable nations for “loss and damage” from climate-induced disasters has been a thorny issue. It could also be recalled that the Philippines, in past and present COP meets, has called for this compensatory move. No less than the President, in his first UN General Assembly address, said that the country is the “least responsible yet suffers the most from climate change.”

“The Philippines is a net carbon sink... we absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the fourth most vulnerable nation to the effects of climate change,” the President said. “This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now. Industrialized countries must fulfill their obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing and technology transfer.” This statement forms the foundation of the stand of the Philippines on the negotiation table.

During days of intense negotiations, developing countries made strong and repeated appeals for the establishment of a “loss and damage fund” to compensate countries most vulnerable to climate change, yet contributed little to it.

“Clearly this will not be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust,” Guterres said.

Though COP27 presented a step toward climate justice, some governments and organizations were not satisfied with the outcome, as there were gaps and challenges that were not addressed. The UN chief acknowledged it and reminded the world of the remaining priorities regarding climate action, including the ambition to reduce global

greenhouse gas emissions and keep alive the Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree Celsius limit.

"We need to drastically reduce emissions now — and this is an issue that this COP didn't address," Guterres lamented. He said that the world still needs to "make a giant leap on climate ambition, and to end its addiction to fossil fuels by investing in renewable energy."

It turns out that the conclusion of the COP27 summit is just the beginning of more work needed for the planet. Reiterating a statement from Kenyan environmental activist Elizabeth Wathuti, she said, "COP27 may be over, but the fight for a safe future is not. It is now more urgent than ever that political leaders work to agree on a global deal to protect and restore nature."

Now, more than ever, Filipinos must not waver in the call for climate justice as our future, and our children's future, which is now at stake.

MANILA STANDARD

[\[Opinion\] Finally, a win on climate loss and damage](#)

By: Tony La Viña

The Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, adopted last Sunday by the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the Framework Convention on Climate Change made history.

After 30 years, COP 27 finally adopted a decision on loss and damage. While there are still many details to be threshed out, the significance of this development should not be understated.

Among others, COP 27 acknowledged the “urgent and immediate need for new, additional, predictable and adequate financial resources to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.”

It also established a transitional committee to operationalize funding arrangement that would address loss of lives and damage to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, and, in my view, non-economic assets resulting from climate change.

As expressed by Manila Observatory colleagues who witnessed the final hours of COP 27: “The creation of a loss and damage fund is a definite win, especially for developing countries, who have been experiencing the brunt of the climate crisis.

“It is a win for communities on the ground, frontline workers, and climate activists who have been calling for the creation of a facility that can adequately respond to climate needs; however, it is still a long road ahead for loss and damage – the specifics of the fund still need to be laid out, and the source of the fund remain to be identified.

“The next few months and years, therefore, will serve as proof of whether countries follow through with their promise to work together to meet the global goal set in the Paris Agreement, and, in the process, achieve climate justice.”

This fight began way back in 1996 when developing countries wanted a Clean Development Fund to be funded by developed countries as compensation for their historical emissions.

But that was hijacked in Kyoto by developed countries and became the Clean Development Mechanism that allowed offsets and credits. This time, the developing countries did not blink and had their eye on the ball.

There was huge resistance by developed countries but that crumbled slowly because of the weight of the moral imperative which translated into political pressure.

I was one of the few who was sure we would have a good outcome on loss and damage but I did not expect it to be this strong. Earlier this year, the Manila Observatory, supported by The Stockholm Institute, Samdhana, and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, convened a meeting in Bohol on this issue.

In that meeting, participants identified ideas of of a global, national, and loss and damage systems which addresses local needs and lived experiences.

The financing facility should be additional to existing financing for adaptation and mitigation, considering they tackle different issues and, therefore, respond to different needs.

It should be accessible and requirements to access the fund should be as least onerous as possible.

This means reducing the bureaucracy that comes with drafting concept notes and applying for grants, as well as lessening the number of signatories who will have to sign off prior to the release of the amount needed.

The facility, whichever form it holds, should not impose additional burdens on the communities.

This means the money should not be given in the form of a loan, which will further disadvantage communities, who will then have to think about not just repayment, but the cost of interest and collaterals.

It should build on the capabilities and accountability of vulnerable communities.

Those communities on the ground facing the brunt of climate hazards are also among those with the most knowledge on how to utilize the money in a way that benefits the communities most, whether this is through improving their early warning systems, climate education, resettlement, or rehabilitation.

Finally, the facility should be founded on equity and justice.

It is understood that those who contribute the least to climate change are those who are most affected by it, and therefore those who have benefited the most from industrialization and the consumption and burning of fossil fuels should assist those who experience the brunt of an ever-heating world.

It is therefore an issue of climate justice. This was a solid and good outcome.

I actually expected much less — more of a process decision than actually the establishment of loss and damage funding arrangements which is probably a fund, which is a better option than a facility.

One thing that should be highlighted is the role of Vice Yu, Filipino lawyer, in the loss and damage negotiations as lead for the Group of 77 and China.

