



NEWS ROUNDUP

28 November 2022 [08:00 am]

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BUSINESS MIRROR

[Climate change reshapes life for gannets on Quebec isle](#)

By: Calvin Woodward, Lynn Berry, Carolyn Kaster and Christina Larson

PERCE, Quebec—On Quebec’s Bonaventure Island, the ghosts of human habitation from years past and the birds that breed there now in extraordinary numbers tell the same story: of lives lived hard in a place of fairy-tale beauty.

BUSINESS WORLD

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THE UNITED Nations' migration agency is doing a study that aims to enhance climate change resilience in conflict-prone areas in the Bangsamoro region in southern Philippines.

GMA NEWS

[World Bank: Philippines made significant progress in cutting poverty, but inequality remains high](#)

By: Ted Cordero

The Philippines has made significant gains in reducing poverty, but income inequality remains with the super-rich capturing a substantial portion of the national income, multilateral lender World Bank said in its latest report.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Carbon credit trading may soon be a thing in PH, says DMCI unit](#)

By: Jordeene B. Lagare

DMCI Mining Corp., a unit of Consunji-led DMCI Holdings Inc., wants a carbon credit system put up in the Philippines in the hopes of beefing up global efforts to fight climate change.

[Could blockchain-based insurance solve agricultural pains in the Philippines?](#)

The Philippines is one of the most typhoon-prone countries in the world, dealing with an average of 20 occurrences per year. According to the Philippine Climate Change and Food Security Analysis (CCFSA) study commissioned by the World Food Programme, typhoons and other extreme weather events have cost the country approximately Php 290 million in agricultural damages in the last decade.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Australia, PH seek closer tie-up on maritime security](#)

By: Joyce Anne Rocamora

MANILA – The Philippines and Australia are looking to strengthen cooperation on maritime security and combatting transnational crimes.

THE MANILA TIMES

[MSMEs told to ramp up green compliance](#)

Manufacturers, exporters, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) should start scaling up their green operations as climate change, circularity and sustainability head the mega trends that increasingly impact trade worldwide, according to an industry expert.

[Experts seek local plans vs climate change impact](#)

Science-based and local-based action plans are crucial in addressing the worsening impacts of climate change in the country.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Is Manila Bay losing its marine life due to land reclamation?](#)

By Kenneth Roland A. Guda

MANILA, Philippines — For four days, Roger Requinto, 44, waited for the crabs to return. Most of the time, he just stared at the water while sitting on the edge of his hut on stilts. Occasionally, he checked the nets.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Multisectoral commitment: Just transition to climate-resilient PhI by 2050](#)

By TDT

'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.'

[NZ, UK embassies reaffirm commitment to address climate change](#)

The commitment recognizes the imperative for an effective, collective response to climate change threats that include the deployment of innovative interventions with sustainable, positive impacts on supply chains and value chains

DWIZ ONLINE

[Mahalagang papel ng Kabataan sa pagtugon sa Climate Change, tinalakay sa isang webinar workshop](#)

By: Gilbert Pardez

Naging highlight sa isang webinar workshop ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) ang mahalagang papel ng kabataan para sa makabuluhan at napapanahong pagtugon sa climate change.

DZBB

[Climate Change Commission at UP Resilience Institute, lumagda sa kasunduan para mapalakas ang maagap na pagtugon sa mga kalamidad](#)

By Glen Juego

Sa pamamagitan ng kasunduan nagsanib puwersa ang Climate Change Commission at ang UP Resilience Institute o UPRI para higit paghandaan ang mga kalamamidad.

MANILA BULLETIN

[DENR raises climate awareness with Climate Consciousness Week](#)

By: Faith Argosino

Raising the awareness of the citizens on what they can do to about climate change is a big factor in mitigating the effects of climate change.

MANILA STANDARD

[Climate agency holds global warming confab](#)

By: Rio Araja

The Climate Change Commission on Friday highlighted the important role of the youth in coming up with concrete actions to address global warming and climate change in celebration of the 15th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

[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.

PILIPINO MIRROR

[\[Opinion\] Kahalagahan ng pagtatanim ng mga puno](#)

By: Alex Castro

Sa tuwing nagkakaroon ng kalamidad, saka pa lang naaalala ng lahat ang hubad na ang mga bundok dahil sa mga illegal logger.

PTV NEWS

[Climate Change Commission, UP ink pact on disaster preparedness](#)

A pact crafted to intensify and improve disaster preparedness was linked between the Climate Change Commission and the Philippine University of the Philippine Resilience Institute in celebration of the 15th anniversary of global and climate consciousness week.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Youth urged to take part in actions vs. climate change](#)

By: Perfecto Raymundo Jr.

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Friday challenged the youth to actively participate in government undertakings that would help address the challenges brought about by climate change.

RADYO PILIPINAS

[Mga Kabataan, hinimok ng CCC na maging parte ng Climate Change Action](#)

By: Merry Anne Bastasa

Isinagawa ngayon ng Climate Change Commission ang isang webinar-workshop para mas hikayatin pa ang mga kabataan na maging aktibo sa pakikibahagi sa Climate Change Action.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Climate change reshapes life for gannets on Quebec isle](#)

By: Calvin Woodward, Lynn Berry, Carolyn Kaster and Christina Larson

PERCE, Quebec—On Quebec's Bonaventure Island, the ghosts of human habitation from years past and the birds that breed there now in extraordinary numbers tell the same story: of lives lived hard in a place of fairy-tale beauty.

You see this from the tender ages on the family gravestones of islanders who scratched out a living from the late 1700s to when Bonaventure went entirely to the birds a half century ago.

You see it from the tenacious colony of 100,000-plus northern gannets as they plunge into the sea for prey, soar back to their nests and fight at the least provocation, sometimes to the death, for their territory on a plateau high above the waters or in crannies of the cliffs.

Nothing is easy for the gannets. Not in this age of warming seas, competition with trawlers for fish, pollution, supercharged storms and the onset of avian flu.

That's especially so when those perils are combined with their curious compulsion, shared by many seabirds, to return each spring to the exact spot they left the year before. For these spirited divas, the next nesting spot over just won't do.

Worldwide, it remains difficult or impossible to tie any one massive die-off of seabirds or breeding calamity solely to global warming, for nature has its own jarring rhythms of abundance and deprivation.

But the evidence writ large, over decades, is unassailable: Warming and rising seas and the erratic weather events fueled by a changing climate are taking a heavy toll on seabirds. University of British Columbia researchers say seabird populations have fallen 70 percent since the mid-20th century.

Climate-related losses have, for example, hit albatrosses in the central Pacific, common murrelets and Cassin's auklets along the US West Coast, puffins off the Maine coast, penguins in South Africa, endangered roseate terns off New England, and brown pelicans on vanishing islands off southeastern Louisiana.

The struggles of many seabird species occur in marine wilderness far from humans. Those of the Bonaventure gannets, however, play out in plain sight, in a gift to scientists and the public, on the protected grounds of the Quebec government's Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Perce.

The Bonaventure gannets display a “clumsy and funny little side on land which has nothing to do with what it is when it is at sea,” said David Pelletier, a leading Quebec researcher of the birds.

At sea the gannets are magnificent in their grace and power.

Using air currents off the water, they fly effortlessly high over the sea and dive nearly straight down in their hunt for fish, piercing the surface at 100 kilometers (60 miles) an hour like so many white missiles. Their black-tipped wings, which span 2 meters (6 feet), are tightly tucked behind them.

They dive in huge numbers near the island when mackerel—the prey that gives them the most energy—or herring or other smaller fish are abundant there.

