



## NEWS ROUNDUP

28 NOVEMBER 2023 [ 08:30 am]

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#### [COP28: Philippines gears up for climate summit, to unveil first-ever pavilion](#)

By: Biena Magbitang

The air is charged with anticipation as the Philippines gears up for the crucial COP28 meeting in Dubai this week.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[PHL urged to sell sovereign carbon credits](#)**

By: Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz

The Philippines should aspire to become the first country in Asia to sell sovereign carbon credits, House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Joey Sarte Salceda said on Friday.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[Why the climate negotiations are worth it for the Philippines](#)**

By: John Leo Algo

Two years ago, at the annual climate negotiations (COP), the world agreed to double the finance needed for adaptation to USD40 billion by 2025. At last year's summit in Egypt, negotiators failed to develop a roadmap on how exactly to achieve this target, reflective of the difficulties that have been observed in the history of said talks.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[DA to fortify agri sector against climate change challenges](#)**

The Department of Agriculture (DA), headed by Secretary Francisco Laurel Tiu, will fortify the sector of farmers and fisherfolk against the challenges of climate change, which is an immediate and critical global concern.

## **NIKKEI ASIA**

### **[ASEAN must pursue technology in ties with Japan, expert says](#)**

By: Toru Takashi

ASEAN must pursue technological cooperation with Japan to tackle climate change, food security and other pressing issues, the founder of a Malaysian think tank told Nikkei Asia in a recent interview.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Fight vs climate change: We all have to do our part – DENR](#)**

By: Caecent No-ot Magumbol

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-7 is urging Cebuanos to intensify efforts in helping reduce waste that would have a big impact in the combat against climate change.

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## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

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By: Jasper Y. Arcalas

The Department of Finance (DOF) urged local government units (LGUs) to tap available state financing for their climate-related projects and programs that contribute to government's goal of establishing "livable" and "sustainable" communities.

### **[PSF Board approves climate projects worth ₱540 million](#)**

By: Jonathan Mayuga

THE Board of the People's Survival Fund (PSF), chaired by the Department of Finance (DOF), has approved five climate change adaptation projects endorsed by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) amounting to P540.3 million.

### **[US-funded solar-powered boat launched in Palawan](#)**

By: Jonathan Mayuga

Promoting energy-efficient means of transportation in a tourism area, the United States government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) recently launched the solar-powered boat Adlao Azul.

## **IBC**

### **[Ang tunay na kahalagahan ng resilience](#)**

By: Earl Tobias

Sa ika-labing anim na taunang global warming and Climate Change Consciousness week sa bansa, layon ng Climate Change Commission na paigtingin ang pag-unawa ng mga pilipino sa kung gaano nga ba kalala ang banta ng pagbabago ng klima sa ating mga pamumuhay.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[A Marcos accomplishment in the making: PH ready to sell carbon credits, says Salceda](#)**

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda envisions the Philippines as the first country to sell sovereign carbon credits, which could be a key accomplishment for President Marcos.

## **PAGEONE**

### **[Climate Change Commission Week 2023 Kicks Off With Commitment To Net Zero Carbon Dioxide](#)**

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

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[Solon pushes for PH entry into sovereign carbon credit market](#)**

By: Filane Mikee Cervantes

A House leader on Friday said the Philippines’ entry into the sovereign carbon credit market under the 2015 Paris Agreement could be a key accomplishment of the Marcos administration.

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[MSU-Maguindanao hosts 3-day envi, forest conservation gab](#)**

By: Allan Joseph D. Albior

The Mindanao State University in Maguindanao hosted the three-day 4th International Conference on Environment and Forest Conservation (ICEFC) in Davao City on November 15 to 17, 2023. The event discussed the ICEFC's visions and contributions to climate change actions.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[UN Special Rapporteur recognizes PH efforts on climate change](#)**

Philippine government officials met with the UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on climate change and human rights, Dr. Ian Fry, at the conclusion of his 10-day official country visit.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**COP28: Philippines gears up for climate summit, to unveil first-ever pavilion**

By: Biena Magbitang

The air is charged with anticipation as the Philippines gears up for the crucial COP28 meeting in Dubai this week.

This year brings a series of milestones marked by the participation of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. in the World Climate Action Summit and the debut of a dedicated Philippine pavilion.

Advocates are calling on Marcos to push for decisive and urgent action, emphasizing the need for holding polluters accountable for their role in the climate crisis.

Marcos recently urged global leaders to acknowledge "historical climate injustice" and expedite the implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund, which aims to swiftly provide financial aid to nations disproportionately affected by climate change, like the Philippines.

This is why the country's delegation to COP28 is keen on monitoring developments on the long-awaited fund.

The final list of the Philippine delegation has yet to be disclosed to the public but Atty. Angela Ibay, their technical advisor said they would not be confined to familiar faces. Instead, it will be a collaboration of agencies addressing pivotal cross-cutting concerns like women, youth, and health.

"There are many new themes that have been included in the thematic program for the COP, because of that the Philippine government has seen it proper to involve many other government agencies," she said.

**'MANILA SUPPORT HUB'**

But Ibay said there was no guarantee that all agencies included in the delegation list would make the journey to Dubai.

"The agencies are in the delegation list but the issue of whether or not they will be able to get there is another thing because it also takes money to be able to participate," she said.

