



## NEWS ROUNDUP

24 November 2022 [ 08:00 am]

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- Marcos to Pinoy scientists, researchers: Stay in the Philippines
- Palace says Vietnam commits strengthened ties with Philippines
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### CNN PHILIPPINES

[Australia will see more extreme weather events, putting strain on economy, report shows](#)

By: Michelle Toh

Australia will continue to see a spike in extreme rainfall and heat, as well as more dangerous fire events, its government agencies warned Wednesday.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[Green groups say nuclear energy 'risky, harmful' to Philippines](#)**

By: Joviland Rita

At least two environmental groups opposed the possibility of using nuclear energy in the Philippines as the government is set to start discussions with the United States for a civil nuclear cooperation agreement.

### **[Marcos to Pinoy scientists, researchers: Stay in the Philippines](#)**

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday encouraged Filipino scientists and researchers to stay in the Philippines, saying they could be the government's active partners in terms of nation-building.

### **[Palace says Vietnam commits strengthened ties with Philippines](#)**

By: Anna Felicia Bajo and Llanesca Panti

Malacañang said Vietnam has committed to work closely with the Philippine government in terms of various areas, including food security, climate change, defense, and food supply.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[EU officials visits heads of DOST, PhilSA; discuss future cooperations with PH](#)**

By: Dhel Nazario

Two European officials visited the heads of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), DOST said on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

### **[Filipino adolescents 'most physically inactive' globally](#)**

By: Chino Leyco

Filipino adolescents were among the most physically inactive in the world, with only 15.4 percent meeting the global physical activity recommendation.

### **[Legarda: Loss and damage fund a win for PH, climate vulnerable countries](#)**

By: Mario Casayuran

Senate President Pro-Tempore Loren Legarda today welcomed the new global deal to establish a "loss and damage" facility as compensation for climate vulnerable developing countries, including the Philippines, due to the destruction brought about by climate change, which they did not cause.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### [Philippines lags behind peers in swapping out coal energy](#)

By: Rommel Domingo

One year after its global debut in November 2021, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) intended to fast-track the switch from fossil fuels to clean energy has gained wider support and reached initial but tentative steps toward implementation.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### [PBBM gets commitment for stronger PH-Vietnam ties on food security, climate change](#)

By: OPS

MANILA -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. got an added boost of commitment from Vietnam in a wide range of areas that include food security, climate change, defense and food supply.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### [NegOcc sustains advocacy for organic agriculture](#)

By: Nanette Guadalquiver

BACOLOD CITY – Negros Occidental's provincial government is eyeing to go mainstream with its organic agriculture as it continues its advocacy with the staging of the 15th Negros Island Organic Farmers' Festival starting Wednesday.

### [Stay in PH, we'll support you: Marcos tells Filipino scientists](#)

By: Azer Parrocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday called on Filipino scientists to stay in the country and share their expertise with the younger generation as he vowed to support their research and development (R&D) initiatives.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### [Climate change and food security under the aegis of sustainable development](#)

By: William ?Dar

When I was in New Delhi on Nov. 10, 2022 to receive the "1st MS Swaminathan Global Leadership Award for Sustainable Development 2022," I was invited to deliver a keynote speech during the Climate Change Forum of the awarding event, which was part of the India International Agro Trade and Technology Fair-AgroWorld 2022 organized by the Indian Chamber for Food and Agriculture.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Senate approves P5.268 trillion budget for 2023](#)**

By: Cecille Suerte Felipe

MANILA, Philippines — With some of the controversial confidential and intelligence funds realigned, the Senate approved yesterday on third and final reading the P5.268-trillion budget for 2023, the first spending program of the Marcos administration designed to address the people's needs post-pandemic.

### **[Fossil fuel lobbyists at climate summit](#)**

By Elfren S. Cruz

The 27th Climate Summit conference in Egypt ended last Sunday with mixed reviews about its success. It was supposed to end on Saturday but had to be extended because no agreement had been reached by then. The final agreement was considered weak despite attempts by the summit organizers to claim it a breakthrough.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS**

### **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[DILG and CCC strengthen partnership for LGU climate expenditure tagging](#)**

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) will collaborate to help build and strengthen the capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs) for Climate Expenditure Tagging.

### **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[Development partners vow to mobilize funds for PH climate change mitigation](#)**

By Manila Standard

Development partners reaffirmed their commitment to mobilizing financial resources for investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation to confront the challenges posed by the climate crisis.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Dumping sachet as packaging](#)**

Last week, respected environmental activists, leaders of nongovernment organizations, as well as government and private institutions issued an urgent and timely public call for Filipinos to “break up” with sachets, those small, single-use plastic packaging used for practically everything—from shampoo to soap, toothpaste, cooking oil, and instant coffee.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[CCC, DILG partner to bolster LGUs' adaptation planning capacities](#)**

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan

MANILA – To further bolster local government unit (LGU) capacities for climate change mitigation and adaptation, the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Local Government Academy (DILG-LGA) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) are teaming to build up their institutional partnerships, coinciding with the 15th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

### **[Dev't partners reaffirm vow to mobilize fund for climate action](#)**

MANILA – Development partners reaffirmed their commitment of mobilizing financial resources for investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation to confront the challenges posed by the climate crisis.

## **RADYO INQUIRER.NET**

### **[Statement of Commitment kontra climate change, sinilyuhan ng multistakeholders](#)**

By Chona Yu

Nagkaisa ang ibat ibang government leaders, negosyante, at civil society organizations para palakasin pa ang climate at sustainability initiatives sa bansa.

## **Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## CNN PHILIPPINES

### [Australia will see more extreme weather events, putting strain on economy, report shows](#)

By: Michelle Toh

Australia will continue to see a spike in extreme rainfall and heat, as well as more dangerous fire events, its government agencies warned Wednesday.

In a biennial climate report, Australia's national science agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), and the Bureau of Meteorology said it had already found "an increase in extreme heat events, intense heavy rainfall, longer fire seasons and sea level rise" recently.

The changes are happening more rapidly and will put further pressure on Australia to transition its economy away from fossil fuels, the agencies warned.

"The threats caused by climate change, including extreme rainfall, droughts, heatwaves and bushfires, are already having widespread impacts on Australia's agricultural industry, affecting food production and supply chains," Michael Robertson, director of agriculture and food at CSIRO, said in a statement.

Australia is one of the world's leading exporters of agricultural goods such as beef, wine, sugar, cotton, and wool. It's also known for its wealth of natural resources, such as iron ore, coal, and gas.

"We're facing significant challenges to support and coordinate the shifts across infrastructure, regulation, skills, technology, finance and investment that is needed for the transition to a low-emission economy," Michael Battaglia, lead of Towards Net Zero Mission, a division of CSIRO, said in the statement.

Australia has seen the devastating effects of the climate crisis up close recently, from marine heat waves that have caused mass coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef to extreme weather events including flooding.

This year, the country experienced a rare third consecutive La Niña weather pattern, which brought heavier and more frequent downpours, causing rivers to burst their banks, flooding communities near the coast and inland.

After years of dealing with drought, farmers have lost crops due to too much water, with forecasters warning of more to come.

Climate was a key issue at the recent election in May, when the new Labor government took power with a promise to boost renewable energy. Soon after taking office, the government increased Australia's plans to cut emissions by 43% by 2030 on 2005

levels — a more ambitious target than its predecessor but one climate experts say is still not high enough.

The economic fallout has been well documented. Over the past 50 years, “climate-induced extreme weather events including drought, fires, and floods have cost Australian communities an estimated 120 billion [Australian dollars] (\$79.8 billion),” according to the Minderoo Foundation. The nonprofit organization shared the tally in a January report.