It’s a sight that amazes even the most seasoned scientists every time. “It’s so wow,” said Magella Guillemette, a pre-eminent gannet researcher at the University of Quebec in Rimouski, as he described watching the feeding frenzy from his small boat in the thick of it.

With the island less than 3 kilometers (under 2 miles) from the Perce harbor, these Bonaventure birds are remarkably accessible to biologists and visitors who hike on trails thick with wildflowers in summer to see the birds up close. The clamor of the birds greets the hikers even before the full colony comes into view.

The gannets, unlike many other seabirds, seem utterly indifferent to humans. They gaze right through you with their porcelain blue eyes.

“It’s rare that we have the possibility to look at wild animals like this,” said Marie-Dominique Nadeau-Girard, the park’s services manager. “And they stay there, they don’t look at you, they live their life, and you’re just looking at them and learning.”

Guillemette’s student researchers are busy each summer studying the birds. Over the years, they have put leg bands and GPS systems on hundreds of them. What’s striking about gannets is that the researchers can simply pick them up, without fear of disturbing their nests.

“You just catch that bird,” Guillemette said. “You weigh them, you put some devices on them and then you put it back to the nest and it’s just staying there.”

The eco-sentinels

All of this makes the Bonaventure gannets ideal sentinels for the health of the marine ecosystem in the gulf and clattering storytellers to the planet. They form the world’s second largest gannet colony and are easier to reach than the largest, on Scotland’s remote Bass Island.

Quebec's on-the-ground experts on the colony, Canadian government biologists, and seabird scientists globally say there is little to no question that global warming is reshaping the lives of the northern gannets. Warmer sea temperatures drive their prey to cooler depths, distant waters or both.

But the full impact of climate change is not yet established and overfishing may be an even greater danger.

In tandem, the threats from fishing and warming are forcing the gannets to go farther from their Bonaventure nests in search of food for their island chicks and themselves. The distance the birds fly on a single fishing trip has more than doubled in recent years to an average of 500 kilometers (300 miles), leaving one mate and the chick waiting several days or longer to be fed by the hunter, Guillemette said.

If the mate on the nest gets too weak from hunger, it may fly off for food, too, leaving the young one to starve or to wander from the nest and risk being killed by an adult. Like many seabirds, adult gannets are highly territorial and may kill any intruders to their nesting areas; AP journalists witnessed two such deadly attacks on the young on a day shortly before the winter migration.

Researchers have been able to draw a strong correlation between the supply of mackerel in the gulf and the number of chicks produced. In 2012, when there were almost no mackerel, only 4 percent of the nests produced a chick, Guillemette said, a record low attributed to unusually warm waters that year.

Since then, productivity has been highly variable year to year while remaining low on average, said seabird biologist Jean-François Rail of the Canadian Wildlife Service, an agency of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

"Everything points in the direction of reduced availability of mackerel and herring, which results in lower breeding success," he said.

What's clear is that birds now need to work harder to find food. Beginning in 2012, Guillemette's researchers began outfitting gannets with a GPS device, in little boxes taped above their tails, which lets them track how far they fly, how deep they dive, and how many times they dive each day.

In March, just as the spring fishing season was opening, Canada shut commercial fishing for Atlantic mackerel and spring herring in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, saying stocks had entered a "critical zone." Earlier efforts to restore stocks failed, in part because warmer waters had depleted the microscopic crustaceans that are the main food for the fish.

Mackerel is a star of the gulf ecosystem, not only for gannets. They're prized as a commercial species as well as bait for the lucrative lobster, crab and tuna fisheries. The

gulf's abundant grey seals gobble as many as they can get. With all the competition for food, gannets have found ways to adapt, but at a cost.

This year, the Bonaventure colony also had to contend with the avian flu. The contamination rate was high in the spring, Guillemette said, but faded. Other colonies in Canada had it much worse.

Colony life

Over winter, northern gannets are solitary birds that live widely dispersed on the water—along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida, some even in the Gulf of Mexico. But mates reunite year after year on their breeding grounds, for 15 years or so, producing one chick each season.

They have a monogamous nature and an elaborate means of communicating mate to mate. In gannet-speak, a beak turned skyward signals it's time to go forage; mates clacking their bills together as if in a swordfight signal a welcome home after the hunt.

You might think they are lovebirds; alas, these sentinels are not sentimental.

“People are more romantic and think they are faithful to their partner, but it's not the case,” Nadeau-Girard says with a laugh. “The gannet is faithful to his territory, his nest.

“And if the baby goes out of the nest, the parents won't recognize him because ... they recognize the nest, not the individual. Each time they see each other it's like they meet for the first time.”

The nests are only 80 centimeters (30 inches) apart, center-to-center, and these are sizable birds. At certain vantage points, the colony appears as a carpet of white as far as the eye can see, dotted with the dark-feathered young ones, and all of it against the backdrop of sea and sky.

The birds arrive in April, lay their eggs in May and tend them until they hatch more than 40 days later. Then it's three months of raising the chicks. By the time of the southern migration in late September or early October, the young are plenty plump, weighing 1 kilogram (over 2 pounds) more than their parents. The extra fat will sustain them at sea as they learn to fly and dive for fish.

There are no training wheels for the portly juveniles. Instead, lots of practice beating their wings on the ground, followed by a departure from the cliffs that is part flight, part plop.

If they survive that, the journey south will teach them their grace and power on the wing and into the deep.

A mystical landscape

From the town of Perce, the mainland cliffs with the red-roofed houses, the commanding Perce Rock and Bonaventure Island make for an iconic panorama, and a mystical one for the people of the Gaspé Peninsula and travelers from around the world.

When boats bring visitors to the island, park employees corral them to explain the trails and what they can and cannot do. Services are primarily in French. On a September day, the multilingual Rudiger Spraul pulled aside the English-speaking visitors to give them the drill.

He came from Germany, fell in love with the place and spent the summer and early fall working for the park until it closed last month after the gannets left for the winter. He looked out on the colony every day from a small food operation where visitors can picnic and hope they aren't leeward of the day's winds, for the colony can stink.

"It gave me so much peace that I decided I'm going to stay here," he said. "I'm actually an engineer. Now I'm selling sandwiches on this lonesome spot."

"The island is such a beautiful small little paradise. It's like time stands still there. You go there, you see that old houses, no people living for so many years, but still you can get the impression how it was there, how hard it was."

The island was settled in the late 18th century by cod fishermen, reaching its population peak of 172 in 1831. The last remaining families left in 1971 when it was taken over by the government to become part of the park.

Altogether, some 250,000 birds inhabit the teardrop-shaped island, about 3 kilometers (under 2 miles) at its longest. Seals frequent the rocks and shore and whales are a common sight. Foxes poke from island bushes and snag an occasional gannet on the colony's periphery.

They're all out making a living in a changing ecosystem that tests the ability of creatures great and small to adapt.

"The northern gannet is, for me, a resilient species, strong, capable of 'turning on a dime' ... as we say in Quebec, 'se tourner sur un 10 cents,'" said Pelletier, a teacher-researcher at Cegep de Rimouski, a public college.

How much and how fast must they pivot as their habitat and our planet continue to warm? What fish will be there for them in the spring, and how far and how deep will they be? Bonaventure's sentinels will be back next year to tell more of that tale.

BUSINESS WORLD

[IOM study aims to integrate climate change impact to peacebuilding work in Bangsamoro](#)

By: Marifi S. Jara

THE UNITED Nations' migration agency is doing a study that aims to enhance climate change resilience in conflict-prone areas in the Bangsamoro region in southern Philippines.

The research project, supported by the United Kingdom (UK) government, will engage communities in building evidence on links between conflict and climate change, which will be integrated into peace programs and policies, the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) said in a press statement.