Ibay said those who would stay in the Philippines would still play a crucial role by contributing to the 'Manila Support Hub'. They will facilitate streamlined research and offer essential background information to the delegation in Dubai, as needed.

## WHERE ARE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

Rodne Galicha, National Convenor of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, the country's largest civil society network for climate action, welcomes the inclusion of cross-cutting sectors in the Philippine delegation. However, he raised a crucial question about representation for Indigenous peoples (IPs).

"[B]asic 'yung Indigenous Peoples na dapat nandoon din. Hindi ko nakita sa listahan ang NCIP (National Commission on Indigenous Peoples), that's an important constituency especially for the Philippines," said Galicha.

IP groups, however, are not concerned. Grace Balawag, deputy coordinator of indigenous peoples' organizations, Tebtebba, shared that the COP28 presidency has been supportive of their cause and has even allocated a pavilion for their events.

"We will be having spaces where we can intervene in some official meetings so we are looking forward to that. We are thankful that the COP28 Presidency is much more open to our more effective participation in the global process," said Balawag.

## THE FIRST PHILIPPINE PAVILION

A pavilion is a dedicated space for countries and observer organizations, providing room for events, research showcases, and informal discussions with COP attendees.

This year, the Philippines will open its first-ever country Pavilion and the government accepted concept notes for side events. According to Ibay, the final list is still being curated to ensure diverse side events aligned with the themes of COP28.

Galicha sees this as an opportunity for the government, civil society and the private sectors to converge. He stressed the necessity for a genuine "whole-of-society" approach, not just a "whole-of-government" approach within the pavilion.

"We are hoping there will be more spaces for the civil society in the Philippine pavilion," he said.

## FIRST-EVER COP28 HEALTH DAY

COP28 will also mark a significant first with a dedicated health day on December 3rd. The day features a ministerial meeting where key sectors, including health, environment, and finance, will strategize a roadmap to tackle the escalating burden of climate change on healthcare systems.

The Philippine Health Department was invited to participate in the meeting where a pivotal political declaration will be adopted to reflect country priorities.

“We are hoping that stronger commitment both on adaptation and mitigation for the health sector and beyond will be adopted at COP28 but also how we can make sure that health is placed at the center of the climate negotiations,” said Jit Sohal of international group Health Care Without Harm.

As the Philippines steps onto the global stage at COP28, it unifies under one resolute goal: to be heard. This collective ambition echoes through all sectors, emphasizing the critical goals of finalizing the Loss and Damage Funds, setting ambitious targets in the Global Stocktake, and securing increased climate financing.



## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[PHL urged to sell sovereign carbon credits](#)**

By: Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz

The Philippines should aspire to become the first country in Asia to sell sovereign carbon credits, House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Joey Sarte Salceda said on Friday.

Salceda said the Philippines's entry into the sovereign carbon credit market under the 2015 Paris Agreement could be a "key accomplishment" of the Marcos administration, as "the law and the incentives are already in place for making it work" and "we should aim to be the first country in Asia, and perhaps the world, to sell sovereign carbon credits."

He made the remarks during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Climate Change Commission, Maharlika Carbon Technologies, LLC, and LMC Consultancy (Luntian) as the private partner. Under the MOU, the company will assist the Philippine government in setting up the registry which will link to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The MOU was signed Friday.

The set up will allow the Philippines to participate in the trading of Certified Emissions Reductions (CER), more commonly known as voluntary carbon credits, and Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) between countries, which includes "sovereign carbon credits."

"In short, it sets up the foundation for us to be in the market. There is a race among developing countries to be the first to sell sovereign carbon credits in the global market, and the Philippines should be in that race. That will be a key PBBM accomplishment, if ever," Salceda said.

Countries and companies buy carbon credits to offset their emissions and meet their targets net emission levels.

"In recent years, there has been a push towards government-backed carbon credits, as some perceive them as more credible sources of emissions reduction," Salceda said.

Salceda, who was co-chair of the UN-established Green Climate Fund, said that the entry into the carbon credits market could "bring in an initial \$14 billion worth of benefits initially to the country, in cash and in kind like climate benign technologies, which are

much needed for the Philippines shift towards sustainable socioeconomic development.”

He noted that the new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code “will accelerate our carbon credits efforts, because it identifies carbon credits as a sovereign asset that can be subjected to PPP arrangements.”

“That means the private sector can engage in projects and partnerships with the national government that generate and package carbon credits,” Salceda added.

The lawmaker is the principal author of the PPP Code and was chair of the technical working group that drafted the measure.

“This will be very good for us, and the tax incentives also already exist for renewable energy companies who want to work with us here.”

Salceda cited Section 15 of Republic Act No. 9513, or the Renewable Energy Law, which exempts the sale of carbon emissions credits by renewable energy developers from all taxes.

“We have not been able to maximize that provision. That is why I will be working with the PPP Center, the CCC, and the DOE so that we can come up with joint guidelines on how the private sector and the government can work together on this,” Salceda said.

Salceda hopes that such initiatives “will build financing for our clean energy transition.”

“President Marcos set the tone early on in his term that he will be a Green President. Making the Philippines a pioneer in carbon credits will be a key accomplishment. It will also provide much needed financial resources for our development,” he said.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **Why the climate negotiations are worth it for the Philippines**

By: John Leo Algo

Two years ago, at the annual climate negotiations (COP), the world agreed to double the finance needed for adaptation to USD40 billion by 2025. At last year's summit in Egypt, negotiators failed to develop a roadmap on how exactly to achieve this target, reflective of the difficulties that have been observed in the history of said talks.