## **GMA NEWS ONLINE**

### **[Green groups say nuclear energy 'risky, harmful' to Philippines](#)**

By: Joviland Rita

At least two environmental groups opposed the possibility of using nuclear energy in the Philippines as the government is set to start discussions with the United States for a civil nuclear cooperation agreement.

Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Khevin Yu on Wednesday said that nuclear energy is not welcome in the country, saying that it will not work.

“In the context of the discussions between US Vice President Kamala Harris and the Marcos administration on support for nuclear infrastructure, we assert to the US—and other countries or companies planning to offer similar support—that nuclear energy is not welcome and will not work as an energy source in the Philippines,” Yu told GMA News Online in a message.

He said it is “interesting” the US is now undergoing a renewable energy transition but is encouraging the Philippines to “move backwards into adapting an old, issue-ridden technology” of nuclear energy.

He pointed out that nuclear energy brings risks to citizens' health, homes, and quality of life while renewable energy is an easier, cleaner, and cheaper route.

“Instead of supporting this dirty and dangerous energy source, we urge the US government and, more importantly, the Marcos government, to lead by example and prioritize a just, nuclear-free energy transition to renewable energy,” Yu said.

On Tuesday, the Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines also opposed the plan for a nuclear cooperation initiative.

“With the current state of our energy sector, establishing a nuclear power plant will be risky and harmful to our country,” Center for Environmental Concerns - Philippines research and advocacy coordinator Jordan Fronda told GMA News Online in a message.

“Nuclear energy in the Philippines poses risks of higher electricity prices, lack of nuclear waste facilities, disasters due to frequent earthquakes, and development aggression to local communities,” he added.

Instead of nuclear power plants, Fronda suggested establishing wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal power plants which are more sustainable.



He added that these would not only increase energy affordability, security, and accessibility but also ease the impact of the climate crisis across the globe.

“The government should instead develop more sustainable energy power plants such as wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal in order to increase energy affordability, security, and accessibility, while also helping in the global plight on the climate crisis,” he said.

The Philippines and the US will start talks on a civil nuclear cooperation agreement which will provide the legal basis for US exports of nuclear equipment and material to the Philippines.

According to a fact sheet sent by the US Embassy in Manila, US Vice President Kamala Harris announced that the two countries were initiating the negotiations on the agreement to support expanded cooperation on zero-emission energy and nonproliferation priorities.

## Marcos to Pinoy scientists, researchers: Stay in the Philippines

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday encouraged Filipino scientists and researchers to stay in the Philippines, saying they could be the government's active partners in terms of nation-building.

Marcos graced the 2022 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) celebration held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. was also in attendance.

"I encourage our Filipino scientists, researchers, inventors and innovators, to continue sharing your expertise, especially to young people. I urge you to stay in the country as you pursue your career. We will continue to support you and continue to look to you to be active partners of the government," Marcos said in his speech.

Marcos underscored that these Filipino scientists and researchers should partner with the national government and dedicate their skills to uplift the lives of Filipinos and help in building a more sustainable country.

He admitted that the national government should give direction in the science and development field so that the output of every research will be beneficial to farmers, businessmen, MSMEs, and all citizens.

"I've spoken to some of the researchers and some of the – those that are administering the research institutes around the country, not only agriculture but all kinds of other research and development," the President said.

"And they're willing to take direction from us, from the private sector as to what are the necessary technologies for the Philippines in terms of improving – well again, climate change mitigation, adaptation, and our food supply, our economic transformation, all of these things," he added.

He assured scientists and researchers of his administration's measures "in championing science and technology research, developing data-driven and science-based policies, implementing evidence-based responses, and supporting your community."

Marcos also reiterated his call for the DOST to provide more scholarships to Filipino students to develop a bigger pool of scientists, researchers, and innovators in the country.

"Through this, we will institute a scholarship program, specifically for STEM students, and this will not be limited to those who have shown their capabilities, their ability, and how they deserve these scholarships here in the Philippines but to any institution that

they are accepted to abroad. So this is important so that we continue to develop our workforce, we continue to develop our capabilities, and our knowledge," he said.

Marcos' father, the late President Ferdinand Marcos Sr., institutionalized the National Science and Technology Week through Proclamation No. 2214.

According to the DOST, this year's celebration will showcase the research and development outputs as well as innovative products and services developed and offered by its agencies and regional offices, which helped address the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

## [Palace says Vietnam commits strengthened ties with Philippines](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo and Llanesca Panti

Malacañang said Vietnam has committed to work closely with the Philippine government in terms of various areas, including food security, climate change, defense, and food supply.

This as Vietnam National Assembly Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue paid courtesy call on President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday.

"I am looking forward to building upon excellent relationships between our two countries. And under your leadership, we will continue to work closely together and I am very confident under your leadership and with your experience, you will help contribute further to strengthen the bilateral relations between our two countries and also in helping elevate the role and position of the Philippines on the global stage," Chairman Vuong told Marcos.

During the meeting, Marcos mentioned that he was very fortunate to meet Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the APEC Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand last week.

Marcos said he had discussed a wide range of topics with his Vietnamese counterpart including agriculture and trade.

"He was kind enough to make a commitment of Vietnam to always include the Philippines as part of your trade partners, especially when it comes to rice. We covered many other subjects as well," he said.

"We touched upon the issues in our region about defense and security and some of the common interests between the Philippines and Vietnam," he added.

Meanwhile, Chairman Vuong said he was impressed on the commitments made by the Philippine government during the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) as it expressed "concerted efforts and coordination to address the climate change and to work together on transitioning towards the clean energy."

Further, the Vietnamese official also expressed hope to improve the two countries' partnership when it comes to legislatures.

"We are hopeful that we can do more to enhance the relationships between our political parties and government-to-government and parliament-to-parliament relationships, and most importantly, the people-to-people exchanges," he said.

Chairman Vuong also met Wednesday his counterpart House Speaker Martin Romualdez.

Romualdez gave Vuong a copy of House Resolution 34 earlier adopted by the House to sustain the exchange visit among Filipino and Vietnamese parliamentarians.

In addition, House Resolution 34 reads “among the 10-member countries of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), the Philippines and Vietnam have developed a special relation through the years anchored on shared goals, common visions, and mutual interests for the benefit of their peoples and towards a genuinely peaceful and productive path in regional cooperation.”

“House Resolution 34 serves as a token of the commitment of the House of Representatives to be a steadfast partner of our Vietnam brethren in walking the path of mutual peace and development for both our nations,” Romualdez, who was invited by Vuong to visit Vietnam, said in a statement.

Vuong and other Vietnamese lawmakers and government officials arrived in the Philippines on Wednesday morning for a three-day official visit.

In response, Vuong thanked Romualdez and the Philippine lawmakers for their warm welcome and reiterated the importance of strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries, including trade, economic and people-to-people exchanges.

Accompanying Romualdez in welcoming the Vietnamese delegation were Senior Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of Pampanga, House Majority Leader Jose Dalipe of Zamboanga City, House Minority Leader Marcelino Libanan of 4Ps party-list, among others.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [EU officials visits heads of DOST, PhilSA; discuss future cooperations with PH](#)

By: Dhel Nazario

Two European officials visited the heads of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), DOST said on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

According to DOST, the two agencies were visited by the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) Delegation to the Philippines H.E. Luc Véron together with Mario Ronconi, Head of Unit for South and South-East Asia from the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG-INTPA).