"This is a milestone for the UK and the Bangsamoro Government as our first initiative to integrate climate change and peacebuilding objectives into local climate action and resilience-building in a conflict-affected context," British Deputy Head of Mission to the Philippines Alistair White said in the statement.

Parts of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), was among the areas severely affected by severe tropical storm Nalgae, locally named Paeng, which struck the Philippines in late October.

The regional government reported 62 deaths, mostly in the town of Datu Odin Sinsuat in Maguindanao Del Norte due to a landslide that buried a village, while 13 others remain missing. Another 39 people were injured.

More one 280,000 in the BARMM have been displaced by landslides and floods, according to IOM.

There are three pilot areas for the study. These are: Marawi City in in Lanao del Sur, and the towns of Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano in Maguindanao del Sur.

"The project brings together the knowledge and experience of local stakeholders, shedding light on the increasingly emerging risks that affect communities left behind in the BARMM," said IOM Chief of Mission in the Philippines Tristan A. Burnett.

"IOM hopes that the evidence and best practices identified during this project will help guide the BARMM and conflict-affected communities to mainstream adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change," Mr. Burnett said.

Some studies have shown that climate emergencies can increase security risks by aggravating pre-existing socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities, the UN migration agency said.

Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority Director General Mohajahirin T. Ali, for his part, recognized the project's "contribution to BARMM during the crucial transition period" and in supporting efforts for sustainable peace and development in the region.

The autonomous region, set up in 2019 following the passage of Republic Act No. 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law, is under a transition period until 2025.

GMA NEWS

[World Bank: Philippines made significant progress in cutting poverty, but inequality remains high](#)

By: Ted Cordero

The Philippines has made significant gains in reducing poverty, but income inequality remains with the super-rich capturing a substantial portion of the national income, multilateral lender World Bank said in its latest report.

In its report “Overcoming Poverty and Inequality in the Philippines: Past, Present, and Prospects for the Future” released Thursday, the World Bank said that poverty rate in the Philippines fell by two-thirds in the past three decades—from 49.2% in 1985 to 16.7% in 2018— “driven by high growth rates and the expansion of jobs outside agriculture.”

The multilateral lender also said that by 2018, the middle class had expanded to nearly 12 million and the economically secure population had risen to 44 million.

In his keynote address during the report’s launch, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) chief Arsenio Balisacan said that as Socioeconomic Planning Secretary of two administrations and “having served in other capacities, I can say with conviction that our efforts to reduce poverty and inequality have come a long way.”

The World Bank report, however, said that inequality is still high in the country despite the gains in poverty reduction.

“Yet inequality remains high: the top 1% of earners together capture 17% of national income, with only 14% being shared by the bottom 50%,” the World Bank said.

With an income Gini coefficient—a measure of distribution of income among the population—42.3% in 2018, “the Philippines had one of the highest rates of income inequality in East Asia,” it said.

Balisacan said the World Bank report is a welcome analytical piece that is both timely and relevant.

He said the findings in the report will be useful as inputs and references to the strategies the government is going to implement through the upcoming Philippine Development Plan or PDP 2023-2028.

“The Philippines aims to become a middle-class society free of poverty by 2040, but we know from global experience that no country has managed to make this transition while maintaining high levels of inequality,” said Ndiame Diop, World Bank Country Director for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand.

“Inequality of opportunity and low mobility across generations wastes human potential and slowdown innovation, which is crucial for building a competitive and prosperous economy that will in turn improve the well-being and quality of life of all Filipinos,” said Diop.

GMA News Online has reached out to the Office of the Press Secretary for its comments on the matter, but it has yet to reply as of posting time.

At a separate Palace briefing, Balisacan said the 8-point socioeconomic agenda and the upcoming Philippine Development Plan, PDP 2023-2028 is intended to address the issues like that “and that is to accelerate poverty reduction while ensuring that the rapid growth, that the plan for the medium-term will also be very inclusive.”

“Inclusive, meaning that the economic opportunities will not only for the upper income groups but even more importantly for the lower and middle income groups,” he said.

“So it’s ‘everybody’s boat is lifted by the rising tide’ as they say. And that way, again, inequality will be reduced in a significant way and we’ll support the poverty reduction thrust of the government,” he added.

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 contains targets and strategic actions of government agencies in the next six years.

On the other hand, the administration's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda contains policies that promote social justice, ensure food security, accelerate progress, protect our environment, and address climate change.

The World Bank report also highlighted that the expansion of secondary education, mobility to better-paying jobs, access to basic services, and government social assistance have started to reduce inequality since the mid-2000s.

However, unequal opportunities, slow access to tertiary education among low-income households, inequality in returns to college education, and social norms putting the heavier burden of childcare on women has slowed down the narrowing of inequality in the Philippines, the report said.

For his part, Balisacan described the report as providing a picture of how inequality and poverty are embedded over a person’s life cycle — from maternal health that impacts mother and child, to children’s access to education and health services, and to employment and income opportunities.

“Inequality shapes outcomes later in life, such as employment opportunities and income, which in turn influence how much support adult Filipinos are able to provide for their children to help maximize their potential,” said Nadia Belhaj Hassine Belghith, Senior Economist with the East Asia Poverty Global Practice covering Thailand and the Philippines who led the study.

COVID-19 pandemic

Meanwhile, the report noted the COVID-19 pandemic has partly reversed decades-long gains in reducing poverty and inequality in the Philippines.

“In 2021, poverty rose to 18.1% despite large government assistance. The economy has begun to rebound but signs are emerging that the recovery will be uneven. Prolonged loss of income has taken a heavy toll on the poorest households. With food prices going up and a reliance on adverse coping strategies, among them eating less, there is a risk of serious consequences for the health and nutrition of children in vulnerable households,” the World Bank said.

The report said that policy priorities to reduce inequality in the Philippines can be structured around three themes, including healing the pandemic’s scars and building resilience, setting the stage for a vibrant and inclusive recovery, and promoting greater equality of opportunity.

Healing pandemic’s scars will require promoting greater vaccine booster uptake, overcoming the learning loss due to COVID-19, strengthening social assistance, unemployment insurance programs for the informal sector, and taming inflation, the World Bank said.

Setting the stage for vibrant recovery entails reskilling of workers, promoting entrepreneurship, increasing the participation of women in the labor force, and raising the productivity of agriculture.

Promoting greater equality of opportunity entails increasing access to quality health care, increasing equality of opportunity in education, and improving access to quality housing, among others, the lender said.

Equality of opportunity needs to target the lagging regions and other people disadvantaged in accessing these because of the circumstances of their birth, it said.

Balisacan said the World Bank report will provide analytical support to the Eight-point Socioeconomic Agenda of the Marcos Administration which underscores the importance of protecting households.

“The path towards a prosperous society where opportunities are available for all is certainly challenging, but our resolve to reach this goal remains strong and our commitment, firm,” Balisacan said.

“It will take everyone – from government agencies to members of the private sector and civil society – to do our share in shaping the policies and actions that will lift the lives of our fellow countrymen now and in the future,” the he added.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Carbon credit trading may soon be a thing in PH, says DMCI unit](#)

By: Jordeene B. Lagare

DMCI Mining Corp., a unit of Consunji-led DMCI Holdings Inc., wants a carbon credit system put up in the Philippines in the hopes of beefing up global efforts to fight climate change.

With President Marcos, who is concurrently sitting as the country's agriculture minister, and Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga "on board" with the concept, DMCI Mining president Tulse Das Reyes told reporters a system could be in place in six years' time.