Yet that target is simply too small compared to the needs of developing countries and the most vulnerable communities. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently reported that developing nations need up to USD387 billion per year to fully implement their adaptation policies, nearly ten times more than the goal two years from now.

Adaptation, the Philippines' anchor strategy for climate action, is not the only facet that has been underfunded at the global level for decades; in fact, this arguably applies to every aspect of this global threat. So far, the previous three decades of COPs have not been able to accelerate climate action to the point of slowing down global warming or reducing the severity of impacts.

If negotiators are well-aware that some of the targets being discussed in the negotiations are not even close to meeting the needs of the intended beneficiaries, then are we just wasting our time in this process?

Is it?

It is a fair question to ask, which a few government leaders in the Philippines have alluded to in the past. After all, developed countries that emitted much of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that caused the climate crisis have failed to live up to their promise to finance and support the solutions implemented by developing countries for the past three decades.

Even if all countries implemented their current national plans, GHG emissions are set to increase by 9% by 2030. This would result in as much as 2.7°C of global warming, which is way above the 1.5°C limit under the Paris Agreement. Many experts have regarded this target as a 'tipping point' that, if exceeded would result in potentially irreversible climate impacts.

Yet efforts to weaken the 1.5°C imperative has been in recent COPs, largely by a few countries and many corporations that are economically-dependent on fossil fuels. Many

of these entities are already looking towards investing in artificial carbon capture, use, and storage technologies, none of which are proven to be effective at scale, not to mention the potential harm they can inflict at communities and ecosystems.

No one thinks the transition away from coal, oil, and fossil gas would be easy, but if one of the core goals of the Paris Agreement will be repeatedly undermined like this, then are we just wasting our time in this process?

It isn't

Yes, the process of the climate negotiations is nowhere near a perfect one, but it is not a waste of time, especially for a vulnerable country like the Philippines. The COP still provides the biggest high-level platform for any country to have its voice heard by other nations, where groups of countries can readily discuss positions, strategies, and partnerships for addressing the most critical issues related to the climate crisis. As a long-running process, there is still tremendous weight to the decisions made at this event that governments, businesses, and civil society recognize.

Furthermore, any system, no matter how well-designed, would become inefficient or fully ineffective if not properly implemented or many of its participants fail to live up to their commitments. It is up to those partaking in COPs to keep demanding transparency and accountability to those either not fulfilling their obligations or looking to slow down its progress, through all available means.

The moment countries like the Philippines begin to de-emphasize the call for climate justice or stop reminding big polluters of the disasters that were inflicted on them is when said big polluters become even more emboldened to slow down the negotiations process that is already too slow.

What must also be remembered is that as important as the annual climate talks is, it is not the only event that is happening in the host city. With tens of thousands of government and non-government delegates present, it provides the ideal opportunity to form coalitions, alliances, and partnerships on the sidelines of the climate talks to help address the gaps where the COPs have failed.

The Philippines has been a part of these networks that can advance mitigation and adaptation solutions, from reducing GHG emissions to protecting forests and indigenous peoples.

Non-government Filipino delegates, especially those representing local communities and civil society, remain instrumental as they join those from other countries in

monitoring the climate talks, bringing the voices of the marginalized and underrepresented into the process, and presenting perspectives and solutions rooted from their own experiences on the ground.

The Philippine government recognizes the importance of COP28, as it will bring a much bigger delegation compared to recent years. It will also host the Philippine Pavilion in Dubai during the negotiations, a milestone platform to showcase the country's best practices and help change the narrative about our country from being simply resilient and reactive to being initiators of action.

Yet like in years past, it is vital for our national delegation to not only make its positions aligned with the 1.5°C imperative and the principles of climate justice, but also with domestic actions and the needs of its people, especially the most vulnerable.

Heading into COP28 in Dubai, there is so much to be decided. The global goal on adaptation must be defined. A fund for addressing loss and damage has to be established immediately. The question on how to transition away from fossil fuels must be answered. Countries must figure out how to finance solutions without burdening the most vulnerable.

For what will be negotiated, what needs to be done, and what is at stake for current and future generations, the COP is worth the time of the Philippines and the rest of the world.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [DA to fortify agri sector against climate change challenges](#)

The Department of Agriculture (DA), headed by Secretary Francisco Laurel Tiu, will fortify the sector of farmers and fisherfolk against the challenges of climate change, which is an immediate and critical global concern.

“Underlining our shared commitment to building resilient farming and fishing communities, this year’s theme: “Bayanihan Para sa Klima: Bagong Bansang Matatag,” accentuates the importance of working hand-in-hand as we collectively fortify the agriculture sector against the challenges of climate change,” Laurel said at the kick-off of the Climate Change Consciousness (CCC) Week.

Addressing climate change “demands our prompt attention and concerted action. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has emphasized the critical need for implementing measures to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change across various sectors, especially agriculture and food production,” he added.

Laurel, who had expanded his family’s fishing business before joining the government, announced this key policy just a few weeks after his appointment. In previous public engagements, he said he has experienced the effects of climate change first-hand.