They paid a courtesy visit to DOST Secretary Dr. Renato Solidum, Jr., and PhilSA Director General Dr. Joel Joseph Marciano, Jr. on Nov. 22 at the DOST headquarters in Bicutan, Taguig City.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the ongoing Philippines-EU cooperation on the Copernicus space program for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, as well as exchanged views on potential future cooperation on digital connectivity, circular and green economy, health, environment, including maritime S&T cooperation.

The meeting reaffirmed PH-EU's shared commitment, goals, and aspirations toward a sustainable future anchored on science, technology, research, and innovation.

## Filipino adolescents 'most physically inactive' globally

By: Chino Leyco

Filipino adolescents were among the most physically inactive in the world, with only 15.4 percent meeting the global physical activity recommendation.

This was revealed in the Youth Physical Activity Report Cards released by The Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance (AHKGA), raising an alarm for stakeholders to work together to improve the physical activity levels of youth in the post-pandemic era.

Sponsored by Sun Life for five Asian markets including the Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, the Youth Physical Activity Report Cards are an evidence-based synthesis of children's and adolescents' behavior toward physical activity.

By using a series of indicators related to individual behavior, settings, strategies, and other factors, the report cards provide insights and recommendations for improving the physical health of young people in Asia and around the world.

The 2022 Philippine Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents, which was led by the UP College of Human Kinetics, represents a comprehensive synthesis of scientific papers and related national-level surveys.

The Report Card assigns letter grades to 10 different indicators grouped into behaviors and characteristics (Overall Physical Activity, Organized Sports and Physical Activity, Active Play, Active Transportation, Sedentary Behaviors, Physical Fitness) and sources of influence (Family and Peers, School, Community and Environment, Government).

The Philippines was graded an F in overall physical activity.

In comparison, countries such as Finland and Slovenia scored an A-, due to various initiatives that promote physical activity among children. These include organized sports, active transportation, and a physical education curriculum, among others.

Mark Tremblay, AHKGA president said modern lifestyles, such as increases in digital screen time, the growing urbanization of communities, and the rise in automation of previously manual tasks, contributed to a pervasive yet unequally distributed public health crisis of inactivity.

"The inactivity crisis was further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, global conflicts, and severe weather associated with climate change," said Tremblay, who is also a senior scientist at the CHEO Research Institute in Canada.

He warned that the lack of efforts to recalibrate the modern and pandemic-influenced lifestyle of children and adolescents puts at risk their future health and well-being.

“We hope this report will be a call to action for societies around the world,” he said.

“The results of the AHKGA study may be unsettling at first glance, but identifying the problem is the first step in addressing the situation,” Carla Gonzalez-Chong, Sun Life Chief client experience and marketing officer said.

Gonzalez-Chong added that Sun Life, in a bid to help address the findings, will soon launch a health and wellness campaign and bring back its highly anticipated Sunpiology sports events.

“By supporting the Youth Physical Activity Report Cards by AHKGA, we hope to contribute to AHKGA’s overall ambition to encourage children to get moving through capacity building, advocacy, and awareness,” Gonzalez-Chong said.

“The effort is part of Sun Life’s Purpose to help people live healthier lives,” she added.



## [Legarda: Loss and damage fund a win for PH, climate vulnerable countries](#)

By: Mario Casayuran

Senate President Pro-Tempore Loren Legarda today welcomed the new global deal to establish a “loss and damage” facility as compensation for climate vulnerable developing countries, including the Philippines, due to the destruction brought about by climate change, which they did not cause.

The deal was included in the decision adopted by countries at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), following two weeks of negotiations in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

“Today, we celebrate a historic win for the developing world with the establishment of a loss and damage fund as reparation for the lives, livelihoods, assets, and opportunities destroyed within climate vulnerable countries, including the Philippines. This is a welcome development of a decade-long battle on loss and damage, but we remain steadfast in our continuing call for climate justice as we demand the developed countries to actually deliver on their commitments in the Paris Agreement,” Legarda said.

She explained that developed countries have failed to meet their obligations in the climate treaty, particularly, in annually mobilizing US\$100 billion of climate finance for developing countries starting in 2020.

This failure, she pointed out, delays progress and raises doubts on the developed countries’ genuineness and solidarity with the developing world.

Legarda said that there must be clarity and new roadmap to deliver on this promise and for new commitments, including the loss and damage fund and the doubling of adaptation finance.

She also supported the call to opening more access to climate finance from public and private sources and philanthropies, and for multilateral development banks and financial institutions to improve their business models to accept risks and leverage finance for developing countries.

Legarda, however, lamented that the COP27 decision is remiss in conveying stronger language against fossil fuels and increasing countries’ targets to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, in support of the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate goal of the Paris Agreement.

“Central to our pursuit for climate justice is our call to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius—our climate survival threshold. Current commitments to reduce emissions still lead to a level way beyond that threshold, and it’s worrying for countries like ours that already find it hard to adapt at the current level. Despite this, however, the benefits of renewable energy, especially in terms of savings to power costs, speak for

itself and encourage nations to sustain the momentum for RE and put an end to the fossil fuel era.” She added.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Philippines lags behind peers in swapping out coal energy](#)

By: Rommel Domingo

One year after its global debut in November 2021, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) intended to fast-track the switch from fossil fuels to clean energy has gained wider support and reached initial but tentative steps toward implementation.

However, the ETM in the Philippines remains on the drawing board, still at the stage of studying the feasibility of the early retirement of coal-fired power plants while promoting the development of more renewable energy resources.

In an update on the ETM, the ADB said the Philippines was also making preparations for the implementation of a CIF ACT program, referring to the Climate Investment Funds Accelerating Coal Transition.

Among the initial three countries that are working with the ADB on the ETM, Indonesia has gone the farthest in this effort, having launched an ETM Country Platform and securing in principle \$500 million in concessional funding.

The subject of ETM efforts in Indonesia is the possible early retirement of the 660-megawatt privately-owned Cirebon-1 coal-fired power plant in West Java.

Last year when the ETM was unveiled, then Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said the Philippines had a unique opportunity in Mindanao to pilot the ETM project as the government was in the process of rehabilitating the Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex composed of seven power plants.

If the capacity of Agus-Pulangi would be maximized to 1,001 megawatts, the government can proceed with its plan to gradually acquire coal-fired power plants in Mindanao and repurpose them through the ETM facility.

Data from the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) show that a rehabilitated Agus-Pulangi complex can more than compensate for 232 megawatts capacity that would be lost if PSALM retired early the Mindanao Coal-Fired Power Plant.

While this is taking time, the ETM initiative has gained a fourth ADB partner with Pakistan signing up. Pakistan has started a prefeasibility study for an ETM project.

Also, the ADB announced the establishment of an ETM Partnership Trust Fund that will provide concessional funding to support ETM activities.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [PBBM gets commitment for stronger PH-Vietnam ties on food security, climate change](#)

By: OPS

MANILA -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. got an added boost of commitment from Vietnam in a wide range of areas that include food security, climate change, defense and food supply.

This comes after the chief executive met with Vietnam National Assembly Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue in Malacañang on Wednesday.

"I am looking forward to building upon excellent relationships between our two countries. And under your leadership, we will continue to work closely together and I am very confident under your leadership and with your experience, you will help contribute further to strengthen the bilateral relations between our two countries and also in helping elevate the role and position of the Philippines on the global stage," Chairman Vuong told President Marcos.

In their meeting, President Marcos said he was "very fortunate" to have met his Vietnamese counterpart, President Nguyen Xuan Phuc, at the 29th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Bangkok, Thailand last week.