It's a pity that he no longer represents the Philippines. The Marcos government should bring him back and ask him to join the delegation again. Overnight, we will gain influence in the process as we used to before.

Vice will continue to lead the Group of 77 in the loss and damage negotiations as details of the Fund will have to be worked out. He is also leading G77 in the global stocktake discussions.

The loss and damage victory is good. But we must also now pay attention to the global stocktake to be finalized by 2025 where the next generation of mitigation commitments will probably be made.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

'President's trips seek to rebrand Marcos in int'l community'

By: Julie M. Aurelio

President Marcos' recent string of trips abroad is an attempt at "rehabilitating and repackaging" his family's name in front of the international community.

A Makabayan lawmaker made this remark a few days after Mr. Marcos returned from Thailand where he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit last week.

On Monday, House deputy minority leader Rep. France Castro said the President's recent foreign trips were not really for the benefit of Filipinos, but for his family.

"The string of foreign trips is more for rehabilitating and repackaging the Marcos name in front of the international community, rather than uplifting the lives of Filipinos," she said.

Castro added: "By hobnobbing with the current movers and shakers of the world, the President is slowly trying to erase the corruption-laden and human rights violations-rife name of his father."

Mr. Marcos' father, former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr., ruled the country for two decades by imposing martial law—a period which was marked by human rights violations.

The President returned on Saturday night after attending the Apec summit in Bangkok. Days earlier, he attended the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in Cambodia.

Castro noted the President's remarks during the Apec summit where he raised issues such as food security, pandemic preparedness, the environment and the impact of climate change.

"He went to the Apec saying countries must prioritize food security, continue to invest in pandemic preparedness and ensure the resilience of the global health system. But what is happening in the Philippines? Farmers still do not own the land they till and there is also rampant land use conversion of agricultural lands to residential and industrial use of his allies," she said.

She added: "The President also talked about the environment and climate change, but government policies in the Philippines continue to exacerbate such problems due to large scale mining, deforestation and making of mega dams."

Earlier, Mr. Marcos also made state visits to Indonesia and Singapore, followed by a working visit to the United States.

In December, the President is expected to attend a summit of the Asean and the European Union to be held in Brussels, Belgium.

[The Philippines is one of the countries most affected by climate change. Here's how we can adapt.](#)

The world is rapidly changing because of climate change, and it has not stopped affecting the daily lives of people worldwide. The Philippines is one of the countries most affected by climate-related disasters. While other countries are combating climate change in various ways, the Philippines can have an adaptive approach to the situation.

Climate adaptation recognizes the need of vulnerable countries to have a more proactive approach to climate change. By enacting new laws or finding more ways to better protect and strengthen resilience, the country may have a chance at combating climate change.

For one, the Philippines may apply climate adaptation to find specific points that need to be improved in the country. A new report published last February by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change zeroes in on strategies countries may use to mitigate the consequences of climate change.

1. Educate yourself on climate and environmental issues

Stronger typhoons, landslides, flash floods, and extreme droughts are only some of the common effects of climate change that now commonly occur all over the country. These often result in damaging effects to people's quality of life, threatening housing, crop yields, livelihood, and overall safety.

While the issue of climate change is slowly being recognized in the Philippines, the lack of climate or environmental awareness further contributes to the worsening climate events in the country.

Climate change has brought alarming effects globally, bringing hotter temperatures, more severe storms and increased drought, warming and rising of oceans, and even health risks brought about by extreme weather events, pollution, and production of sufficient food. On the ground, people must realize that adapting to climate change takes root in commitments that must be fulfilled long-term, and it starts with making wiser choices and acting on the issue happening worldwide.

2. Make conscious lifestyle choices

The climate crisis may seem like such a big and daunting thing to address. But everyone can do something in our own way to help stop the effects of climate change from getting even worse.

Start small, such as observing your day-to-day choices. Instead of paying for single-use plastics during grocery runs, bring eco-bags or reusable containers. When buying a shirt, should you pick one that will be usable for only a few occasions or one with a quality that can last years?

Another way is by reducing meat consumption in meal planning. Agriculture contributes to carbon emissions and deforestation as large food companies respond to consumer demand by burning down forests to create more space for livestock.

3. Support businesses that get their energy supply from clean and renewable sources

There are big corporations in the Philippines that still use coal, an energy source proven to release huge amounts of carbon and other pollutants into the atmosphere once burned. Carbon in the atmosphere traps heat, making the Earth warmer and disrupting the climate.

The reason why renewable energy is promoted is because it's the safer and cleaner source of energy. Wind, solar, geothermal, and hydro are only some of the renewable sources of energy available in the country.

The more we support companies that champion renewable and clean energy in creating products, lesser greenhouse gases will be released into our atmosphere. Businesses are most likely to switch to clean energy sources if they see consumers choosing to support eco-friendly companies.