Representing Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel III, Kathryn Yu-Pimentel said the proposed 2024 DA budget includes a special provision to increase resilience among agriculture communities through infrastructure and seed development.

“Special Provision Number 15 within the budget emphasizes that the Department of Agriculture shall endeavor to increase the resilience of agriculture communities through two key approaches, first through the implementation of disaster-resilient agriculture infrastructure projects. Second, through the development of seeds that are optimally adaptive to present and future climate change conditions,” she said.

Pimentel conveyed his full support for the new Agriculture Secretary.

The Climate Change Consciousness Week also celebrates the 10th anniversary of DA’s Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program, which trains all communities, particularly those dependent on agriculture and fisheries, to become resilient to the increasing adverse effects of climate change.

AMIA, which has organized 181 model villages across the country, recognizes the need for adaptation and mitigation strategies to protect farmers, fisherfolk, and the environment

Serving as a source of best practices for other communities to learn and emulate, the AMIA villages are technological and institutional innovation centers with access to vital climate-relevant support services.

Tiu Laurel said AMIA is “a pivotal component of this [climate change] initiative, [and] mirrors our dedication to securing a resilient and robust agriculture sector by being a platform of partnership and innovation for climate action across the whole DA.”

## NIKKEI ASIA

### [ASEAN must pursue technology in ties with Japan, expert says](#)

By: Toru Takashi

ASEAN must pursue technological cooperation with Japan to tackle climate change, food security and other pressing issues, the founder of a Malaysian think tank told Nikkei Asia in a recent interview.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan will mark 50 years of friendship and cooperation this year, with a special leaders' summit scheduled to take place in Tokyo in mid-December. At the meeting, the two sides are expected to seek deeper cooperation on the economy, on security and in other areas.

"When we deal with the Japanese, we continue to only focus on trade; we continue to only focus on businesses. I think we need to shift. We need to look into other areas of cooperation," Abdul Razak Ahmad, founding director of Kuala Lumpur-based Bait Al Amanah, said.

"One of the areas that we really have to pursue is the technological pathway," he said, adding that the world's third-largest economy is "a knowledge powerhouse and a technology powerhouse" that can navigate the pathway for ASEAN.

"If you look at what happens surrounding the world ... [whether] it is food security, climate change, artificial intelligence or migration, all these require technological solutions. All these require knowledge. And this is where I think ASEAN and Japan must look at a new dimension that is very much powered by knowledge cooperation," he said.

Referring to the success of the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology, which opened in 2011 in Kuala Lumpur and offers Japanese-style engineering education, and the University of Tsukuba's Malaysia branch campus opening next year, he said: "There are a lot of things that we can actually work together on."

Razak noted that ASEAN is facing an "identity crisis" and has not been able to present itself as a cohesive, united, powerful organization, citing its "inability to deal with issues like Myanmar, [and] inability to come together and address the issue of the South China Sea."

Nevertheless, he said, "ASEAN is a very important organization whether we like it or not," because of the high growth potential of its member countries, such as Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. "ASEAN, somehow, despite all these internal problems that it has, continues to provide that platform for these people to engage in the region."



Among the many countries engaging with the bloc, Japan is "a very important partner to ASEAN," he said, pointing out that the country does not have a lot of conflicting interests in the region.

He acknowledged that over the last 20 years China has been very active with ASEAN, providing assistance with infrastructure, manufacturing and in other areas.

But, he said, "There are many ASEAN member countries who have disputes with China, such as the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia. So compared with China, and also in comparison to other countries, Japan is much more favorable, and there is a very strong understanding between ASEAN and Japan."

Japan is not as aggressive as China in pursuing its foreign policy interests, he said. "Japan's foreign policy has always been very cautious and following the norms. China's foreign policy is very much driven by trade, by investment, and by the movement of people -- their own people, their own industry -- to this part of the world."

With respect to the U.S., Razak said America's increasing presence in ASEAN is basically to maintain balance with China. "They want to counter China." Middle Eastern nations and South Korea are also among the big investors in the region, he noted. "But despite all this [activity by others], the level of trust in the Japanese is still very, very strong."

As far as security is concerned, he stressed that ASEAN does not take sides, and said that it is important for ASEAN to work to minimize the impact of the U.S.-China rivalry. "When ASEAN doesn't want to be seen too close to America or too close to China, Japan should actually leverage on this."

Referring to the region's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said China's prolonged lockdowns significantly affected the region's supply chains and movement of people. "I would think that in the next couple of years, many Asian countries will rethink their relationship with China. Overreliance on China is actually not very strategic."

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### Fight vs climate change: We all have to do our part – DENR

By: Caecent No-ot Magsumbol

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-7 is urging Cebuanos to intensify efforts in helping reduce waste that would have a big impact in the combat against climate change.

At the height of its triple celebration of the National Clean Air Month, the Environmental Awareness Month, and the Climate Change Consciousness Week, DENR-7 stressed that it's also high time to triple the efforts in protecting the environment.

With this year's theme for the triple celebration as "Circular Actions for Climate Hope", DENR-7 stresses on the role of the community in battling climate change even through simple actions like proper composting, reducing waste, maintaining clean surroundings, not burning garbage, and avoiding single-use plastics.

As such, the theme highlights the importance of taking collective circular actions to combat climate change and create a sustainable future.