"I was able to have a meeting with your President wherein we discussed many subjects that primarily [include] agriculture and the trade between our two countries, when it comes to the agricultural importation and in importing from Vietnam to the Philippines," Marcos told the Vietnamese official.

"He was kind enough to make a commitment of Vietnam to always include the Philippines as part of your trade partners, especially when it comes to rice. We covered many other subjects as well. We touched upon the issues in our region about defense and security and some of the common interests between the Philippines and Vietnam," Marcos pointed out.

The chief executive has earlier confirmed he would visit Vietnam upon the invitation of President Nguyen.

Marcos was also able to meet with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Cambodia, where they agreed to further strengthen their partnership in defense, trade, investment, agriculture and maritime security.

Chairman Vuong, for his part, said he was "much impressed" about the commitments made by the Philippines during the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) for expressing the "concerted efforts and coordination to address the climate change and to work together on transitioning towards the clean energy."

President Marcos was represented by House Speaker Martin Romualdez during the AIPA event.

Chairman Vuong also expressed hope to "enhance the partnership" between the two countries' legislature.

"We are hopeful that we can do more to enhance the relationships between our political parties and government-to-government and parliament-to-parliament relationships, and most importantly, the people-to-people exchanges," the Vietnamese official said.

President Marcos said he was "a little surprised that 16, 18 years have transpired since the exchange of visits between our two legislatures — that is much too long for such close neighbors."

"So it's not only the partnerships that make for example, the multilateral partnerships that we make, in ASEAN, in APEC, and similar groups have become important because that gives us a common position and that common position gives us strength. But also the bilateral partnerships that we foster, that we strengthen, are also going to be very, very important and continue to be important for a very long time," said the President.

"I'm very optimistic that the Asia-Pacific region, the APEC region, will return to its old position as the driving force behind global economy," Marcos added. (PND)

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[NegOcc sustains advocacy for organic agriculture](#)**

By: Nanette Guadalquiver

BACOLOD CITY – Negros Occidental's provincial government is eyeing to go mainstream with its organic agriculture as it continues its advocacy with the staging of the 15th Negros Island Organic Farmers' Festival starting Wednesday.

The four-day event, which came back after a two-year pause due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, highlights the province's efforts towards "food safety and brighter market opportunity" through the practice of organic farming.

Provincial Agriculturist Edmundo Raul Causing said organic produce is occupying a niche in the agriculture market and is seen to eventually go mainstream.

“We are looking at going mainstream with the Department of Agriculture. They have a suggestion when they visited the governor (Eugenio Jose Lacson) that they will establish organic hubs,” Causing told reporters on the sidelines of the festival opening at the Provincial Capitol grounds here.

He said the province, through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, continues to provide training to support organic farmers.

“Certain realizations came after the pandemic. People are willing to pay a premium for food,” he added.

Negros Occidental is considered the “organic agriculture capital of the Philippines” for being the country’s leader in organic production, with thousands of hectares of agricultural land, including livestock, devoted to organic farming.

On Wednesday afternoon, seminars were held to discuss the salient points of Republic Act (RA) 11511, an Act Amending RA 10068, or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010.

Under RA 11511, which was approved on Dec. 23, 2020, the certification of organic produce by farmers and fishermen has become more accessible and affordable.

Also discussed was the Participatory Guarantee System or PGS, which has been established under the new law as the locally focused quality assurance system that is developed and practiced by people engaged in organic agriculture.

Other seminars include the Slow Food Earth Market and Cooks Alliance Workshop; Sustainable Seafood in Negros; Organic Agriculture Practices on Climate Change Mitigation; Women and Youth in Organic Forum; Water and Soil Conservation Strategies; How to Make a Million in Organic Rice Farming: A Farmer’s Experience; Organic Food for Health and Wellness; and Organic Coffee Production, Processing, and Marketing.

The four-day festival also features an organic fair and exhibits, selling various locally produced organic and naturally grown agricultural products.

### **[Stay in PH, we’ll support you: Marcos tells Filipino scientists](#)**

By: Azer Parrocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday called on Filipino scientists to stay in the country and share their expertise with the younger generation as he vowed to support their research and development (R&D) initiatives.

“I urge you to stay in the country as you pursue your career. We will continue to support you and continue to look to you to be active partners of the government. Let us dedicate our knowledge and skills, and work harmoniously so as to uplift the lives of our

countrymen,” Marcos said in a speech during the 2022 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) opening ceremony at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Marcos underscored the important role of Filipino scientists, researchers, inventors, and innovators in generating new knowledge and devising better strategies to safeguard and advance the well-being of Filipinos.

He, however, also recognized that many research ideas, particularly in the food and agriculture industry, are not immediately integrated into government programs.

“What [Department of Science and Technology Secretary] Dr. [Renato] Solidum [Jr.] and I discovered is that there are many research institutions that are doing really remarkably food research however problem that we are finding is that research is not directed. Everyone has their own program, has their own projects. It’s not their fault. They’re studying what they are interested in,” he said.

Marcos said it was the government’s job to “give direction” so that R&D outcomes are immediately useful to farmers; businessmen; micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and citizens.

“I’ve spoken to some of the researchers and some of those administering research institutes around the country not only agriculture but all kinds of other R&D, and they’re willing to take direction from us, from the private sector as to what are the necessary technologies for the Philippines in terms of improving well again climate change mitigation adaptation and our foods supply, our economic transformation all of these things,” he said.

He said his administration will “wholeheartedly” support their R&D solution to the country’s problems, especially in agriculture and trade.

“The administration assures you our firm commitment to championing science and technology research, developing data-driven and science-based policies, and implementing evidence-based responses supporting your community,” he said.

### **More scholarships, stronger STEM program**

Marcos urged the DOST and their partner institutions to provide more scholarships to Filipino students to develop a bigger pool of scientists, researchers and innovators in the country.

“Through this, we will institute a scholarship program specifically for STEM students and this will not be limited to those who have shown their capabilities, their ability, and how they deserve these scholarships here in the Philippines but to any institution that they are accepted to abroad,” he said.

He also called for improvements in the country's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program, citing the need to become more globally competitive.

"Unfortunately in the Philippines when we are graded alongside our neighbors in Asia, in ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations], do not do very well when it comes to the STEM subjects and that is what we need to encourage. The material I can see is available. It is just a question of us incorporating it into our curricula, it is just up to us to give it an emphasis because in every aspect the STEM subjects have become terribly, terribly important," he added.

Marcos said the government must provide opportunities for scientists to learn new skills because science and technology will determine the country's success in the coming years.

"Whereas before we train people to be carpenters and plumbers and electricians and construction workers. Now the training is in computer science, it is encoding, it is block chain technology, it is computer engineering," he said.

Marcos also tipped his hat off to his father, the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr., for institutionalizing NSTW through Proclamation No. 2214.

"Through the decades, this celebration has continued to create a platform for professionals, for administrators, for policymakers, and for students to converge and collaborate in order to harness the power of science and technology — solving many of society's problems, finding opportunities for growth and for development," he said.

### **Enhancing quality of life**

Meanwhile, Marcos acknowledged the efforts of the DOST and its attached agencies for continuously implementing programs that create solutions to address the country's pressing problems such as food security, job creation, health education and climate change adaptation, among others.

"Every time we speak of any subject, we can talk about agriculture, we can talk about public works, we can talk about tourism, every subject, sumisilip yung subject ng climate change (the subject of climate change peeks through), it affects everything and everyone and so once again we look to science, we look new technologies, we look to engineers to find us solutions to mitigate, to adapt our very vulnerable country to the effects of climate change," he said.