One company that provides businesses with power from clean and renewable sources of energy is First Gen Corporation. First Gen, a pioneer in the industry with its clean and renewable energy platforms, is committed to its mission of decarbonization and regeneration.

First Gen utilizes geothermal, hydro, wind, solar, and natural gas to provide power.

Operating over 30 power plants and projects all over the country, First Gen is committed to transitioning to a 100% renewable future.

Take part in your community and find ways to help the country adapt to climate change.

Adapting to climate change takes more than one step but it takes everyday efforts to make it possible. Look forward to a greener future by making conscious efforts everyday.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH welcomes new US initiatives on energy, agri, regional peace](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA – The Philippine government on Monday welcomed the new initiatives announced by the United States to strengthen its partnership and alliance with Manila.

The initiatives, announced through a White House factsheet on the day Vice President Kamala Harris flew to Manila, cover climate change, energy security, food security, digital economy, the overall promotion of regional peace and stability.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said these initiatives represent concrete deliverables following the bilateral meeting of President Ferdinand R. Marcos and President Joseph Biden on the sidelines of the 77th UN General Assembly last September.

"The Philippines and United States agree on the importance of strengthening the economic security of the Philippines so that we might have the capacity to meet both our individual and collective challenges," the DFA said in a statement.

"We hope to continue the extensive bilateral engagements between our two countries with a view to achieving tangible, relevant and substantial outcomes in support of the economic development objectives of the Philippines," it added.

READ: PH, US to hold talks on civil nuclear cooperation deal

Harris is set to launch the following initiatives throughout her Manila and Palawan trip:

-- Energy policy dialogue, a high-level platform for the two nations to develop new forms of energy cooperation, including on short and long-term energy planning, offshore wind development, and grid stability and power transmission

-- 123 Agreement Negotiations for Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation

-- Project to support critical mineral supply chains

-- Construction of a geothermal power in Mindanao

-- Opening of a US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) office to help US companies and financiers invest and support the energy and infrastructure needs of the Philippines

-- Indo-Pacific Smart and Secure Ports Development

Food security

-- Food security dialogue between the US Department of Agriculture, with participation from USAID and the US Department of State

-- Issuance of a USD20 million US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) loan to enable Agri Exim Global Philippines Inc., a local processor of organic coconuts into derivative products, to grow its processing facilities in the Philippines

Digital economy

-- Expansion of access to reliable and secure 5G networks

-- USAID support on the launch of the first Low Earth Orbit Satellite Broadband Service in Southeast Asia, in partnership with SpaceX Starlink

-- Providing digital opportunities to small businesses, empowering highly skilled workers, and investing in women entrepreneurs

Human rights, health security

-- US' plan to support the Philippines-UN Joint Programme for Human Rights

-- Elevation of the US-Philippines health security partnership, building on its more than USD46 million in assistance for the Philippines

-- Healthcare for Veterans

-- Program to combat the online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) and support OSEC survivors in the Philippines

Harris arrived in Manila from Thailand on Sunday night.

On Nov. 21, the US vice president is scheduled to meet President Marcos and Vice President Sara Duterte. She will then meet communities and representatives of the Philippine Coast Guard in Palawan on the next day.

PTV NEWS

[Native American tribes win fight for world's largest dam removal](#)

LOS ANGELES — A federal regulator overseeing hydroelectric dams in the United States has reached a landmark decision to remove four older, problematic dams on the lower Klamath River in Northern California.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) decision would allow the dams to be decommissioned and removed to allow salmon to reach their natural spawning grounds hundreds of miles upstream. It highlighted a victory for local Native American tribes and environmentalist groups after decades of coordinated efforts.

This dam demolition project, at the cost of 500 million U.S. dollars, would be the world's largest dam removal and river restoration project.

"The Klamath salmon are coming home," proclaimed Yurok Chairman Joseph James after Thursday's vote. "The people have earned this victory, and with it, we carry on our sacred duty to the fish that have sustained our people since the beginning of time."

Yurok, an Indigenous people from along the Klamath River and Pacific coast with about 7,000 members, have fished along the Klamath River for thousands of years along with the Hupa, Karuk and Klamath tribes.

By the 1870s, the population of all Indigenous peoples on the Klamath had declined by 75 percent due to violence or disease triggered by uncontrolled logging and mining by the settlers during the California Gold Rush. Their populations were further reduced after the forced removal of children to Indian boarding schools.

The Yurok lost their rights to fish in the 1930s. When the fourth dam was finally built in the 1960s, salmon in the river was nearly completely extinct.

The Klamath, once the third-largest salmon river on the West Coast, combined with its watershed, covers 14,500 square miles (37,500 square km), stretching from Oregon to California.

However, starting in 1918, with the last built in 1968, man-made dams sliced the river into two halves, effectively cutting salmon off from their spawning grounds and decimating their populations. This destroyed traditional fishing grounds for Native Americans, commercial fisheries and wildlife dependent on fish to live.