"This is a call to action for individuals, communities, and governments to work together to reduce carbon emissions, protect the environment, and promote social justice."

In line with this, DENR-7 has also organized different activities this month for different sectors to create more awareness concerning pressing environmental problems.

DENR-7's Environment Management Bureau shared that Central Visayas has generated 2.91 million kilos of waste per day based on its 2022 data. Out of the total waste produced, it shows that each person has generated 0.36 kilos of waste per day.

Majority of the waste produced daily are biodegradable at 45 percent, residual at 27 percent, recyclable at 26 percent, and special wastes at 2 percent.

Biodegradables include fruit peels, dry leaves, branches, and food waste while residual includes cigarette butts, used sachets, candy wrappers, used leathers, and damaged plastic utensils.

Clean paper, tin cans, cartoons, plastic bottles, clean glass, among others are recycled while batteries, cooking oil, busted bulbs, used masks, syringes and expired medicines are under special waste.

Mismanagement of solid waste results to air and water contamination and the increase of heat and flooding.

Studies shows that airborne microplastic concentrations ranges from 0.01 particles per cubic meter in parts of the Pacific Ocean.

Water contamination, on the other hand, happens when plastics break down to microplastics that enters the food chain. Increase of heat occurs when illegally dumped wastes emit greenhouse gases as methane that increases in global temperature.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [LGUs offered climate financing](#)

By: Jasper Y. Arcalas

The Department of Finance (DOF) urged local government units (LGUs) to tap available state financing for their climate-related projects and programs that contribute to government's goal of establishing "livable" and "sustainable" communities.

The DOF also offers assistance so LGUs can access available climate financing.

"The DOF stands ready to assist LGUs in the realization of their climate projects, thus advancing the Philippines' climate agenda as envisioned in the President's 8-point socioeconomic agenda of establishing livable and sustainable communities," Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno said last Thursday.

Diokno pointed LGUs to the "People's Survival Fund" (PSF) for their climate-related projects. He added the DOF has streamlined the approval process so that more LGUs can avail themselves of the grant.

The PSF was established under Republic Act (RA) 10174 in 2012 to finance adaptation programs and projects of LGUs and accredited local and community organizations, according to the DOF.

"In the past, two primary issues hindered the swift processing of project approval by the PSF Board: the lack of capacity to prepare bankable projects and the tedious procedures," the DOF said.

"Upon taking up the role of PSF Secretariat in 2017, the DOF initiated measures to expedite fund utilization and streamline the project proposal process," added the finance department.

Furthermore, the DOF said it has delegated to the Climate Change Commission (CCC) the capacity-building mandate with the CCC now collaborating directly with LGUs through one-on-one consultations.

The collaboration allows the LGUs to be guided on the drafting process and compliance of the necessary paperwork for PSF grants.

“With the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia ruling, the DOF, through the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), is also prepared to capacitate LGUs in efficiently utilizing the increased revenue stream to fund climate-related projects and programs,” the DOF said.

The DOF, sitting as the chair of the PSF, said it has approved 11 climate adaptation projects and 6 projects for project development grant with a combined amount of P889.6 million. The amount hiked the PSF’s utilization rate to 89 percent of the total P1 billion budget, according to the DOF.

## **PSF Board approves climate projects worth ₱540 million**

By: Jonathan Mayuga

THE Board of the People's Survival Fund (PSF), chaired by the Department of Finance (DOF), has approved five climate change adaptation projects endorsed by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) amounting to P540.3 million.

The approved projects were among seven proposed projects from the first batch of the PSF proposals recommended for approval by the CCC, according to Manila-based climate and energy policy group Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC).

These are projects for the Mountain Province; Maramag, Bukidnon; Catanauan, Quezon; Cabagan, Isabela; and Borongan, Eastern Samar.

One project for the Sadanga, Mountain Province, was deferred while one of the approved projects, Besao, Mountain Province, was recommended to access the Project Development Grant, a subfinancing window of the PSF.

Angelo Kairos T. dela Cruz, ICSC executive director and alternate NGO sector representative to the PSF Board, expressed through a statement his elation over the Board's decision to approve the projects, saying these are pivotal in helping Filipino communities adapt to the escalating impacts of climate change.

However, Dela Cruz also expressed concern about the prioritization process employed by the PSF Board Secretariat in this approval cycle.

"Given the Fund's mandate to reduce poverty in local government units, especially those from lower economic classes, the ICSC believes that it is imperative to question the thinking behind the prioritization of proposals from one first-class city, three first-class municipalities, and one province," he said. "We highlighted this concern during the board meeting, underscoring the need for transparency, fairness, and equity in the selection and prioritization process."

Over the years, most approved PSF leaned mostly towards infrastructure development as the more conventional approach.

The ICSC believes it is crucial for the Board to expand its assistance to LGUs by promoting and giving preference to proposals that prioritize alternative interventions, such as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), Dela Cruz explained.

“This shift can address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change by implementing adaptation strategies with co-benefits to climate mitigation and disaster risk reduction (DRR),” he added. “By taking this approach, the PSF can assume a more proactive role in building resilience, protecting ecosystems, and promoting a more sustainable future.”

Still, Dela Cruz said the ICSC remains optimistic about the continued growth and positive impact of the PSF and hopes its concerns were heard by PSF board members. The ICSC also welcomed the new PSF Board Chair-designate Undersecretary Maria Luwalhati C. Dorotan Tiuseco, who the group said was exceptional in leading the discussions during the last board meeting.