Among these valuable innovations, he said, are the DOST's GeoRisk PH, the country's platform for data gathering, sharing, and analyzing hazard and risk information, and the CRADLE and SETUP programs, which are designed to help companies as well as MSMEs improve their products, processes and service to boost their productivity and competitiveness.



“Your efforts do not only generate development opportunities for young scientists, they contribute to our shared goal of enhancing the quality of Filipino life,” he added.

He lauded the DOST for organizing the 2022 NSTW exhibits and activities that aim to educate, encourage, and enhance the skills of scientists, inventors, and advocates.

“That is another very important part of the mission that you are having to fulfill is to get the information disseminated so that people know what might be applicable or useful in their own community situations. So I hope this year’s celebration will be a beacon of hope for all Filipinos to bounce back better by building upon science, technology, and innovation,” he said.

Before his speech, Marcos also visited the techno-exhibits which featured prototypes of e-tricycle and e-jeepney.

This year’s NSTW focuses on research and development (R&D) projects and services related to agriculture, food security, health, environment, water and blue economy, and job creation.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Climate change and food security under the aegis of sustainable development](#)**

By: William ?Dar

When I was in New Delhi on Nov. 10, 2022 to receive the "1st MS Swaminathan Global Leadership Award for Sustainable Development 2022," I was invited to deliver a keynote speech during the Climate Change Forum of the awarding event, which was part of the India International Agro Trade and Technology Fair-AgroWorld 2022 organized by the Indian Chamber for Food and Agriculture.

Climate change is one of the subjects I have written about extensively for The Manila Times and talked about many times in my speaking engagements. And I always find something new or innovative to discuss about the effects of climate change on the local and global food system, and the solutions to lessen or eliminate the impact of extreme weather events on the agriculture sector.

Before I was invited to New Delhi, I was invited to attend and deliver a speech at the World Food Forum in Rome during the second week of October. In my keynote speech in Rome, I mentioned the three Cs rocking food security worldwide: first, the Covid-19 pandemic — mentioned foremost because of its immediate effects on the global food supply chain. The second C is climate change and the third is conflicts, primarily the Russia-Ukraine war.

poster

It was in my keynote speech in New Delhi where I said that while conflict is the third C I mentioned, it is no less the third priority. The same goes for climate change as not being

a second priority because I mentioned it as No. 2 on the list of the three Cs. I must also state that among the three Cs I mentioned, we have fought climate change the longest. And while we have built more long-term commitments around it and to combat climate change, and invested billions of dollars to mitigate its effects, we are still in the midst of a battle against it.

Sooner or later, the Covid-19 pandemic will be gone and life will go back to the pre-pandemic ways with, of course, lessons learned. The Russia-Ukraine conflict can also end soon as one or both protagonists will get tired of fighting.

But climate change? I hate to say this but there are quarters saying humanity is fast losing the battle against it, and that time is running out.

Also, it is the smallholders in agriculture that are among that suffer the most from climate change. In developing countries like India and the Philippines, smallholders account for almost 90 percent of food production.

When I was Agriculture secretary, I have witnessed numerous times how a single typhoon could reverse incomes from harvests, with the smallholders taking the biggest losses. Every typhoon, when not judiciously coupled with advanced weather forecasts, advisory for early harvests and the foresight of adjusting cropping calendars, could bring damage of more than a billion pesos each time.

Worse, indigenous smallholders, many of whom champion sustainable and environmental farming, continue to be marginalized in their operations.

Hence, it has become rather clear, in a country prone to natural disasters such as the Philippines, that this was not a sustainable way to live.

Meanwhile, carbon footprint in commercial agricultural operations remains stark and indelible — the global agriculture industry retains the notoriety of producing roughly a fourth of total greenhouse gas emissions on the planet.

Still, we find that climate investments are lagging compared to renewable energy investments.

Political will needed

Given the challenges the global food system faces from extreme weather events, agricultural leadership, armed by political will, must be underscored. This, I believe, is a better armor of sustainability against climate change, than the soft lip service of ESG or environmental, social and corporate governance principles.

Hence, climate justice should account for the most vulnerable. This will require a new moral order protecting younger generations and smallholder farmers, which takes more thought and intellectual rigor than the vague accounting of carbon taxes and incentives.

Also, agricultural scientists, in the face of climate change denials, could expect to run into skepticism against innovations to deal with extreme weather events. This means that at this point, our posture toward research and innovation deserves scrutiny, and the youth and smallholder farmers are speaking or even crying for help. That much is clear in most global fora with world leaders in attendance, including the one in New Delhi. In such high-level talks, public accountability takes center stage or should take center stage.

There is also a need for climate politics to take the shape of survival as incomes and dietary needs of the global population are threatened by climate change.

I ended my keynote speech in New Delhi by saying that the forum should enjoin all in the privileged stratum of policy making and technological, economic and social influence, to be forthright in the collective efforts and solutions when addressing climate change.

Also, I emphasized that we all cross into the ongoing agricultural revolution of this era with the honor of saving our children from hunger and planetary destruction.

For the Philippines

In the Philippines, I have seen a rush and clamor for the wider adoption of renewable energy, which is good. The sad thing, though, is I do not see the same fervor for the agriculture sector, including from the bureaucracy, to make the Philippine food system more resilient to the effects of extreme weather events. And the damage done in the past decades by storms, heavy rains and droughts on the country's agriculture system have been evident. In fact, very evident. Furthermore, the hardest hit are the smallholders.

Ironically, almost all the solutions to make the country's agriculture sector more resilient are already there, like "low-tech" approaches such as rainwater impounding and harvesting, and aquifer recharging; forward-thinking approaches like adjusting the planting calendar and early harvesting before a storm; available and under development variants of crops that can thrive in flooded and drought conditions; and reforestation and watershed rehabilitation.

Of more importance, however, is political will to make the Philippine food system more resilient to climate change. And should politicians wait for the day when climate change becomes a very thorny issue, especially during the polls?

"Wala tayong magawa kasi malakas ang bagyo (We cannot do anything because the typhoon was strong)" and similar excuses from politicians or policymakers will no longer be bought by smallholders in the future if they see their farms get ravaged during typhoons or droughts.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Senate approves P5.268 trillion budget for 2023](#)

By: Cecille Suerte Felipe

MANILA, Philippines — With some of the controversial confidential and intelligence funds realigned, the Senate approved yesterday on third and final reading the P5.268-trillion budget for 2023, the first spending program of the Marcos administration designed to address the people's needs post-pandemic.

Voting 21-0 with no abstentions, senators approved the 2023 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) on third and final reading after marathon hearings at the committee level and interpellations in the plenary.

The bicameral conference committee meetings will commence on Friday, where the members of the Senate and House of Representatives will work to come up with a reconciled version of the GAB.

Sen. Sonny Angara, chairman of the Senate committee on finance, led members of the Senate bicam panel.

He was joined by Pia Cayetano, Loren Legarda, Imee Marcos, Cynthia Villar, Ronald dela Rosa, Sherwin Gatchalian, Bong Go, Risa Hontiveros, Nancy Binay, Grace Poe, Francis Tolentino, Mark Villar, JV Ejercito, Alan Cayetano, Chiz Escudero and Jinggoy Estrada.

Angara described the 2023 budget measure as one that addresses the needs of the people post-pandemic, supports the goal of ensuring food security, reviving education and preparing the country for the impacts of climate change.

“Under the 2023 budget, there will still be an aid for our kababayans, but it will not be like the previous aid where almost everyone was given money. Now, the aid will be given to selected sectors and it is based on the severity of the need and the effect of the pandemic on them,” he said.