Carbon credits are usually created by individuals or projects, say renewable energy plants or farmlands, that destroy or offset greenhouse gases. These are then purchased by individuals or companies that make unavoidable carbon dioxide emissions as a result of their production or operations.

According to financial jargon go-to Investopedia, these credits are usually sold or bought through a cap-and-trade program. A company will only be allowed a certain level of emission, going beyond such limit means it will have to buy credits from another party. Over time, the limit will train the company into reducing its emissions—and by going below its cap, it can make money by selling its extra credits.

"We're after carbon credits. In our country, we don't have a framework for carbon credits," Reyes said, adding: "We were burning a lot of fossil fuels ... and there's no commercial value to that, there's no story to that ... I think it's about time the Philippines become a leader in that."

Reyes said Japanese trading company Marubeni Corp. has been helping various companies worldwide offset their carbon dioxide emissions.

"What's nice about Secretary Loyzaga is that's one of her primary ideas to put forward this thing. We would like to help her, with Marubeni our partner. Marubeni has a global framework. They've done it in other countries before," he said.

Reyes said the plan would complement the government's national greening program.

"We would like to make this thing because if you can have the national greening program ... that's already a good foundation," he said.

He is referring to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which aims to cover 2 million hectares in vulnerable areas planted with trees by 2028.

Could blockchain-based insurance solve agricultural pains in the Philippines?

The Philippines is one of the most typhoon-prone countries in the world, dealing with an average of 20 occurrences per year. According to the Philippine Climate Change and Food Security Analysis (CCFSA) study commissioned by the World Food Programme, typhoons and other extreme weather events have cost the country approximately Php 290 million in agricultural damages in the last decade.

The recent typhoon Paeng alone caused Php 3.16 billion in damages to the sector.

Agriculture is a major industry in the Philippine economy, representing about ten percent of its gross domestic product. At the groundwork of the industry are small-scale farmers, usually holding less than three hectares of farmland, leading agricultural production. Despite being the major contributors to the industry, most of these farmers live in poverty. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) states that most rice farmers got a net return per hectare of Php 16,832 in 2020, which is a little more than 20% of the average Php 70,000 per hectare capital required for rice farming.

With limited financial means, farmers heavily rely on loans to raise capital for their work. This situation makes them vulnerable when they lose income when crops are destroyed by floods and droughts. With their initial mortgage unpaid, farmers often raise capital through fresh loans, exposing them to a high risk of debt accumulation.

“Farmer productivity has declined over the years due to insufficient support. Often, families of farmers decide to sell land for more immediate income amid pressing needs and what would have been the next generation of farmers are seen to pursue better-paying jobs,” shared Mario Berta, Country Manager for the Philippines at Igloo. “On top of these challenges, there are recurring natural disasters that significantly hurt the livelihoods of farmers. This calls for a strengthened initiative that will mitigate the impact of catastrophes.”

While extreme weather conditions may not be prevented, preparations can be made to ensure the fastest recovery for the agriculture sector. The provision of crop insurance can help and will enable farmers to begin farming anew after a calamity. However, the current process of insurance claims settlement takes a lot of time and requires tedious backend processing. In addition to this, agents have to brave the difficult journey of visiting farms in the wake of typhoons and manually assess the damage to the insured’s assets. This extended processing time adds to further loss of income for the farmers.

“Crop insurance needs to be automated so the farmers can receive their payouts sooner and get back on their feet quicker,” said Berta.

Igloo is a regional insurtech firm with a mission to make insurance accessible and affordable for all through technology. It facilitates digital insurance underwritten by partner insurance companies and offered in partner distribution channels such as e-commerce platforms and mobile wallets. Recently, Igloo introduced Weather Index

Insurance, its first blockchain-based parametric insurance that automates claims through a smart contract on the blockchain.

Weather Index Insurance is an innovative approach to insurance provision that pays out benefits on the basis of a rainfall level, the predetermined index, for loss of assets and investments resulting from weather and catastrophic events. The claim is automatically paid when the rain index hits the flood or drought threshold. This eliminates the need to individually verify claims thereby reducing transaction costs, and allowing for a quicker claims settlement process. The business rules governing claims payout being hosted on a public blockchain help leverage the attributes of transparency, consistency, and unbiasedness thereby making the setup credible.

“We believe that Weather Index Insurance is a potential product that will reduce the vulnerability of farmers to adverse weather conditions. The expected increase in the speed of claims processing will enable farmers to have a better chance of recovery from catastrophes and increase productivity and competitiveness,” added Berta.

However, he also recognized that there are enormous challenges needed to be addressed to make blockchain-based insurance palatable to farmers. These hurdles include the country’s low insurance penetration rate, financial inclusion, and access to digital services in rural areas, among others.

“When we bring Weather Index Insurance to the Philippines, Igloo will work with organizations such as rural banks, farmer’s cooperatives, and relevant government agencies to address these pain points and ensure that the insurance solution becomes a viable option that farmers can rely on for faster recovery,” said Berta.

“The unprecedented pace of climate change coupled with COVID-19 induced supply chain shocks have made it absolutely necessary to scale up agri-insurance solutions for the smallholder farming community. Igloo is trying to bring forth an integrated approach with the wider ecosystem to strengthen farm-level resilience by focusing on product and distribution innovation,” shared Raunak Mehta, Co-founder and CEO at Igloo.

The Weather Index Insurance is available in Vietnam but is set to roll out in more agriculture-driven SEA countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand. Igloo is currently speaking to potential partners that can underwrite and distribute the product to underserved farmers in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Committed to delivering Insurance for All, Igloo welcomes more collaboration with the public and private sector to guarantee the highest level of national protection.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Australia, PH seek closer tie-up on maritime security](#)

By: Joyce Anne Rocamora

MANILA – The Philippines and Australia are looking to strengthen cooperation on maritime security and combatting transnational crimes.

Senior foreign affairs and defense officials discussed ways to boost collaboration, both bilaterally and through multilateral organizations, at the 6th Philippines-Australia Strategic Dialogue, held at a hotel in Manila on Friday.

The dialogue was last conducted in 2020 via virtual mode.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to support a rules-based regional order with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the center.

"Both sides reaffirmed the importance of maritime cooperation activities, including the conduct of maritime dialogues, joint exercises, capacity building activities, training, and logistics support, which show the common maritime perspectives underpinning the two countries' maritime cooperative endeavors," the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The officials noted President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's agreement to strengthen ties between their countries by formally elevating the bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership.

Marcos and Albanese also vowed to further boost cooperation on agriculture, energy, and climate change during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 29th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on November 19.

"The connections between Australia and the Philippines have been long-standing and have become stronger and stronger. We have a sizeable population in Australia of Filipino nationals. And many of them have already taken Australian citizenship and dual citizenship," Marcos said during the meeting.

DFA Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs Ma. Theresa Lazaro and Defense Undersecretary for Civil, Veterans, and Reserve Affairs Franco Nemesio Gacal led the Philippine delegation.

The Australian side was represented by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Deputy Secretary for Southeast Asia and Global Partners Michelle Chan, and Department of Defense Acting Deputy Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Industry Hugh Jeffrey.

THE MANILA TIMES

[MSMEs told to ramp up green compliance](#)

Manufacturers, exporters, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) should start scaling up their green operations as climate change, circularity and sustainability head the mega trends that increasingly impact trade worldwide, according to an industry expert.

Senen Perlada, executive vice president and chief operations officer of the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., called on the government to help local businesses comply with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) guidelines and the circular economy principle.

He said this is important as major markets, especially the European Union, have been increasingly implementing import policies requiring green compliance.