## US-funded solar-powered boat launched in Palawan

By: Jonathan Mayuga

Promoting energy-efficient means of transportation in a tourism area, the United States government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) recently launched the solar-powered boat Adlao Azul.

This solar-powered boat will help improve mobility and delivery of basic services across remote island communities in Palawan.

Adlao Azul made its maiden voyage in the waters of Coron, Palawan last November 8. The event was led by USAID Philippines Environmental Officer Dr. Paul Brown, who joined Coron municipality and Sangat Island Resort representatives aboard the boat.

Palawan is considered the country's last ecological frontier. It is host to a good number of tourist sites and attractions, including El Nido and Coron, which main tourism activities are beaching and island hopping.

A known host to unique flora and fauna, Palawan is struggling to keep its ecosystems intact while advocating for sustainable tourism.

Developed by Oceantera Energy Corp. through a P25-million grant under USAID's Energy Secure Philippines project, Adlao Azul is equipped with a US-made battery system and high-efficiency bifacial solar panels, allowing it to cruise for over six hours on clean energy.

It comes with a cooler and freezer storage for transporting food, vaccines, medical supplies and other essential goods for residents on the islands of Coron, Culion and Busuanga.

The boat also allows the timely delivery of emergency supplies during power outages and natural disasters.

"USAID has been working closely with the national and local governments, as well as with the private sector to expand the use of renewable energy across different sectors, such as transportation, agriculture, island electrification and disaster response," Brown said in a statement.



“We look forward to our continued partnership with the private sector, particularly with investors, resort owners and boat operators to support a low-carbon ecosystem,” he added.

“These [solar-powered boats] are very transformative technologies that address not only climate change mitigation but also support the livelihood and economy of communities. I am hoping that this be replicated in other islands,” Climate Change Commission’s former assistant secretary Joy Goco said.

Following the launch of Adlao Azul, USAID and Oceantera will work to expand the commercial availability of clean energy-powered boats in Palawan by documenting supplier networks and regulations, establishing franchise agreements, and linking potential funders with clients, such as boat operators and builders.

Through this initiative, USAID seeks to pioneer the use of renewable energy in modernizing transportation and enhancing the logistical chain in delivering essential goods and services.

Energy Secure Philippines is USAID’s five-year \$34-million activity that aims to mobilize investments, deploy modern energy technology, and support policy reforms for a more competitive energy sector that can drive future economic growth and social development in the Philippines.

**IBC**

**Ang tunay na kahalagahan ng resilience**

By: Earl Tobias

Sa ika-labing anim na taunang global warming and Climate Change Consciousness week sa bansa, layon ng Climate Change Commission na paigtingin ang pag-unawa ng mga pilipino sa kung gaano nga ba kalala ang banta ng pagbabago ng klima sa ating mga pamumuhay.

Alinsunod dito, ang naturang Climate Conciousness Week ay may temang Bayanihan para sa Klima: Bagong Bansang Matatag, upang mabigyang diin ang mas malaking katotohanan na ang mga nakagagambalang problemang ito ay kayang mapagtagumpayan bilang isang bansa - sa bisa ng pakiki-isa sa mga polisiya at hakbangin para sa ikabubuti ng ating klima.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [A Marcos accomplishment in the making: PH ready to sell carbon credits, says Salceda](#)

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda envisions the Philippines as the first country to sell sovereign carbon credits, which could be a key accomplishment for President Marcos.

The Albay 2nd district solon says the government is equipped to do so since there's already legislation and incentives in place to make this aspiration into reality.

Salceda had this to say during the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Friday, Nov. 24, between the Climate Change Commission, Maharlika Carbon Technologies, LLC, and LMC Consultancy (Luntian).

Under this MOU, the Philippines will be allowed to participate in the trading of Certified Emissions Reductions (CER) and Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) between countries, which include sovereign carbon credits.

"In short, it sets up the foundation for us to be in the market. There is a race among developing countries to be the first to sell sovereign carbon credits in the global market, and the Philippines should be in that race. That will be a key PBBM accomplishment, if ever," said Salceda.

"President Marcos set the tone early on in his term that he will be a Green President. Making the Philippines a pioneer in carbon credits will be a key accomplishment. It will also provide much needed financial resources for our development," he added.

Salceda, who was co-chair of the United Nations (UN)-established Green Climate Fund, said that the entry into the carbon credits market could "bring in an initial USD 14 billion worth of benefits initially to the country, in cash and in kind like climate benign technologies, which are much needed for the Philippine's shift towards sustainable socioeconomic development".

"In recent years, there has been a push towards government-backed carbon credits, as some perceive them as more credible sources of emissions reduction," the Bicolano added.

Salceda further said that the new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code will help accelerate the country's carbon credit efforts as it identifies them as a sovereign asset.

Carbon credits are bought by countries and companies to offset their emissions and meet their target net emission levels. --Dexter Barro II.

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### [Climate Change Commission Week 2023 Kicks Off With Commitment To Net Zero Carbon Dioxide](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### Solon pushes for PH entry into sovereign carbon credit market

By: Filane Mikee Cervantes

A House leader on Friday said the Philippines' entry into the sovereign carbon credit market under the 2015 Paris Agreement could be a key accomplishment of the Marcos administration.