Angara said the programs include the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, Protective Services to Individuals in Crisis Situations, Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers Program and the Sustainable Livelihood Program.

He said the Senate ensured that the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the Department of Health would continue to be supported and that the different DOH-operated hospitals, including the National Children's Hospital, would receive additional funding.

While COVID-19 cases in the country are on decline, Angara said the 2023 budget will ensure that the government would still be able to respond to the continuing threats of the pandemic and that the health system is strengthened.

#### DepEd budget

Sen. Risa Hontiveros made a motion to realign the P100-million budget earlier realigned from the confidential fund of the Department of Education to the Office of the Vice President maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) then back to DepEd MOOE, in particular DepEd's healthy learners' institution program found in the "Support to Schools and Learners Program."

Angara accepted the motion, to which Hontiveros replied, "I am so happily surprised. Earlier I thought that it might not be accepted, but if it is accepted, thank you."

Hontiveros also pushed the remaining P50 million of the confidential fund of the DepEd, also in support of their healthy learners' institution program, transfer to augment the MOOE of the support to schools and learners of the DepEd. But Angara rejected the motion.

Funding was also provided to pave the way for the establishment of specialty hospitals in the different regions of the country.

The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. will receive a significant amount to support its Benefit Package Improvement under the Universal Health Care Law.

"This fund can be used to expand coverage for dialysis, mental health outpatient services, z-benefit packages, severe acute malnutrition and other outpatient benefits such as free consultations, free lab tests and diagnostic services, medicine and emergency medical services," Angara said.

For the members of the public transport sector, Angara said fuel vouchers will continue to be provided to the operators and drivers.

On the other hand, he said farmers and fisherfolk will still receive fuel assistance to help them cope with the rising prices of fuel.

#### [Opinion] [Fossil fuel lobbyists at climate summit](#)

By Elfren S. Cruz

The 27th Climate Summit conference in Egypt ended last Sunday with mixed reviews about its success. It was supposed to end on Saturday but had to be extended because no agreement had been reached by then. The final agreement was considered weak despite attempts by the summit organizers to claim it a breakthrough.

Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, said: “Our planet is still in the emergency room. We need to drastically reduce emissions now – and this is an issue that this COP did not address. The world still needs a giant leap on climate ambition.”

One of the reasons that the final agreement was judged a failure on effort to cut carbon dioxide was because oil-producing countries and high emitters weakened and removed key commitments on greenhouse gases and the phasing out of fossil fuels. This year’s climate summit is also unique in its being the first to invite fossil producers like oil and gas companies to participate in the official program of events. For example, the delegation of Saudi Arabia said that they did not see the effort to limit global warming as being “a discussion about fossil fuels.”

Laurence Tubiana, one of the architects of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, is now chief executive of the European Climate Foundation. She said: “The influence of the fossil fuel industry was found across the board. This COP has weakened requirements around countries making new and more ambitious commitments on cutting emissions. The text (of the deal) makes no mention of phasing out fossil fuels and scant reference to the 1.5C target.”

Climate activists have questioned the legitimacy of having oil and gas companies participate officially in the summit. According to a climate NGO Global Witness, there were more than 600 fossil fuel lobbyists registered for the summit in Egypt. According to the Financial Times: “What Saudi Arabia and some other fossil fuel-reliant countries at the summit are keen to discuss is how they can continue to produce oil and gas. The focus should be on reducing emissions, not targeting the sector, they argue.”

In an interview, the delegate from Saudi Arabia claimed that carbon neutrality can be achieved while still producing fossil fuels. Tubiana warned that the Egyptian presidency “... produced a text that clearly protects oil and gas petro-states and the fossil fuel industries.”

David Tong from another climate NGO, Oil Change International, said: “I have been to eight COPs and have never seen any such blatant oil and gas promotion from a presidency before. There is no legitimacy in a COP presidency giving a big platform to major polluters without even asking them hard questions.”

Tubiana added: “I don’t think we can continue having to cope with such an overwhelming presence. They have so much money to do public relations... they come when they see that things are getting really bad for the industry.”

US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse said that it was disappointing that the United States was not able to provide leadership on raising capital for the shift to clean energy in poorer countries. He said: “The fossil fuel industry runs a very complex and elaborate operation to attack climate measures, usually hiding its hand behind front groups... It is a massive political influence operation – it is very powerful.”

Alok Sharma of the United Kingdom and president of the Global Summit last year in Glasgow, Scotland expressed anger at the close of the Egypt conference. He said: “Those of us who came to Egypt to keep 1.5C alive, and to respect what every single one of us agreed to in Glasgow, i.e. 2021 Climate Summit, have had to fight relentlessly to hold the line. We have had to battle to build on one of the key achievements in Glasgow, the call on parties to revisit and strengthen the national plans on emission.”

Sharma joined in efforts to include a phasedown of all fossil fuels in the final agreement. However, due to intense lobbying, this proposal was reduced to a commitment to phase down only coal. Sharma said: “I said in Glasgow that the pulse of 1.5C was weak. Unfortunately, it remains on life support.”

The only semi-bright provision in the final agreement was the setting up of a fund for “loss and damage,” which is supposed to pay out to rescue and rebuild physical and social infrastructure ravaged by extreme weather events. The funds will be provided by the rich countries for the benefit of the poorer countries who hardly have any emissions but oftentimes bear the brunt of climate change like typhoons, floods, hurricanes.

While the United States and the European Union have agreed to contribute to this fund, other major sources of emission including China and Saudi Arabia are allowed to contribute on a voluntary basis. These two countries have insisted that they are not developed countries but should be classified as developing countries and therefore have no obligation to provide funds for the poorer countries.

Next year’s climate summit will be in Dubai, one of the biggest oil producers in the world.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **MANILA STANDARD**

#### **[Development partners vow to mobilize funds for PH climate change mitigation](#)**

By Manila Standard

Development partners reaffirmed their commitment to mobilizing financial resources for investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation to confront the challenges posed by the climate crisis.

Development partners including the World Bank Group and United Nations Development Program joined the Climate Investment Forum 2022, spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission in commemoration of the 15th Global Warming and Climate Consciousness Week.

Government agencies led by the Department of Finance presented the national targets on mitigation and adaptation and called for stronger commitments from international channels as well as the private sector to invest on the country's priorities on climate action.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno recognized the need to “urgently increase the availability of adaptation and resilience finance particularly for sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure.” Diokno also underscored the important role of the private sector in achieving a just transition towards a low-carbon economy and the commitment of the Philippine government on “strengthening its policies on climate financing [and] mainstreaming sustainable finance in all possible ways through policy and harmonization.”

UNDP resident representative Dr. Selva Ramachandran also underlined the important role of the private sector in climate investments. “There’s a growing recognition due to the amounts required to meet climate goals, and the private sector has a key role to play in mobilizing climate finance. While it is widely known that the private sector’s DNA is closely attached to its financial interests, we need to develop and disseminate a clear narrative. Beyond corporate social responsibility initiatives, it makes good business sense to invest in climate initiatives.”

The UNDP developed the Climate Finance Network to support the initiatives on increasing public and private sector investments toward mitigating impacts of climate change and improving resilience of national and local government agencies and communities.

The World Bank released its Country Climate and Development Report for the Philippines which explains how climate change will affect the country's economic development and emphasizes the important role of the private sector in climate action.