Compliance with green operations and adherence to the Sustainable Development Goals will generate business opportunities for Philippine businesses, Perlada said. He noted a study by the Boston Consulting Group showing that 20 percent of consumers are willing to pay a 10-percent premium on companies practicing ESG. Furthermore, compliant companies will enjoy higher profitability, reduced regulatory threat, and the potential to attract better financing.

Perlada issued this call in a speech on Nov. 22, 2022 at a Stratbase ADR Institute trade conference, where he enumerated some of the mega trends and concepts that local exporters must embrace in order to be future-ready to compete in global markets.

One of these trends is the global adoption of circular business models, a direction the Philippines must follow as it can create economic, social and environmental opportunities for companies prepared for this shift. In a circular economy, there is market preference for recycled and renewable materials so as to maximize product lifespans and promote recycling.

"This creates a market that prefers secondary materials and only turns to nonrenewable, primary materials when no alternatives are available; in turn, prompting the widespread normalization of circular models," said Perlada.

Another significant trend is the rise of a circular bioeconomy, an economic model powered by nature and contributes to efforts to mitigate climate change while also providing materials to satisfy society's needs for food, feed products, and energy.

Perlada said that in a circular bioeconomy, "biological resources are recovered and reused wherever possible" and safely returned to nature once they can no longer be reintroduced into the economy.

A third major trend is the development of goods and services designed to meet the needs of the communities while leaving no one behind. Perlada said that in the coming years, businesses, governments and multistakeholder platforms are going to heighten collaboration on the protection of human rights throughout global supply chains and the eradication of forced and child labor, modern slavery, and human trafficking.

Another notable future development is the exponential improvement of material collection and recovery. This will mean the consistent enforcement of laws against pollution and environmental waste and the imposition of taxes on landfills, effectively strengthening the case for reusing, recycling and composting. Perlada said solutions such as take-back schemes and reverse logistics will become business as usual, and the collection of used products, materials and packaging, and their reintroduction into the manufacturing cycle, will be strongly pursued.

Preventing waste flow

At the same time, ending the system of having waste flow into the environment is another significant trend. Waste systems will be transformed and cross-sector collaboration, investment and standardization will drive enhanced stewardship of materials and products such as plastics, electronics, textiles, construction materials, automotive components and household goods at different stages of their life cycle and value chain, said Perlada.

The sixth leading trend is the embracing among consumers of consumption that is circular, regenerative and socially responsible.

"Consumer behavior shifts toward circular models of consumption as awareness grows of increasing resource scarcity and the environmental impacts of waste. Circular and sharing models become more available, affordable, practical and desirable across a broad range of products and services. Consumers come to value access more than ownership and increasingly accept repaired, refurbished and second-hand products," Perlada said.

In his talk, he also stressed the need for local MSMEs to start preparing for the requirements of Republic Act 11898 or the "Extended Producer Responsibility." Moreover, domestic businesses need to be aware of the growing momentum for carbon labeling in the country's major export markets as carbon labels have begun to appear on food and consumer packaged goods.

Experts seek local plans vs climate change impact

Science-based and local-based action plans are crucial in addressing the worsening impacts of climate change in the country.

This was highlighted during the 11th National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) Forum, where members recommended concrete action points to address the 10 leading climate risks in the Philippines.

The 16-member panel laid out strategies and action plans for each of the risks identified to support the national and local governments in formulating and crafting science-based policies.

"In order to deal with and find appropriate and sustainable solutions to the issues caused by the economic and non-economic impacts of climate change, the NPTE members will work together with various entities, such as government agencies, civil society organizations, private and public education institutions, and local government units, to undertake science-based climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management action plans," said Dr. Doracie Zoleta-Nantes, NPTE chairman.

The forum also became an avenue for local government units (LGUs) to share their experiences in the recent extreme weather events that hit the country.

Leyte Third District Rep. Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, vice chairman of the House of Representatives committee on climate change, shared that the extreme weather events, which have been made worse by climate change, have had a tremendous impact on their local community.

"Our Provincial Disaster Risk Management Plan states that 1,090 of our 1,641 barangay in the 40 municipalities of the province — or 66.4 percent — are flood susceptible, and 29 of the coastal municipalities, five of which are in my district, and all three cities, are vulnerable to storm surge," Tuazon said.

The area's basic social services, primary sources of livelihood — agriculture and fishing — as well as infrastructure development are all severely affected by floods and rain-induced landslides.

Flooding is one of the 10 climate-induced risks identified by the NPTE.

Among other risks are rising sea levels, coastal erosion, increasing frequency and severity of tropical cyclones, extreme drought, temperature increase and rising urban heat index, extreme rainfall, climate-influenced diseases, changing wind patterns, and biodiversity loss.

About P515.51 billion in losses and damage have already been attributed to climate risks in the country from 2010 to 2020.

To prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change, Tuazon emphasized the importance of technical advice from local scientists and academicians, especially in the areas of marine spatial planning, riverbank stabilization, agroforestry development, upland reforestation, and mangrove protection and management.

For climate change adaptation, she noted that data gathering is crucial for developing risk management and science-based programs.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Is Manila Bay losing its marine life due to land reclamation?](#)

By Kenneth Roland A. Guda

MANILA, Philippines — For four days, Roger Requito, 44, waited for the crabs to return. Most of the time, he just stared at the water while sitting on the edge of his hut on stilts. Occasionally, he checked the nets.

Roger was one of Manila Bay's few remaining fisherfolk in the coastal waters of Barangay Taliptip in Bulakan, Bulacan. He hoped that he would have enough crabs to sell, or just to feed his family. But the nets yielded only a crab or two.

"I used to catch a boat full of crabs and fish at the end of a day at the bay," Roger said in Filipino. "I would earn a thousand pesos a day, sometimes more, selling it. It was enough for my family to live on. Now, I can hardly catch anything."

Manila Bay is a 199,400-hectare body of water in Luzon island of the Philippines that has a coastline running from the coasts of Cavite province, to Parañaque, Pasay, Manila, Malabon and Navotas in Metro Manila, to Bulacan, Pampanga, and Bataan provinces. It is also the site of historic events, while tourists and visitors often rave about the stunning Manila Bay sunset.

It is also the site of at least 23 land reclamation projects.

The fisheries industry accounts for 67% of the bay's total value, said Oceana Philippines, a non-government organization working to protect the country's oceans and other bodies of water.

Fisherman Roger Requito sits in his hut in stilts in the middle of Manila Bay, just a few meters away from San Miguel Corp.'s airport construction on reclaimed land.

Murky waters

For the past two years, Roger and his fellow fishermen have been noticing something different in the waters of Taliptip. "It slowly began to redden," he said. "We used to be able to see the bottom of the water when looking into it. Now it is murky."

Less than a kilometer away from his hut, heavy construction equipment pounds on a piece of land recently reclaimed from the bay. For two years, San Miguel Corp. (SMC) has been hard at work dumping and filling that part of Manila Bay across Taliptip to build what it said would be the biggest airport in the Philippines.

"Even before the construction, there was already pollution in Manila Bay. Probably from the factories (that dumped on the bay)," said Primitivo Cansiran, 52, who accompanied Roger for a day at the bay. "But now it is much worse."

SMC said the project would employ thousands of people, mostly among the families displaced from Taliptip. But Roger, Primitivo, and many others displaced by the construction remain without work. The company did pay off most of the affected fisherfolk in Taliptip and nearby Barangay Bambang to leave their fishponds and huts. But the money has quickly run out.

A few families, like that of Roger, were defiant. When the construction started, there huts were constantly bombarded with a pounding noise from the construction. "The noise haunted me. I could even hear the pounding in my sleep," Roger said.