House ways and means committee chair Joey Salceda made the statement following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU), which would allow the Philippines to participate in the trading of Certified Emissions Reductions (CER), more commonly known as voluntary carbon credits, and Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) between countries, which include "sovereign carbon credits."

The MOU was between the Climate Change Commission and Maharlika Carbon Technologies Liability Limited Corporation.

Under the agreement, the company will help the Philippine government set up the registry which will link to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"In short, it sets up the foundation for us to be in the market. There is a race among developing countries to be the first to sell sovereign carbon credits in the global market, and the Philippines should be in that race. That will be a key PBBM (President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.) accomplishment, if ever," Salceda said.

Countries and companies buy carbon credits to offset their emissions and meet their target net emission levels.

"In recent years, there has been a push towards government-backed carbon credits, as some perceive them as more credible sources of emissions reduction," Salceda said.

Salced said the entry into the carbon credits market could bring in an initial USD14 billion worth of benefits to the country, in cash and in kind "like climate benign technologies, which are much needed for the Philippine's shift towards sustainable socio economic development."



He noted that the law and the incentives are already in place for "making it work", adding that the Philippines "should aim to be the first country in Asia, and perhaps the world, to sell sovereign carbon credits."

He said the new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code will accelerate the country's carbon credits efforts, because it identifies carbon credits as a sovereign asset that can be subjected to PPP arrangements.

"That means the private sector can engage in projects and partnerships with the national government that generate and package carbon credits," he said. "This will be very good for us, and the tax incentives also already exist for renewable energy companies who want to work with us here."

Salceda cited Section 15 of Republic Act No. 9513, or the Renewable Energy Law, which exempts the sale of carbon emissions credits by renewable energy developers from any and all taxes.

"We have not been able to maximize that provision. That is why I will be working with the PPP Center, the CCC, and the DOE (Department of Energy) so that we can come up with joint guidelines on how the private sector and the government can work together on this," Salceda said.

Salceda expressed hope that such initiatives will build financing toward the country's "clean energy transition."

"President Marcos set the tone early on in his term that he will be a Green President. Making the Philippines a pioneer in carbon credits will be a key accomplishment. It will also provide much needed financial resources for our development," Salceda said.

## SUNSTAR

### [MSU-Maguindanao hosts 3-day envi, forest conservation gab](#)

By: Allan Joseph D. Albior

The Mindanao State University in Maguindanao hosted the three-day 4th International Conference on Environment and Forest Conservation (ICEFC) in Davao City on November 15 to 17, 2023. The event discussed the ICEFC's visions and contributions to climate change actions.

The primary goal of ICEFC was to highlight the significance of environmental protection.

The gathering aims to foster discussions on partnerships for climate action and addressing carbon emissions that impact less developed countries.

Several universities, institutions, and local government units (LGUs) participated in the conference with a shared goal of environmental conservation.

Dr. Bai Hejira Nefertiti M. Limbona, Chancellor of the Mindanao State University-Maguindanao, emphasized that coastal communities are increasingly vulnerable to rising sea levels, serving as evidence of climate change — a concern affecting everyone.

"This endeavor can strengthen the advocacy towards protecting the environment as we are making a new deal for the environment," she said.

Dr. Nefertiti mentioned that MSU-Maguindanao collaborates with the Climate Change Commission to support the environmental care and protection efforts in Maguindanao provinces.

Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno, President of Mindanao State University System, expressed pride in the institution's commitment to environmental care and protection. He also highlighted collaborations with international institutions, including Castamono University, as well as other universities, institutions, and local government units (LGU).

"The knowledge gained from this collaboration will advance care and protection for the environment," Atty. Mapupuno said.

Atty. Mapupuno commended MSU-Maguindanao for the successful collaboration and event organization. He urged everyone to seize networking opportunities and work with purpose, vigor, and unity.

#### Tree planting activity

During the 4th ICEFC, the tree planting activity on the second day took place at the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park at Sitio Punta Dumalag in Matina Aplaya, Davao City. Delegates from Kastamonu University, Institut Pertanian Bogor Indonesia, as well as officials from MSU System and MSU-Maguindanao actively participated in this environmental initiative.

Emphasizing the importance of forming partnerships for practical climate change solutions and advocating for a national-based approach to enhance environmental stability, the activity concluded with 50 delegates planting a total of 160 mangrove seedlings.

#### Ceremonial signing of MOU on Research and Academic Exchange, cooperation

The event also highlighted the ceremonial signing of the memorandum of understanding for all the delegates from Institut Pertanian Bogor Indonesia, Kastamonu University, MSU-System President, and representatives from MSU-General Santos City, MSU-Sulu, MSU-Buug, School Head of MSU-Maigo School of Arts and Trade, Superintendent of MSU-Lanao National College of Arts and Trade, along with MSU-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College, the chancellor of MSU-Maguindanao, MSU-Naawan, and a representative from MSU-Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography.

The panel discussion on climate change and mitigation featured experts including Engr. Khalid S. Dumagay from the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Barmm); Atty. Rhehan Diwas; and Mr. Rey Guarin, the Philippines' Country Representative, Gutter Consulting. Dr. Ramjie Y. Odin introduced the panel of discussants.

The discussion on climate change mitigation delved into the innovative initiatives implemented by organizations to gather best practices.