The dams also reduced water quality by causing stagnation and toxic algae blooms and increased water temperatures and the spread of diseases afflicting fish and other water-based life. Studies show that removing the dams can reverse these adverse effects and restore salmon populations.

FERC's decision was reached nearly two decades after the Kalamath dams caused a catastrophic environmental imbalance in 2002 that killed an estimated 70,000 salmon before they could spawn, decimating the salmon population virtually overnight.

That manufactured crisis brought together an unlikely group of vocal opponents united in their determination to un-dam the Klamath River, including not just Klamath River Tribes and conservationists but commercial fishermen and community groups.

The group finally reached its goal two decades later.

"After the 2002 Fish Kill we committed ourselves to defending our river and our cultures no matter what it would take," Mollie Myers, member of the Karuk Tribe and co-founder of the Klamath Justice Coalition, told local Lost Coast Outpost newspaper, "That kind of extraordinary commitment by ordinary Indians is what led to this victory."

"FERC's decision to retire PacifiCorp's dams is the result of years of difficult work by our dedicated North Coast tribes, conservationists, the leadership of California and Oregon, and members of Congress," said Rep Huffman, Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, and an active supporter of the dams' removal.

Tom Kiernan, president of American Rivers, was quoted by the Lost Coast Outpost as saying that the vote comes at a critical time when human-caused climate change is hammering the Western United States with devastating droughts.

He explained that allowing California's second-largest river to flow without artificial obstructions and its flood plains and wetlands to function naturally would reduce or even do away with those negative impacts.

"The best way of managing increasing floods and droughts is to allow the river system to be healthy and do its thing," Kiernan said.

THE MANILA TIMES

Catalyst to boost sustainable adaptations

By: Arch. Ramon Abiera, EUAP

AS countries deal with climate change and increasing devastation caused by disasters, the Philippines must start adapting to help reduce the increasing cost incurred from natural disasters. Since the Typhoon "Yolanda" event, our government has taken steps in mitigating the risk and reducing the impact of climate change.

National and local units have constantly prepared, equipped, stocked up and are ready to assist in rescue and evacuation of critical areas. Globally, these same efforts have likewise been organized with proper funding and training. The number of casualties has gone down and action time has become faster and more effective. While many cities are expanding, millions of people still need adequate and safe housing.

The latest COP27 has sessions that will showcase how building codes, empowered participation, collaboration and climate finance can boost the delivery of resilient, healthy, equitable and efficient buildings. The key word is to boost the delivery of resilient, healthy, equitable and efficient buildings. Unfortunately, the number and ferocity of natural disasters are increasing, and the cost of assistance and rebuilding, rehabilitation and recovery efforts are increasing. A single event of massive flooding caused by tropical cyclones can cause severe negative impact in terms at the local and national level.

Our national growth targets can be set back several steps and put pressure on our food security, economy and society. Due to our geographic location and being an archipelago composed of 7000+ islands, the Philippines is vulnerable to many natural disasters. Typhoons have been visiting more frequently recently with increased rainfall and ferocious winds. Earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, tsunami, storm surges, drought, subsidence (sinking of an area of land) and sea level rise are among the natural events that cause added major impact in terms of the local and national level. While risk reduction and mitigation policies and preparations are good, it is already time to boost the delivery of resilient, healthy, equitable and efficient buildings through sustainable adaptations into our built environment, infrastructure and buildings. The devastating ferocity of natural disaster is here to stay due to climate change and we must adapt now.

For some time now, many efforts have been taken to develop, educate and demonstrate the various strategies and techniques through lectures, seminars and workshops all over our country, more so after the Yolanda event. I recently had the opportunity to attend the UAP Gold 3rd Liturgical Architects Conference in Bohol. Many important churches were affected by the Bohol earthquake a few years back. We visited several that have already been restored or rebuilt. It dawned on me that to accelerate the delivery of resilient, healthy, equitable and efficient buildings, we need to identify catalysts that may boost the adaptation process.

The value of our dwindling natural resources is important to human activity such as construction of our built environments, transportation, industry, etc. God provided us with natural resources and we should use them wisely and sustainably for future generations. The various churches may need to adapt green strategies to their own facilities. More importantly, all churches can also become significant catalysts in boosting the adaptation process among its communities and parishioners. After all, everyone is a co-beneficiary of resilient, efficient homes, buildings and communities. I suggest a ministry on sustainability may be essential to advocate the wise use of God's gift of natural resources. Through the empowered participation, with the collaboration of church and their parishioners and communities, we can truly say that everyone is given the opportunity to play a more active role in nation-building by acting and adaptation to the impacts of disasters.

As an advocate of resiliency and sustainability, I was given the privilege of conducting a green building orientation for 160 local government units (LGUs) throughout the country. The aim is to provide LGUs, through their engineering offices, with an improved appreciation and working knowledge on the fundamental concepts, principles and strategies that underlie "green buildings."