"Only six families, including ours, did not accept the money to leave. We asked SMC to give us a house and lot, and a livelihood. They gave us a house and, for a while, some livelihood [assistance]," said fellow fisherman Teody Bacon, 48. "But the work, which was mushroom farming, did not last. We did not have enough money to sustain it."

So Teody and others continued to try to fish. When the construction began and SMC began cutting mangroves, the crab catch began dwindling.

The community of fisherfolk in Barangay Sipac-Almacen, Navotas City, off northern Manila Bay's coast.

Dwindling catch

Roger, Primitivo, Teody and the Malolos fishermen were not alone in noticing the murky waters near the areas of northern Manila Bay that were being reclaimed.

Fisheries and marine scientist Jerwin Gallego Baure said that fisherfolk from nearby towns like those in Malolos, Bulacan saw this, too. When the dredging started in Taliptip, the coastal waters began to take on the color "of coffee", he said.

Fishermen from Navotas City, about 10 kilometers away from Taliptip, noticed it as well. They also described the waters as "mapula" (reddish). They, too, experienced a decrease in fish catch in the coastal waters of their city. Thousands of families also live near mussel farms in these waters along Navotas' coast.

"We began to see the effects (of the dredging). The water became red. Too red," said fisherman Isagani Perez Catiis, 60, from Barangay Sipac-Almacen in Navotas.

From one of many huts on stilts on the shore, Isagani looked blankly at the bay, pining for a time when they could freely catch fish or maintain mussel farms in the coastal waters. "We are now forbidden from fishing in many areas there. Everytime one of us gets near the area, they would approach us and demand that we turn back," he added.

"Each pond used to earn about P30,000 to P50,000 everyday from mussels. About six fishermen would divide the earnings among themselves," said Isagani.

In the coastal waters of Navotas, at least two land-and-fill projects are in the works. One, a 343-hectare project called Tanza Airport Support Services, will be located off the coast of Tanza, Navotas. It is also a project of San Miguel Corp., and will support the Bulacan airport.

Another reclamation project, right on the coastal waters where Isagani and many others fish, will be an expressway that connects the airport to Metro Manila. The local government of Navotas called the project "Navotas Coastal Development". It will reportedly include housing, and will be funded by San Miguel Corp. as well.

overlay-cleverCloseClose

Most mussel farm owners affected by the reclamation projects have already agreed to accept payment to evacuate their ponds.

The shores of Barangay Sipac-Almacen are littered with remnants of the makeshift structures from the mussel farms. "San Miguel people would destroy (the mussel farms), cut down the bamboo and anahaw structures. Some of these (debris) would remain floating in the sea," Isagani said.

A part of Navotas City's coast in Manila Bay that is being reclaimed.

Dire consequences

Scientists and experts have been near-unanimous in their assessment that land reclamation projects in Manila Bay will have dire environmental consequences for Metro Manila and nearby towns and cities.

Filipino geologist Kelvin Rodolfo, who is professor emeritus of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois, has been among the many experts sounding the alarm for years now.

His 2014 paper, titled "On the geological hazards that threaten existing and proposed reclamations of Manila Bay", remains the most cited study on the geological hazards of land reclamation projects in the bay.

"Three geological reasons make near-shore reclamation a very bad idea that poses lethal risks to many people: land subsidence, storm surges, and earthquake-induced enhanced ground shaking and liquefaction," Rodolfo said in his paper.

Marine experts, meanwhile, pointed to the destruction of the marine environment in Manila Bay as one of the irreversible adverse effects of the projects.

"What we have in Bulacan and Navotas are estuarine (semi-enclosed coastal bodies of water) environments, composed of mangroves and mudflats. They were later converted

to fishponds but are still (considered part of) the estuarine ecosystem," explained Baure, who is a member of the scientists' advocacy group Agham.

The mangroves protect the fishes and other marine life, he added. When SMC began cutting mangroves, the fishes began to migrate elsewhere.

"With land reclamation, the mangrove forests will disappear, as well as the shallow marine environment where the fishes and other marine life live. We also stand to lose the services that these marine ecosystems provide us," said geologist Narod Eco, a researcher for the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Geological Sciences and also a member of Agham.

Eco added that mangroves also have very important roles in the fight against climate change. Mangroves, he said, are carbon sinks, meaning that they absorb more carbon from the atmosphere than they release.

Rodolfo and the other experts are also convinced that the reclamation projects will worsen the rising sea levels in Bulacan and Metro Manila — especially in Navotas.

"Sea level rise in the area (of Manila Bay) is five times the global average," said environmental lawyer Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice-president of Oceana Philippines.

"The fishermen know this. They have been saying this. They are not scientists, but they know the ocean, and they are the experts."

These findings have even been affirmed by National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)'s Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan (MBSDMP).

In December 2020, NEDA's MBSDMP released its Policy Notes (Annex 14) on the NMIA project. It states, among others, that "Barangays Bambang and Taliptip are amongst the coastal barangay in the north of Manila Bay Area which are experiencing extreme coastal flooding due to sea level rise and land subsidence."

"The construction of the international airport and the creation of an ecozone in Manila Bay will further complicate the already stressed habitat and ecosystem of the area which is continuously hounded by unsustainable economic growth, land subsidence and sea level rise. Specifically, the introduction of new development around the area will potentially damage and affect its natural habitats and ecosystems; increase exposure of built-up areas and population to coastal flooding; and potentially create additional stress to current water supply," said the policy notes.

On his first day in office on June 30, 2022, Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. vetoed House Bill No. 7575, which would have created the special economic zone and freeport near the international airport in Bulacan. But the airport's construction continued unimpeded. The Palace was quick to clarify, however, that the president supports the project, the franchise for which has already been signed into law.

Location of mangroves in the area of the airport construction. Map from the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report (Volume II - Scoping and Methodology) submitted by Mott Macdonald - Singapore to SMC. Accessed from SMC website on November 4, 2022.

Well-known impacts

Fishermen like Roger, Primitivo, Teody and Isagani have, indeed, themselves experienced the adverse effects of the projects. SMC and the Philippine government know these, too.

In April 2022, San Miguel Corp. came out with an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report on the project. This was prepared by Mott Macdonald, an engineering consultancy group. The report details the various "potential E & S (environmental and social) impacts" of the project.

Among the impacts of the project are on biodiversity, social and socio-economics, hydrology, water and sediment quality, geology, seismicity and natural hazards, air quality, greenhouse gases, noise and vibration, and others.

Specifically, the report flagged construction activities like "major incidents causing spillages/leakage of dredged materials and hydrocarbon fuels", "Deterioration of ambient air quality (due to fugitive dust emissions and notably PM10) resulting from earthworks / land formation activities and operation of construction equipment", "GHG emissions (that) will principally occur through the use of materials, from the transport of those materials and waste to and from the site, and from the use of construction plant", among others, as having significant-to-major adverse social and environmental impact.

Pounding on the new land: San Miguel Corp.'s land reclamation operation in Taliptip. To counter these negative impacts, the report proposed "mitigation and monitoring measures" during the different phases of the project. Among these measures are "induction and awareness training to all staff and workers covering site rules and information related to biodiversity", "establishing a community-based habitat protection and conservation program involving adjacent landowners/land users and overall community around the project site", and others.

The Taliptip fishermen said that as far as they can tell, no such measures have been implemented by SMC in their community.

"Some of us have tried to apply for jobs in (the airport) construction. But many still await results (of their application). They said the company has been swamped by applications," said Teody. "The company said it has job openings for drivers. But what do we know about driving? All we know is how to fish."

Roger said it will be even less likely that they will find work at the airport after it becomes operational in four to five years. So they will continue to try to fish — for as long as possible, even as the bay's crabs and fishes have long gone.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Multisectoral commitment: Just transition to climate-resilient Phl by 2050](#)

By TDT

'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.'