Engr. Dumagay shared some of the impacts of climate change they have experienced in their area, specifically in the Bangsamoro region. Some of these were floods and typhoons.

“The increased community vulnerability becomes the cause of economic instability. To address these, scientific studies and data-driven (based on NEDA) plans and programs were utilized,” Engr. Dumagay said.

Guarin highlighted the unpredictability of Climate Change, citing flooding as one of its effects caused by precipitation. He emphasized the importance of understanding its impact on people, politics, infrastructure, economics, and natural resources.

Atty. Diwas further explained that the City of Baguio often faces heavy rains leading to frequent landslides.

Engr. Khalid explained their approach to involving local government units in the climate action plan through the Bangsamoro Transition Plan.

This plan focuses on sustainable development through moral governance, participatory and transparent practices, advocating for the mobilization of people to adopt greener practices and effective solid waste management.

Guarin emphasized the importance of local ownership in plans, highlighting the need for inclusivity and equal access within the community, all based on thorough consultations.

## Manifesto

The conference concluded on November 17, 2023, with public and private organizations collectively signing a manifesto expressing unwavering support for climate action.

The commitment involves advancing greening programs, strengthening climate resilience, and forming accountable partnerships. They pledge to take tangible measures for nature-based solutions and policies to protect, rehabilitate, and manage ecosystems, ensuring the environment is safeguarded and humanity's future well-being.

Atty. Mapupuno emphasized that part of the mission of Mindanao State University is to ensure excellence in instruction, research, development, innovation, extension, and environmental education and discovery. The ten-point agenda of his leadership underscores the imperative to fortify research, extension, innovation, and productions.

"Our commitment not only emphasizes the profound respect extended to our esteemed partners but also signifies our obligations as mandated by the University's charter. Let us collectively propel forward, fostering an even stronger partnership, one that endures and flourishes, embodying the essence of unity and shared dedication," he added.

Dr. Glen A. Lorenzo, Vice President for Research and Extension at Mindanao State University - System, concluded the three-day successful international conference on environment and forest conservation.

Lorenzo emphasized that the duty to safeguard the environment is believed to have originated with the dawn of humanity, striving to create a harmonious and beneficial ecology for the collective well-being and enjoyment.

Conserving the environment entails a substantial responsibility, considering our shared existence on a single, interconnected planet spanning today's and future generations as one of the primary goals of the conference.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [UN Special Rapporteur recognizes PH efforts on climate change](#)

Philippine government officials met with the UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on climate change and human rights, Dr. Ian Fry, at the conclusion of his 10-day official country visit.

Representatives from the Climate Change Commission, Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Foreign Affairs, among others, participated in the exit conference held at the Department of Foreign Affairs this morning. The government invited Dr. Fry to the Philippines as part of its open and constructive engagement on human rights with relevant United Nations (UN) mechanisms. The Philippines is also the main sponsor of annual resolutions on the impact of climate change on human rights in the UN Human Rights Council.

Dr. Fry expressed sincere gratitude for the "hospitality and openness" of government authorities and stakeholders throughout his visit. Dr. Fry held dialogues with national and local government officials and communities, as well as civil society organizations, and noted discussions were "frank and constructive." He conducted site visits across the country, including in Manila, Valenzuela City, Leyte, and Iloilo City.

He shared a summary of his preliminary observations and emphasized that the Philippines has "very good policies and legislation" on climate change, yet more needed to be done. He underscored the critical role of the international community, particularly developed countries, to provide enhanced climate financing and support to the Philippines and other vulnerable countries to effectively combat climate change.

In this context, Dr. Fry cited the relevance of the Loss and Damage Fund under the UN Conference of Parties (COP) to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the need to make it meaningful and operational. If it will not deliver on its promise, other international and regional mechanisms were required to provide countries like the Philippines with much-needed financing, capacity-building and technical assistance to address the climate change crisis.

Climate Change Commission Vice-Chair, Secretary Robert Borje stressed that the issue was about "lives, livelihood and future generations." Secretary Borje likewise underscored that international support for loss and damage must be ramped up and emphasized that as details of the Loss and Damage Fund are still being ironed out,

Annex 1 Parties as well as carbon majors need to deliver on scaled up Means of Implementation on climate finance, capacity building and technology development to developing countries as commitments under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as survival of developing nations and the fundamental human right to life are impacted by compliance with these treaty obligations and moral imperative. Dr. Fry highlighted the Philippines' good practices in terms of action at the local levels and mainstreaming gender-related issues, being "more progressive than a lot of other countries." With respect to Dr. Fry's comments on political and security matters, the Government urged the Special Rapporteur to have a more comprehensive appreciation of the Philippine context and engage in genuine dialogue with the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

Undersecretary Severo Catura of the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat conveyed the Government's willingness to further engage the SR to clarify ongoing complex challenges which he may not have fully appreciated during his short visit. This will ensure a broader perspective that will inform an objective, constructive, and complete report, he explained.

DFA Assistant Secretary Maria Teresa Almojuela mentioned the Philippines' new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with the UN 2024-2028 which makes climate action and resilience a joint strategic priority for activities at the national, local, regional and international levels. She also brought attention to government efforts for skills upgrading and promoting a just transition to a low carbon economy.

Dr. Fry's final report will be submitted and considered by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2024.

**=END=**