Again, it dawned on me that LGUs all over the country can become effective catalysts in their own areas and among their respective communities. Through my presentations, I have encouraged them to become the catalyst to boost the delivery of resilient, healthy, equitable and efficient buildings. It was also stressed that, after all, everyone is a co-beneficiary of resilient, efficient homes, buildings and communities. Through the empowered participation, collaboration of LGUs and their communities, we can truly say that everyone is given the opportunity to play a more active role in nation-building by acting and adapting to the impact of disasters. I suggested to assign or appoint a sustainability focal person in their LGUs to advocate for a more sustainable and resilient community.

Professional organizations such as the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) and others can also be an effective catalyst for boosting the design and delivery of resilient, healthy, equitable and efficient buildings. I know that the UAP has been advocating for sustainable, resilient green designs for buildings, and it can advocate for the adaptations into our designs of its members and sphere of influence. The knowledge gap in general has been bridged by this time and now is the time to put the knowledge and skills into action. Through the empowered participation, collaboration of the UAP with their communities, we can truly say that everyone is given the opportunity to play a more active role in nation-building by acting and adapting to the impact of disasters.

The effects of climate change are a global problem and require a global solution... meaning all of us!!!

The author is Arch. Ramon L. Abiera, EUAP, an architect and environmental planner, CIAC-accredited construction arbitrator and an advocate of green buildings, resiliency

and sustainability of our built environment, EDGE expert and auditor, ICFG director, an inventor, resource speaker and writer. He also was privileged to have served in government as executive director III of the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines.

DoST chief banners local technologies, innovations at NSTW 2022

WITH less than a week to go, Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) provided a great preview of what the public would expect from the 2022 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) celebration.

Slated from November 23 to 27, 2022, at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, carrying the theme, "Agham at Teknolohiya: Kabalikat sa Maunlad at Matatag na Kinabukasan,"

Solidum shared that this year's NSTW celebration will highlight the efforts and innovative solutions offered by the local scientific community spearhead by the DoST, its attached agencies and the regions.

In his interview in CNN Philippines' "The Final World" hosted by Rico Hizon, Solidum said that 2022 NSTW will be filled with exciting techno-exhibits and relevant and interesting scientific fora, webinars, and career talks that are related to energy, transport solutions and logistics, agriculture and food security, health, job creation, blue and green economy, environment and sustainability, education, and international linkages.

He added that the 2022 NSTW will also focus on research and development projects and services related to agriculture, food security, health, environment, water, blue economy and job creation.

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[BusinessWorld Economic Forum to explore opportunities amid uncertainty](#)

MANILA, Philippines — While businesses have started bouncing back from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, several shocks have recently hit the global economy, such as the war in Ukraine, heightening inflation and slowdown in growth.

Worse, as these risks continue clouding the outlooks, the possibility of another recession in 2023 is looming.

In spite of these deepening uncertainties, however, several opportunities still rise for building a better and more inclusive future in a post-pandemic landscape. Thus, on top of preparing to respond to future disruptions, businesses today can spot and grab opportunities to create system changes, start sectoral shifts, refocus economic plans, innovate business strategies and maximize areas of growth and collaboration.

As it returns as a face-to-face event on Nov. 29 at Grand Hyatt Manila, the award-winning BusinessWorld Economic Forum will guide the Philippine business community in discovering areas where opportunities thrive.

Themed “Forecast 2023: Opportunity in Uncertainty,” this year’s forum will once again set the stage for topnotch speakers and experts to talk about the most relevant economic, sectoral and business topics and issues with an audience composed of the country’s top decision-makers, policymakers, industry and business leaders, as well as investors, professionals and entrepreneurs.

Grounding the day-long forum are keynotes from Speaker Martin Romualdez on “Key Legislative Measures to Boost Philippine Businesses;” Finance Secretary Ben Diokno on “Sustaining Recovery through Mounting Risks;” Krishna Srinivasan, director of IMF’s Asia Pacific Department, on the economic outlook for 2023 and Neo Gim Huay, managing director of the Centre for Nature and Climate at the World Economic Forum, on “Transforming the World for the Better: Updates on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

The panel discussions, meanwhile, will focus on the opportunities being brought to critical sectors of the Philippine economy, including agriculture, energy, technology and education.

Complementing these weighty discussions are one-on-one fireside chats that will take a thorough look at particular trends shaping businesses and workforces at present.

In addition, during the forum BusinessWorld will launch its newest offering called BWorldX, an e-commerce site that will bring together the print and digital products as well as exclusive content from the trusted business newspaper and multimedia content provider.

This year's Economic Forum will be hosted by One News anchor Danie Laurel.

Alongside these keynotes, discussions and talks that are expected to provide fresh and valuable perspectives, the forum will also provide on-site networking opportunities for forum attendees to engage with each other, as well as with potential business partners and clients.

Attendees can also expect booth exhibits from brand partners and sponsors.