Government leaders, the business and financial sector, and civil society organizations signed a Statement of Commitment recently aimed at 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 designed to have 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 Atty. Roel Refran, and Climate Change Commissioner Albert P. de la Cruz led the ceremonial signing during the Climate Investment Forum 2022 organized by the Climate Change Commission on 21 November in Quezon City.

The event formed part of the commemoration of the 15th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

"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," CCC Commissioner De la 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," said Vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

Themed "Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima," CCC Week 2022 drew together various climate change and environment stakeholders in the

Philippines in a collective push toward transforming climate change commitments to action.

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1667 s. 2008, the CCC spearheads the annual observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week every 19 to 25 November, aimed at raising consciousness about climate climate.

The SEC's Fernandez led the discussion on Sustainability Reporting Guidelines for Publicly Listed Companies in one of the sessions of the Climate Investment Forum. Sustainability reporting is a mechanism for an organization to disclose and communicate its economic, environmental, and social impacts on society.

"The Sustainability Report measures and monitors PLCs' contributions toward achieving universal targets of sustainability, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as national policies and programs, such as AmBisyon Natin 2040," Fernandez said.

Fernandez was joined by Dr. Allinnettes Adigue, Regional Head of GRI ASEAN; Liza Selerio, Vice-President for Corporate Compliance of SM Prime Holdings Inc.; and Agnes de Jesus, Chief Sustainability Officer of the First Philippine Holdings Corporation.

De Jesus of the FPHC gave a grim picture of the impact of typhoon "Yolanda" in 2013 on their business. She shared how strategizing the company's mission among business segments contributes to creating value for their stakeholders and business. Maintaining nature's integrity, people's well-being, and a robust economy are the values relevant to their stakeholders, while stable revenues and growth are for the business.

"We are able to contribute to the low carbon economy and reduce our risks. Because we have mainstreamed sustainability in our mission, we are able to deliver robust data in our sustainability report," De Jesus said.

Selerio of SMPH highlighted the integral role of the private sector to economic development and embracing climate resilience as one of its core business strategies.

"Sustainability and climate programs are centered on environment, social inclusion, and governance plus disaster resilience," she pointed out.

[NZ, UK embassies reaffirm commitment to address climate change](#)

By Pauline Songco

The commitment recognizes the imperative for an effective, collective response to climate change threats that include the deployment of innovative interventions with sustainable, positive impacts on supply chains and value chains

The embassies of New Zealand and the United Kingdom in the Philippines reaffirmed their commitment to confront challenges in mitigating climate change.

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

"The United Kingdom 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 in a statement.

NEW Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Kell.

Meanwhile, New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Kell was among those who signed the Statement of Commitment on climate investment at a forum recently held at Novotel Manila.

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.

The commitment recognizes the imperative for an effective, collective response to climate change threats that include the deployment of innovative interventions with sustainable, positive impacts on supply chains and value chains.

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1667 s. 2008, the Climate Change Commission spearheads the annual observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week every 19th and 25th of November, which aims to raise consciousness on addressing the impact of climate change.

DWIZ ONLINE

[Mahalagang papel ng Kabataan sa pagtugon sa Climate Change, tinalakay sa isang webinar workshop](#)

By: Gilbert Pardez

Naging highlight sa isang webinar workshop ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) ang mahalagang papel ng kabataan para sa makabuluhan at napapanahong pagtugon sa climate change.

Ayon kay CCC Vice Chairperson at Executive Director Robert Borje, ang event ay bahagi ng ika-15 taong paggunita sa “Global Warming & Climate Change Consciousness Week.”

Ang “Kaalamanang Klima: Climate Change Webinar Workshop for the Youth” ay dinaluhan ng mga kabataang edad 18 hanggang 30 taong gulang kung saan layon nitong itaas ang kamalayan ng mga kabataan ukol sa climate science at himukin ang mga ito na gamitin ang angking kasanayan para sa epektibong pagtugon sa pabagong klima.

Ang “Global Warming & Climate Change Consciousness Week” ay inoobserba naman tuwing Nobyembre 19 hanggang 25.

DZBB

Climate Change Commission at UP Resilience Institute, lumagda sa kasunduan para mapalakas ang maagap na pagtugon sa mga kalamidad

By Glen Juego

Sa pamamagitan ng kasunduan nagsanib puwersa ang Climate Change Commission at ang UP Resilience Institute o UPRI para higit paghandaan ang mga kalamamidad.

Nagbabala si Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson Robert Borje at UPRI Executive Director Alfredo Lagmay na dahil sa climate change mas grabe na ang aasahang epekto ng mga bagyo.

MANILA BULLETIN

DENR raises climate awareness with Climate Consciousness Week

By: Faith Argosino

Raising the awareness of the citizens on what they can do to about climate change is a big factor in mitigating the effects of climate change.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources(DENR), every year observes Climate Consciousness Week “to create awareness on global warming and climate change by pursuing broad and intensive public information and education campaigns to secure the cooperation of the private and public sector.”

Climate Consciousness Week was held Nov. 19-25 with the theme “Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima.”

“With the recently concluded COP27 climate conference in Egypt, the DENR prepared for an intensive information drive to teach Filipinos how to combat climate change and its drastic effects starting this year,” Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change, Analiza Rebuelita-Teh said.

Among the activities were webinars and workshops on environment issues, a short film competition, and an award ceremony for climate and disaster resiliency.

On Nov. 21, DENR, the Department of Finance (DOF), the Climate Change Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank conducted a climate investment forum titled “Turning Climate Commitments to Action” in Quezon City.

The DENR and the Department of Energy (DOE) also facilitated a workshop on Cool Contributions Fighting Climate Change, or C4II. The project aims “to support the Philippines in the transition towards climate-friendly initiative in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector.”

Other activities were: “Journey Towards Resilience: Increasing Hope in Youth (Paglalakbay Patungo sa Katatagan),” or a knowledge-sharing activity; a discussion about the recent COP27 on DENR’s Tinig Klima Radio Program; and an award ceremony for winners of the agency’s Sining LIKHASAN Special or short film, among others.

MANILA STANDARD

[Climate agency holds global warming confab](#)

By: Rio Araja

The Climate Change Commission on Friday highlighted the important role of the youth in coming up with concrete actions to address global warming and climate change in celebration of the 15th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

The activity dubbed “Kalamang Klima: Climate Change Webinar Workshop for the Youth” was open to participants aged 18 to 30 yesterday at the Novotel Manila in Cubao, Quezon City.

It was designed to facilitate knowledge exchange among the youth to further deepen understanding on climate science, and encourage them to use their skills and energy to deliver effective climate action.

A national panel of technical experts and youth leaders joined the event to share in-depth presentations on climate change and its impacts.

The workshop was conducted in a hybrid setup with the first 90 registrants for face-to-face participation, while 500 others too part in the Zoom meeting.

With the theme “Sama-Samang Tugunan sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima,” the week celebration drew together various climate change and environment stakeholders in the country in a collective effort toward the transformation of climate change commitments into action for a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines.

[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 Beauvils.

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.

[Opinion] Kahalagahan ng pagtatanim ng mga puno

By: Alex Castro

Sa tuwing nagkakaroon ng kalamidad, saka pa lang naaalala ng lahat ang hubad na ang mga bundok dahil sa mga illegal logger.

Namamayagpag ang mga salot sa ating Inang Kalikasan. Pati nga watershed areas, inuubos na rin ng mga salarin.

Halos wala nang nakatanim na puno sa mga pampang ng ilog at sapa. Ginagawa ang pamumutol ng puno para gawing muwebles.