“The World Bank has a very strong commitment to really accompany the efforts of the government, the Climate Change Commission, and all the agencies in this effort. We have actually achieved quite a bit over the last decade or so, and we are very committed to do more to really address this emergency,” said Dr. Ndiame Diop, World Bank country director for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

The government of the United Kingdom also emphasized the need to act and deliver results based on the country's climate action priorities. The Climate Finance Network was supported by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.



“The UK has been listening to the priorities of the new government in the Philippines and we are working to deliver new programs responding to its needs on coastal and marine adaptation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, nature-based solutions, science, and innovation,” said UK Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufilet.

The Climate Investment Forum is a product of the Climate Finance Network which brought together high-level policymakers, heads of international organizations, private sector leaders and civil society groups with an overall objective of turning climate commitments into action.

“We need to invest in ourselves, because these investments are our investments in our collective future. From aligning our efforts toward NDCs to working together on accelerating just transition to a low-carbon economy; to building the adaptive capacities of our communities, to utilizing best available science and multi-risk analysis frameworks and tools; and to harnessing domestic and international finance,” CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert Borje said.

### **DILG and CCC strengthen partnership for LGU climate expenditure tagging**

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) will collaborate to help build and strengthen the capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs) for Climate Expenditure Tagging.

The activity will help both the local governments as well as concerned national government agencies (NGA) to determine how much have been spent or would be spent for climate change-related programs, projects or activities.

This as DILG Secretary Benjamin “Benhur” Abalos Jr. signed and issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2022-144 enjoining LGUs and DILG offices to participate in the CCC’s webinar, “Leveraging Local Budgets in the Context of Covid-19 Recovery and Sustainable Environmental Management” on November 22 and 23. The MC also reminds local chief executives of their local governments’ submissions under the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET).

The webinar will feature new insights on the intersections of climate action, health, sustainability, and local climate investments. This webinar is part of the celebration of the Climate Change Consciousness Week with the theme “Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima.” Registration is open via the link: <https://bit.ly/LocalCCET2022>, the CCC said in a statement.

Pursuant to DBM-CCC-DILG JMC No. 2015-01, local governments at the provincial, city and municipal levels must submit their climate-tagged Annual Investment Programs (AIPs) together with the Quality Assurance and Review (QAR) forms.

The DILG and CCC work hand-in-hand to build the capacities of local governments in mainstreaming climate change in local development plans and investment programs, through the Local CCET and Training of Trainers on enhanced Local Climate Change Action Planning, among other initiatives.

Abalos received CCC Vice Chairperson Robert Borje during a courtesy call last month, where both officials reaffirmed the importance of further strengthening DILG-CCC institutional partnership and in scaling up climate change action capacity building projects for LGUs.

Through the DILG and CCC partnership, LGUs demonstrated increased capacities for climate action and reporting.

DILG MC 2021-046 required local governments to participate in a Local CCET webinar, which resulted in 3,414 trained LGU, NGA, and state universities and colleges representatives.

Subsequently, DILG MC 2021-068 enjoined LGUs to submit their LCCAPs to the CCC, which resulted in additional 715 LCCAPs received by the CCC. This increased LCCAP submissions by 93 percent from 2021, overall making total LCCAP submissions at 80 percent out of 1,715 LGUs.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[CCC, DILG partner to bolster LGUs' adaptation planning capacities](#)**

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan

MANILA – To further bolster local government unit (LGU) capacities for climate change mitigation and adaptation, the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Local Government Academy (DILG-LGA) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) are teaming to build up their institutional partnerships, coinciding with the 15th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

In a statement on Wednesday, the two agencies said they would hold the culminating batch of the training of trainers on the formulation of an enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan (eLCCAP) from Nov. 21 to 25 at Ace Hotel and Suites in Pasig City.

The activity is part of the series of training-of-trainers led by the two agencies, with the overall objective of creating a pool of coaches and experts to help the Local Governance Regional Resources Centers (LGRRCs) nationwide in capacity-building activities on the development of eLCCAPs.

Through the DILG and CCC partnership, LGUs showed increased capacities for climate action and reporting.

DILG released Memorandum Circular 2021-068, enjoining LGUs to submit their LCCAPs to the CCC, which resulted in additional 715 LCCAPs received by the CCC.

This increased submissions by 93 percent from 2021, overall making total LCCAP submissions at 80 percent from 1,715 LGUs.

The training of trainers supports this year's CCC Week theme, "Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima," by mentoring and capacitating LGUs and higher education institutions in the country on the formulation and enhancement of science-based and risk-informed action plans. This will help to strengthen the local communities' adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change.

The five-day activity will cover the process of LCCAP formulation and all its technical components, such as Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment, Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Climate Change Expenditure Tagging, and People's Survival Fund.

The training will be facilitated by resource persons from the CCC, DILG Bureau of Local Government Development, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, and Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Around 90 participants representing DILG regional offices, city, and municipal planning and development offices, and local disaster risk reduction and management offices, as well as representatives from local resource institutes and higher education institutions from Bicol, Northern Mindanao, Caraga, Mimaropa and National Capital Region will attend the training.

### **[Dev't partners reaffirm vow to mobilize fund for climate action](#)**

CLIMATE ACTION. Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, United Kingdom Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufile, United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative Dr. Selva Ramachandran, World Bank Country Director for Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand Dr. Ndiame Diop and other development partners of the Climate Change Commission reaffirm commitments to mobilize investments for climate action during the Climate Investment Forum at Novotel Manila, Quezon City 2022 on Nov. 21, 2022. Diokno recognized the need to "urgently increase the availability of adaptation and resilience finance particularly for sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure." (Photo courtesy of CCC)

MANILA – Development partners reaffirmed their commitment of mobilizing financial resources for investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation to confront the challenges posed by the climate crisis.

Development partners including the World Bank Group and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) joined the Climate Investment Forum 2022, led by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) in commemoration of the 15th Global Warming and Climate Consciousness Week on Nov. 21.

Government leaders led by the Department of Finance (DOF) presented the national targets on mitigation and adaptation and called for stronger commitments from international channels as well as the private sector to invest on the country's priorities on climate action.

In his keynote address, DOF Secretary Benjamin Diokno recognized the need to “urgently increase the availability of adaptation and resilience finance particularly for sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure.”

Diokno also emphasized the important role of the private sector in achieving a just transition towards a low-carbon economy and the commitment of the Philippine government on “strengthening its policies on climate financing (and) mainstreaming sustainable finance in all possible ways through policy and harmonization.”

UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Selva Ramachandran also underscored the important role of the private sector in climate investments.

“There's a growing recognition due to the amounts required to meet climate goals, and the private sector has a key role to play in mobilizing climate finance. While it is widely known that the private sector's DNA is closely attached to its financial interests, we need to develop and disseminate a clear narrative. Beyond corporate social responsibility initiatives, it makes good business sense to invest in climate initiatives,” Ramachandran said.

The UNDP has developed the Climate Finance Network to support the initiatives on increasing public and private sector investments toward mitigating impacts of climate change and improving resilience of national and local government agencies and communities.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has released its Country Climate and Development Report for the Philippines which explains how climate change will affect the country's economic development and emphasizes the important role of the private sector in climate action.

“The World Bank has a very strong commitment to really accompany the efforts of the government, the Climate Change Commission, and all the agencies in this effort. We have actually achieved quite a bit over the last decade or so, and we are very

committed to do more to really address this emergency,” said Dr. Ndiame Diop, World Bank Country Director for Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

As a long standing partner of the Philippines, the World Bank has been helping lay the groundwork for significant actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience and prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

For FY2022, about 46 percent of their commitments are contributed to climate action.