BusinessWorld Economic Forum 2022 is presented by Megaworld Corp., with gold sponsors Ayala Corp., PLDT and Smart, Turkish Airlines and NGCP; silver sponsors Metro Pacific Investments Corp., Globe, BPI, Meralco, BDO, GT Capital, Wilcon Depot Inc., Toyota and SMIC; bronze sponsors First Gen Corp., GCash, SGV & Co. and Aboitiz InfraCapital, OnwardIR, Unilab; and donor Aboitiz Power and Upson International Corporation.

Partner organizations include American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Asia Society of the Philippines, British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, French Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Management Association of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Franchise Association, Philippine Retailers Association.

Media partners are One News and The Philippine STAR.

Long road to climate justice

By: Rey Gamboa

YouTube video blogger Joseph Pasalo recently documented the flooded state of the islands of Batasan and Ubay in the municipality of Tubigan in Bohol. Watching the 17-minute video showing the islands' residents coping with seawater intruding into their homes daily during high tides makes one realize that stories of islands going underwater are no exaggeration.

Closer to Metro Manila, multi-awarded photo journalist James Whitlow Delano documented life in the islands of Salambao and Binuangan in Obando, Bulacan where community residents are also threatened daily by high tides.

It's easy to jump to the conclusion that these islands' current predicaments are directly attributable to climate change, and therefore eligible to compensation from a "loss and damage" fund that developed nations represented in this year's UN Climate Change Conference or COP27 had finally agreed on.

Unfortunately, difficult as it was for rich nations to agree on the idea of setting up a loss and damage fund, fleshing out the all-important details in coming months, i.e., how much money is to be pooled and who will be eligible to draw from it will be much tougher.

In the cases of the four Philippine islands mentioned earlier, eligibility to monetary assistance for damages to their homes and livelihoods will be subjected to intense scrutiny.

Contentious issue

Providing compensation for damages brought about by harsher climates continues to be a contentious issue. Rich countries that are being held responsible for the continuing rise in the world's temperature still choose to be skeptical on the cause of extreme climate changes that the world is experiencing.

Record droughts and flooding, storms more vicious and with increasing regularity, and extreme heat or cold temperatures may be difficult to ignore, but attributing these to global warming is still something that is very much open to debate.

Expect the mechanics of this loss and damage fund to go through a wringer, and in the end, not able to provide help to those who matter. For example, residents of Salambao and Binuangan in Bulacan have to prove that rising ocean levels caused by melting snowcaps have contributed to their lands being submerged in water, however, over-extraction of groundwater from deep wells starting in 2003, is reason for many parts of Bulacan to have sunk by 1.5 and 2.5 inches.

Batasan and Ubay, as with two other islands in Bohol, have sunk by more than a meter in 2013 after a 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit the province. Can one blame an earthquake to be caused by global warming?

While there is immutable evidence that demonstrates global sea levels have been rising by 0.11 inches yearly, what happened in the four islands mentioned above show that this is not enough reason for the affected communities to receive aid from a loss and damage fund. That being the case, let's not get our hopes up anytime soon.

Adaptation fund

To some of those who attended COP27, an adaptation fund would be a more practical alternative to the loss and damage fund. This skips the thorny debate of culpability for global warming, and is more open to raising funds to help distressed communities.

As one delegate had said, communities like those in Pakistan that suffered flooding need all the help they can get after losing their homes and livelihoods. Just like Filipino farmers whose lands are hit by strong typhoons, money is needed to help them survive the days until they are able to fend for themselves again.

While there were clear commitments in 2009 by developed countries to contribute to a fund of \$100 billion every year by 2020 for climate adaptation and mitigation, the amount has never been fully delivered. Still, there were funds coming in that could be used.

With worsening climates in recent years, the clamor to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 has been proposed. During last year's COP, this doubling of funds was supported and passed, and while there is a possibility that the full amount will not be delivered again, more money will still be possible.

The UN has issued several reports that demonstrated progress in disbursing the funds for adaptation, and how this has helped beneficiary communities. The Philippines, in fact, has been able to draw from this fund to help identified communities adapt to climate impact without having to go through a debate on whether the damage was caused by global warming.

This focus on adaptation over mitigation recognizes the increasing number of destructions caused by worsening climates. Adaptation answers the need to come up with measures to cope with disasters and the building of more resilient communities. On the other hand, mitigation is more susceptible to greenwashing debates, where big countries and companies support a gradual phasing out of fossil fuel use rather than an immediate and total shift to renewable energies.

With more funds available for adaptation strategies, developing countries must push forward with the view that these funds should be available not as loans but as grants so as not to raise distressed countries' debt burdens.

Doubling mitigation efforts

The debate on mitigation must continue, and the goal to keep global warming to below 1.5°C must be kept alive. Countries like the US, China, and India, which are responsible for the highest greenhouse gas emissions in the world, must do more.

After wasting seven years doing little to bring down greenhouse gas emissions, the world must work double time during the next seven years to keep global temperatures from exceeding 1.5°C, and hopefully prevent worse catastrophes.