Kung dati, kita natin ang luntiang mga kahoy sa bundok. Subalit ngayon, kalbong kabundukan at lupang guho ang maaaninag.

Naglahong parang bula ang mga ugat na kumakapit sa lupa na nagdudulot ng soil erosion.

Naiipon ang tubig sa kalbong bundok at dito na magsisimula ang pagguho o pagkakaroon ng landslide bunga ng malakas at matagalang pag-ulan.

Naaalala ko pa na sa nangyaring malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan noong 2020, isa sa mga sinasabing dahilan ng trahedya ay ang pagkasaid daw ng mga puno sa kabundukan sa lalawigan na winasak ng mga illegal logger.

Dahan-dahan nilang inuubos ang mga punong-kahoy. Waring walang puknat ang pagputol sa mga kahoy doon.

Dagdag pa sa problemang ito ang climate change.

Hindi naman maitatangi na mahalaga ang mga puno para maging matibay ang lupa sa paligid ng mga dam na kapag napabayaang ay magdudulot ng mga pagbaha.

Noong mga panahong iyon, binalak ng pamahalaan na pagtanimin ng mga puno ang mga estudyanteng kukuha ng government license. Hindi nga lang daw ito natuloy.

Sa kabilang banda, maganda naman ang mga ginagawang hakbang ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) bilang isa raw sa mga maaaring pangmatagalang solusyon laban sa pabago-bagong klima at pagbaha.

Katunayan, kamakailan ay pinangunahan ng CCC ang pag-arangkada ng 15th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week 2022) sa pamamagitan nang pagtatanim ng 200 narra, dao, at sablot seedlings sa La Mesa Nature Reserve sa Quezon City.

Ayon kay CCC Vice Chairperson at Executive Director Robert Borje, nakiisa rin sa kanilang tree planting activity ang ilang mga opisyal at kinatawan mula sa Aboitiz Equity Ventures, ARISE, Conservation International, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Dumagat Community, Energy Development Corporation (EDC), FirstGen, Maynilad, Miriam College, Lagro National High School, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Nestle Philippines, Net Zero Carbon Alliance, Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Rotary Club of Pasig at Zonta International.

Sinasabing sa event na may temang “Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima,” binigyang diin ni Borje ang kahalagahan ng ‘multi-stakeholder approach’ sa pagtugon sa climate change.

Sa panig naman ni CCC Commissioner Rachel Herrera, binanggit ng opisyal na mahalaga raw na gawing regular ang mga ganitong aktibidad, kasama ang mga kaibigan, pamilya, at iba’t ibang organisasyon.

Hindi aniya matatapos sa pagtanim ng puno ang kampanya laban sa climate crisis dahil tuloy-tuloy ito hanggang sa mapababa raw ang greenhouse gas emissions ng 75% sa 2030.

Nawa’y hindi mababalewala ang tree planting na ito na sinimulan ng CCC at ilang grupo.

Natatandaan ko kasi na noong huling taon ng dekada 70, inoobliga ang mga estudyante na magtanim ng punong-kahoy at pinasasali sa Alay Lakad para magkaroon daw ng ambag dito.

Libo-libong mga puno ang naitanim ng mga estudyante noong mga panahong iyon.

Hindi nga lang ito naalagaan at parang nawala rin daw sa bandang huli. Tila basta itinanim lang at iniwan na.

Ginastusan pa naman nang malaki ang seedlings kaya’t pag-aksayahan nawang bisitahin ang mga bagong tanim na puno upang matiyak na mabubuhay ang mga ito.

Ngayong panahon ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na marami ring tumatamang kalamidad, sana’y maisakatuparan nang tuloy-tuloy ang pagtanim ng mga puno.

Habang ipinupursige ng CCC ang tree planting drive, tugisin din sana ng mga awtoridad ang mga nagpuputol ng punong-kahoy sa mga probinsya.

Tiyak na mawawalan lang ng saysay ang pagtanim ng puno kung nakaabang naman ang mga ganid na illegal logger.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Youth urged to take part in actions vs. climate change

By: Perfecto Raymundo Jr.

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Friday challenged the youth to actively participate in government undertakings that would help address the challenges brought about by climate change.

Robert Borje, vice chair and executive director of CCC, made the challenge as he gathered some members of the youth during a webinar workshop on climate change at the Novotel Hotel in Quezon City.

Borje believed that the youth could do something to help the government mitigate the impacts of climate change by knowing the science behind it and how it affects the world.

“It is important na may kaalaman tayo sa climate change o nagbabagong klima para meron tayong magawa (It is important that we know about climate change so that we can do something),” Borje said, adding that he was sure that the youth understand at a certain level the impact of climate change. “Importante po tayong lahat ay may kapasidad na maintindihan ang climate change (It is important that we all have the capacity to withstand climate change), the science behind it, and what we need to do.”

The youth need to be involved because “you are going to replace us,” he said.

“Yung alam ninyo ngayon, yan ang tutulong sa inyo para magdesisyon (What you know now will help you make a decision) in the future,” he added.

At this time, it is equally necessary for the youth to sound their position on every government plan or measure that could address the threats posed by climate change.

“You can help to mitigate its impacts, or you can help in something so that you can fit into the process of making sure that our policymakers know how the youth feel and that this is what the youth want to happen with regard to climate change,” Borje said.

He said while he acknowledges the importance of science in understanding climate change, it is equally important to learn domestic science that could help the communities address these long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.

“Importante ang agham dahil that’s where our actions should lead. While it’s important to use science, it’s important to make sure that domestic science is also used, and these are used for, by, and for the benefit of the local communities, the women, girls, indigenous communities, and the youth,” Borje said.

Climate Change Commission, UP ink pact on disaster preparedness

A pact crafted to intensify and improve disaster preparedness was linked between the Climate Change Commission and the Philippine University of the Philippine Resilience Institute in celebration of the 15th anniversary of global and climate consciousness week.

The object for the preparation are the thousands of at-risk municipalities nationwide greatly expose to climate hazards. Signing the agreement for the Climate Change Commission was its vice chair and executive director Robert Borje with UP President Danilo Concepcion.

Mga Kabataan, hinimok ng CCC na maging parte ng Climate Change Action

By: Merry Anne Bastasa

Isinagawa ngayon ng Climate Change Commission ang isang webinar-workshop para mas hikayatin pa ang mga kabataan na maging aktibo sa pakikibahagi sa Climate Change Action.

Dinaluhan ang naturang hybrid workshop ng iba't ibang student leaders at kinatawan ng youth at environmental organizations mula sa NCR, Central Luzon at Calabarzon.

Sa kanyang mensahe, ipinunto ni CCC Vice Chair at Exec Dir Sec. Robert Borje na mahalagang may kapasidad ang mga kabataan na maunawaan ang isyu ngayon pagdating sa climate change at malaman ang magagawa nila para mabawasan ang epekto nito sa komunidad.

Binigyang diin din nito na lahat may maiaambag at lahat ay dapat nagtutulungan para matugunan ang hamon ng nagbabagong klima.

Ilan sa mga tinalakay sa naturang webinar ang climate change literacy, top 10-climate induced risks sa bansa at ang papel ng mga kabataan sa Climate Action.

Ang Kaalamang Klima: Climate Change Webinar Workshop ay bahagi ng aktibidad ng CCC kaugnay ng 15th Global Warming and Climate Change Consiousness Week.

Bukod sa naturang webinar, nilagdaan din ngayong araw ng CCC at ng UP Resilience Institute ang isang Letter of Agreement (LOA) para sa support mechanism development at pagpapatatag ng grassroots capacity building tungo sa climate resiliency.

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