The government of the United Kingdom also emphasized the need to act and deliver results based on the country's climate action priorities. The Climate Finance Network was supported by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

“The UK has been listening to the priorities of the new government in the Philippines and we are working to deliver new programs responding to its needs on coastal and marine adaptation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, nature-based solutions, science, and innovation,” UK Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufile said.

The Climate Investment Forum is a product of the Climate Finance Network which brought together high-level policymakers, heads of international organizations, private sector leaders, and civil society groups with an overall objective of turning climate commitments into action.

“We need to invest in ourselves, because these investments are our investments in our collective future. From aligning our efforts toward NDCs to working together on accelerating just transition to a low-carbon economy; to building the adaptive capacities of our communities, to utilizing best available science and multi-risk analysis frameworks and tools; and to harnessing domestic and international finance,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

For more information about the Climate Investment Forum, visit the social media accounts of the CCC using @CCCPhl or visit its website at <https://climate.gov.ph>. (PNA)

### **[Multi stakeholders vow support for climate-resilient PH by 2050](#)**

CLIMATE-RESILIENT PH. New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Kell, Securities and Exchange Commissioner McJill Bryant Fernandez, Climate Change Commissioner Albert P. dela Cruz, and Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. Chief Operating Officer Roel Refran sign the statement of commitment on climate investment and just transition during the Climate Investment Forum 2022 in Novotel Manila on Nov. 21, 2022. Multi stakeholders vowed to boost investments in climate and sustainability initiatives and accelerate just transition to achieve a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines by 2050. (Contributed photo)

MANILA – Multi stakeholders vowed to boost investments in climate and sustainability initiatives and accelerate just transition to achieve a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines by 2050.

The stakeholders, both from private and public sectors, made this commitment after top environment and climate officials urged them to invest more in climate action and work together to achieve climate-resilient development during the 15th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week 2022) that began on November 21.

Government leaders, business and financial sectors, and civil society organizations signed a statement of commitment ensuring the availability and accessibility of financing mechanisms for climate and sustainability projects.

It also supports the acceleration of the Philippines' low-carbon development and just transition from coal to renewable energy.

Recognizing the imperative for an effective, collective response to the urgent threats of climate change, the commitment also includes the stakeholders' deployment of innovative interventions with sustainable, positive impacts on supply chains and value chains.

New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Kell, Securities and Exchange Commissioner McJill Bryant Fernandez, Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. Chief Operating Officer Roel Refran, and Climate Change Commissioner Albert P. dela Cruz led the ceremonial signing during the Climate Investment Forum (CIF) 2022, which was organized by CCC, in Quezon City on Monday.

“In the spirit of ‘No One Should Be Left Behind’ in the Sustainable Development Goals, this statement of commitment is not just for us, but for our children and the children of our children,” dela Cruz said.

“Fighting the impacts of climate change comes at a cost. As a developing country that is at risk, the Philippines needs all the help we can get from both the public and private sectors, and indeed the international community through investments on adaptation and mitigation actions” Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert EA Borje said.

With the theme “Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima”, CCC Week 2022 draws together various climate change and environment stakeholders in the Philippines in a collective push toward transforming climate change commitments into action towards a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines.

Under Presidential Proclamation 1667 s. 2008, the CCC spearheads the annual observance of Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week every November 19-25, aimed at raising consciousness on addressing the impacts of the changing climate.

"The private sector—both being contributory and vulnerable to climate impacts—must see the value of these investments in growing their businesses, insulating their people and operations from climate shocks, avoiding emissions that exacerbate global warming and climate change, and how these can ultimately influence our ways of life for the better," CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said.

### **Private, public partnership**

During the closing ceremonies of CIF 2022 on Tuesday, Aboitiz Group President and Chief Executive Officer as well as the lead for the Private Sector Advisory Council Sabin M. Aboitiz emphasized that a government and private sector partnership aligned towards sustainability targets are critical for shared success for climate change risk nation like the Philippines.

"As the President (Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.) himself said, the fight against climate change can only be successful if everyone is committed and determined to steer our practices and systems towards a greener direction. Victory will not come by defeating a visible enemy. It will come in certain moments when we can see that we are gradually averting a global crisis," Aboitiz said.

He said their group of companies is committed to the highest environmental, social, and government standards and practices.

"By setting bolder targets to better serve our communities and customers, we are reaffirming this commitment, which is for a hundred years, has been consistent in building a sustainable future for generations to come," he added.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga emphasized the importance of investing in initiatives to pursue climate resilience.

"More investments are still needed if we are to make transformative strides to achieve climate-resilient development. The coming years will present more opportunities to show how the whole-of-society effort can shape the future of our country," Loyzaga said.

She cited the record-high PHP453.11 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation under the FY 2023 National Expenditure Program, a 56.39 percent increase to this year's PHP289.73 billion.

In her recorded message, Senator Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, said the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, food security, and communities are becoming even more pronounced, thereby needing serious and urgent attention from all.

"We should take climate change more seriously and urgently. We should rally all communities to institute appropriate strategies to (this) make environment climate-resilient and not to initiate activities that would aggravate the sufferings of the

people,” Villar said. “Filipinos are called to do their parts to counter the ill effects of climate change.”

Rep. Edgardo Chatto, chair of the House of Representatives climate change committee, highlighted the need to collectively strengthen the capacities of communities to reduce loss and damage.

“The vulnerability of our society is measured in three aspects: Susceptibility, Coping, and Adaptability. We may not control the natural events, but we need to strengthen our susceptibility measures, our coping mechanisms in minimizing damage, adaptation or our long-term strategies to anticipate changes to mitigate or avoid the adverse effects and impacts,” Chatto said.

Borje thanked their partners from the national and local governments, the business sector, the private sector, the academe, and civil society for joining us in this mission.

“The commission shall continue to bring everyone together to ensure a dynamic synergy as we pursue greener and more resilient pathways towards a sustainable future,” he added.

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### **[Statement of Commitment kontra climate change, sinelyuhan ng multistakeholders](#)**

By Chona Yu

Nagkaisa ang ibat ibang government leaders, negosyante, at civil society organizations para palakasin pa ang climate at sustainability initiatives sa bansa.

Ito ay para makamit ang climate-resilient na Pilipinas pagsapit ng taong 20150.

Ayon kay Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz, nagkasundo ang kanilang hanay na suportahan ang low-carbon development at ang pagbabago sa paggamit mula coal patungo sa renewable energy.

Kabilang sa mga lumagda sa Statement of Commitment sina dela Cruz, New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Kell, Securities and Exchange Commissioner McJill Bryant Fernandez, at Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. Chief Operating Officer Atty. Roel Refran.

“In the spirit of ‘No One Should Be Left Behind’ in the Sustainable Development Goals, this statement of commitment is not just for us, but for our children and the children of our children,” pahayag ni dela Cruz.



Sinabi naman ni CCC Vice Chairperson at Executive Director Robert Borje na kailangan ng Pilipinas ang lahat ng uri ng tulong para matugunan ang climate change.

“Fighting the impacts of climate change comes at a cost. As a developing country that is at risk, the Philippines needs all the help we can get from both the public and private sectors, and indeed the international community through investments on adaptation and mitigation actions” pahayag ni Borje.

“The private sector—both being contributory and vulnerable to climate impacts—must see the value of these investments in growing their businesses, insulating their people and operations from climate shocks, avoiding emissions that exacerbate global warming and climate change, and how these can ultimately influence our ways of life for the better,” pahayag ni CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera.

Tema sa taong ito ang “Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima.” Nakassad sa Presidential Proclamation 1667 s. 2008 na taunang ginugunita ang Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week kada Nobyembre 19 hanggang 25.

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