Marcos Jr. push for nuclear, renewable energy hailed

By: Delon Porcalla

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos was hailed by his allies in Congress yesterday for putting before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Thailand the initiatives that would benefit the Philippines, like nuclear and renewable energy ventures.

Representatives Joey Salceda of Albay and LRay Villafuerte of Camarines Sur said Marcos did well as he pitched for a nuclear energy partnership with France to reduce high costs of electricity in the Philippines. He also pushed for the use of renewable energy (RE) in the country.

“PBBM made significant strides in concretizing our old friendships with countries like France. I am particularly excited about the talks he initiated on nuclear energy, as part of a broader effort towards shifting our energy mix away from coal,” Salceda said.

The chairman of the House committee on ways and means also lauded the President’s voice on the Philippines’ “moral ascendancy in ecological matters” that “drove the declaration towards a more green and circular economy, through the Bangkok Goals set during the summit.”

Villafuerte was glad that Marcos brought up the use of RE, which is at the “top of government’s climate agenda.”

“We will increase our use of renewable energy sources such as hydropower, geothermal power, solar and wind,” he quoted Marcos as saying.

“President Marcos’ resolute advocacy of urgent climate action on the international stage – from New York to Bangkok – has cast our Chief Executive, whether he likes or not, as the champion or point person of high-risk developing economies like the Philippines,” he said.

Villafuerte also congratulated Marcos for “pushing strongly for collective action from APEC’s 21 member states on dealing with three urgent measures to hasten global recovery from COVID-19, and one of these is climate change.”

Salceda also lauded the Chief Executive’s meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also the prime minister of Saudi Arabia, for arriving at a handsome solution to a thorny issue between the two countries.

In that meeting, Riyadh set aside SR2 billion (about P30.5 billion) for the compensation of some 10,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) left unpaid when their Saudi firms went bankrupt in 2015 and 2016.

“This is possibly the biggest migrant compensation deal any President of the country ever achieved. That also strengthens our continued partnership, and promises even more opportunities for Filipino migrant workers. So, that’s a slam dunk,” said Salceda. “As a country that both suffers from climate change and imports around a third of its food supply, it is in our best interest to pursue global cooperation on these issues,” he said.

“Overall, it was consistent with the general tone of this administration: not too flashy but deliberate; not too theatrical, but delivers concrete accomplishments. This government shoots and scores,” he added.

Think tank: Government should tackle corruption seriously

By: Ranier Allan Ronda

MANILA, Philippines — The government should institute transparency and accountability amid widespread concern among Filipinos on the need to address corruption, according to a think tank.

Citing results of the latest Pulse Asia survey that showed 92 percent of Filipinos agreeing that the government should strengthen anti-corruption laws, representatives, agencies and collective mechanisms to implement and fulfill its international commitment to battling corruption, Stratbase-Albert del Rosario Institute (ADRI) noted that there is a prevailing concern among Filipinos for the need to effectively tackle the sticky problem of government corruption.

“What we want is for government institutions to become more transparent, accountable and responsive in terms of delivering public services, in terms of managing the public sector. Because at the end of the day, they exist for the general public alone and for the national interest of the Filipino people alone. So that’s very key,” Stratbase-ADRI chief executive officer Dindo Manhit said.

The same Pulse Asia survey showed that 36 percent of Filipinos believe that controlling corruption will benefit the country’s economic recovery and development while 22 percent believe that it will improve the plight of ordinary citizens.

The survey also showed that 91 percent of Filipinos believe that to effectively control corruption, the government should cooperate with various social forces and groups, like civil society, academe, private sector, mass media and ordinary citizens.

Manhit, who is also Democracy Watch Philippines lead convenor, disclosed the survey results in an online forum last Thursday discussing evidence-based research and advocacy for democratic governance.

The survey was conducted last Sept. 17 to 21 and was commissioned by the Stratbase Group.

Manhit stressed that concerns regarding transparency and accountability in the government would not be addressed unless it is prioritized by the government.

“A very important value that we lack in our governance culture: accountability... I like the Filipino word pananagutan. Imagine if the public sector is accountable for their actions and their decisions in a more transparent way, then ... it leads me to my third word which is ‘responsive,’ then they become more responsive. The public would feel that this government is serving us,” he said.

“Considering that a majority of our people are poor, imagine the responsive governance system – they can basically uplift the lives of our people because resources after

resources are placed in the bureaucracy. That's money spent coming from people's taxes," he added.

With the Marcos government's proposed P5.268-trillion budget for 2023, Manhit underscored the need to ensure that public funds are spent efficiently and properly.

Manhit expressed optimism that with a whole-of-society approach, it is possible to have a transparent and accountable government.

He noted that a recent survey conducted by the Management Association of the Philippines among business leaders showed that 67 percent believe that corruption is the top factor that is delaying the country's economic recovery.

"Bringing in even people, who might not normally be vocal, like the private sector, like the business sector, so a whole-of-society approach can ensure transparency, accountability and a responsive public sector. We just have to work together, continue pushing it and making it a top agenda of the government and society as a whole group in the Philippines," Manhit said.

"It's good to have the private sector – to listen to them, to engage with them, instead of vilifying them because that's what (former) president Duterte did. Data show that the public knows the role that the private sector plays, and they have played it through the years: job creation and investments, which uplifts the lives of people," he added.

In this context, the Stratbase Group will gather key government officials, business leaders, experts from academe and civil society in a two-day conference today and tomorrow titled Pilipinas Conference 2022: Onward to New Beginnings: Sustaining and Improving Philippine Development.

Participating in the event are key government leaders, including Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual and Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez.

Also attending are top officials of the biggest corporations in the country, diplomatic officials, and security and geopolitics experts.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

[Government, private sector vow to act on climate change promises](#)

By: Jasmin Romero

The Philippine government and the private sector have signed a “statement of commitment” vowing to turn their “climate climate commitments into actions” during the 15th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

“We recognize that the failure to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and strengthened adaptive capacities of our communities and industries will result in loss and damage, biodiversity loss and economic instability,” Climate Change Commission Commissioner Albert De la Cruz said, reading part of the statement.

“We pledged to deploy innovative invention interventions that will have sustainable positive impacts all supply chains and value chains. We are committed to accelerate just transitions from coal and to support low carbon strategy policies and programs in parallel with Philippine government goal of attaining a climate smart and climate resilient Philippines,” he added.

THE PHILIPPINE SITUATION

With an average of 20 typhoons per year costing in billions of lost properties and loss of lives, the Philippines has ranked as the most vulnerable country to climate change based on the World Risk Index, making actions leaning towards reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reducing global warming imperative to curtail further losses.

“World Bank launched its pioneering country climate and development report for the Philippines and it revealed the startling figures that on a business as usual scenario climate changes will cause losses equivalent to 7.6% of GDP by 2030 and 13.6% of GDP by 2040,” British Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Baufils said.

Baufils added: “Almost 15% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) could be wiped out by climate change if we do not adapt ad adapt fast”.

Financing climate change initiatives have become essential in mitigating its effects.

“UK international climate Finance Report has found that every pound of investment spent on climate-related risk reduction can save up to 50 pounds in avoided disaster impacts. Investing in adaptation now makes financial an economic sense. The UK knows this and knows now is the time to invest in addressing the climate crisis,” Baufils said.

FINANCING

In order to set climate initiatives in action, the DENR stressed the importance of financing environmental initiatives.

“In order to reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions however, more investments are still needed if we are to make transformative strides to achieve climate resilient development, the choices and decisions we make today will determine the future we want. We must all recognize that we have a critical opportunity to invest in resilience which is vital not just to our country's development but to our planets very survival,” Loyzaga added.

The Department of Finance said it is “looking into different layers of insurance strategies as means for recovery”.

“We also need to invest in adaptation to minimize the risk of disasters in the long run therefore we must urgently increase the availability of adaptation and resilience finance particularly for sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure to ensure that we have the fiscal space to address these challenges,” Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said in a recorded message.

Some business owners believe they should be “strengthened” to enable them to maintain their sustainable practices.

“It's very hard to look for financing, even if you know what to do at the end the bigger financials will always come through the banks and we go through the traditional formats,” Co-Founder of ECHOStore Sustainable Lifestyle Jeannie Javelosa said.

One of the ways the government can encourage sustainable operations of the private sector is to use incentives.

“The government can incentivize businesses and households and individuals to use clean alternatives. And then government can invest the revenue.. to support green recovery and growth,” Senior Climate Change Specialist of the World Bank Group Taisei Matsuki said.

Meanwhile, Congress is looking into legislative measures to boost the country's efforts against climate change.

“We would like also to highlight two major legislations that we are trying to craft in Congress today: one is on the rights of nature. Nature has the rights and they should be protected both by the state and the people. And the other of course is to make sure that we are able to put in place a framework for loss and damage in the country,” House Committee on Climate Change Chairperson Rep. Robert Chatto said.

“This will need a lot of consultations from different sectors of society precisely because once passed, this will be the first in the whole world,” Chatto added.

SMNI NEWS

[Pagtugon sa hapon ng climate change sentro ng talakayan sa Climate Investment Forum 2022](#)

Sama-samang pagtugon sa hamon ng climate change sentro ng talakayan sa Climate Investment Forum 2022.

Binahagi ng iba't ibang opisyal ng pamahalaan sa pagbubukas ng Climate Investment Forum 2022 ang mga estratehiya na nais ipayoridad upang tugunan ang iba't ibang epekto ng climate change sa bansa.

PTV NEWS

[Climate investment forum kicks off to celebrate climate change consciousness week](#)

The Climate Investment Forum kicks off this year spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission and participated by multiple government agencies and stakeholders.

CCC Vice Chair and executive director Robert Borje's message was loud, clear and urgent. The steps to mitigate the threat of climate change need to be fast-tracked or put into play such as climate finance and reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases

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