NEWS ROUNDUP
29 NOVEMBER 2024 [07:30 am]

- Climate change is real, says DoST
- 1 in 5 Filipinos satisfied with government's climate response – Harvard study
- Only 22% of Filipinos confident in gov't's climate efforts – HHI Survey
- Tapping Earth's power: PH's reliable clean energy source
- PH sets Guinness World Record for simultaneous bamboo planting

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- More Filipinos aware of climate change, but only a few take action
- Climate change adaptation plans must be localized, understandable: CCC
- Christmas typhoons up 210%

DAILY TRIBUNE

Climate change is real, says DoST
By: Perseus Echeminada

Department of Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum called for technological innovation and collaboration to combat climate change and build a more resilient Philippines.

NEWS5

1 in 5 Filipinos satisfied with government's climate response – Harvard study
By: Clarist Mae Zablan

Only 22% of Filipinos are satisfied with the government's efforts to address climate change, based on a nationwide survey by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), stressing the need for more visible actions.

PALAWAN NEWS

Only 22% of Filipinos confident in gov't's climate efforts – HHI Survey
By: Celeste Anna Formoso

Just 22% of Filipinos have a good opinion of the Philippine government's efforts to combat climate change, according to a recent nationwide study conducted by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI).

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tapping Earth's power: PH's reliable clean energy source
By: Annelle Tayao-Juego

As the world continues to find better ways to harness clean, sustainable energy, the Philippines, quite literally, stands on one of its most powerful resources: geothermal energy.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PH sets Guinness World Record for simultaneous bamboo planting
By: Ercel Maandig

The Philippines has earned a Guinness World Record (GWR) for the most participants simultaneously planting bamboo, with 2,305 planters taking part in 19 locations across mainland Mindanao and Leyte province on Oct. 18, officials announced Thursday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

More Filipinos aware of climate change, but only a few take action
By: Raphael Bosano

If there's any place in the world that can clearly illustrate just how much impact climate change has had in recent years, look no further. In just a little less than seven decades, the Philippines has, unfortunately, seen various changes in terms of rising temperature, intensity of extreme weather events and sea level rise.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Climate change adaptation plans must be localized, understandable: CCC
By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday emphasized the importance of cascading the climate change adaptation plans to the local government units (LGUs) to ensure that these are easily understood by the public.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Christmas typhoons up 210%
By: Bella Cariaso

A study conducted by Filipino scientists showed that the number of typhoons during Yuletide has significantly increased by 210 percent since 2012, while the 15-day heat waves experienced during the onslaught of El Niño could happen every two years amid the impact of climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

DAILY TRIBUNE

Climate change is real, says DoST

By: Perseus Echeminada

Department of Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum called for technological innovation and collaboration to combat climate change and build a more resilient Philippines.

“We can no longer dismiss climate change as a hoax,” Solidum said during the opening ceremony of the 2024 National Science and Technology, Innovation Week at LimKetKai Complex. “Its impacts are real and devastating.”

He also stressed the need to shift the narrative from victimhood to victory over disasters and by harnessing the power of science and technology, the Philippines can move beyond mere survival and strive for a thriving future.

While acknowledging the potential of technology to stabilize the world system, Solidum also cautioned about its potential negative impacts and highlighted the importance of balancing environmental, health, social equity and economic considerations to create sustainable and resilient communities.

“I call on every Filipino to embrace the power of science, technology, and innovation,” Solidum urged. “Together, we can build a better, more prosperous and secure Philippines.”

NEWS5

1 in 5 Filipinos satisfied with government's climate response – Harvard study

By: Clarist Mae Zablan

Only 22% of Filipinos are satisfied with the government's efforts to address climate change, based on a nationwide survey by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), stressing the need for more visible actions.

Based on the study, a majority or 53% of Filipinos are unsure about the government's climate efforts, which HHI said reflects a lack of public awareness about it.

"There is a need for visible action," HHI Resilient Communities and co-lead of the study, Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino, said in a news release. "The government can take steps to collaborate more closely with communities, civil society groups, the private sector, and academia to support adaptative measures."

The Philippines is considered by experts to be one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels and extreme weather.

Since he took office in 2022, Pres. Bongbong Marcos has repeatedly promised to bolster the country's climate resilience, and has pressed wealthier nations to contribute more in addressing climate change.

But environmental groups have criticized Marcos for his favorable stance towards natural gas-fired and nuclear power development, which they warned would hamper efforts to transition to renewable energy sources. The groups have also demanded the president to pursue more actions in response to climate change.

Based on the Harvard survey, more than 85% of Filipinos agree that climate change is real, and nearly half or 46% expressed concern that they would be significantly impacted by it in the next five years. Most also expect climate change to cause economic impacts, but only 26% feared that it would cause health risks.

"Rising temperatures and extreme weather events can exacerbate health risks, and lead to a surge in heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and mental health challenges," said Bollettino.

PALAWAN NEWS

Only 22% of Filipinos confident in gov't's climate efforts – HHI Survey

By: Celeste Anna Formoso

Just 22% of Filipinos have a good opinion of the Philippine government's efforts to combat climate change, according to a recent nationwide study conducted by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI).

The majority, 53%, are still unsure, which indicates a notable ignorance about government efforts to address the global catastrophe.

Conducted as the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded, the survey underlines the need for robust national and local strategies to bridge gaps in global commitments.

"There is a need for visible action," emphasized Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino, program director of HHI Resilient Communities and co-lead of the study.

"The government can take steps to collaborate more closely with communities, civil society groups, the private sector, and academia to support adaptive measures," he added.

The study found that 85% of Filipinos believe climate change is real, and 46% expect to be significantly impacted by it within the next five years.

Economic concerns dominate their worries, with 43% fearing inflation, 43% predicting loss of income, and 34% anticipating poverty and hunger.

Despite this, health risks appear to be underestimated, with only 26% citing illnesses and 10% fearing increased mortality.

Dr. Bollettino warned of the significant health implications.

"Rising temperatures and extreme weather events can exacerbate health risks, leading to a surge in heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and mental health challenges," he said.

While awareness of climate change is high, action remains limited.

Two-thirds (66%) of Filipinos have taken no measures to adapt, with most who have acted focusing on environmental protection, such as planting trees (21%), reducing energy consumption (15%), and conserving water (15%).

More substantial measures like adapting livelihoods (7%) or relocating to less-affected areas (5%) are rare.

“Few people have adapted their livelihood or even moved to less affected areas, but these percentages are likely to grow rapidly as people increasingly face the consequences of climate change,” said Dr. Patrick Vinck, HHI research director and co-lead of the study.

The survey found that wealth and education play critical roles in climate adaptation.

Filipinos with higher education (52%) and higher income levels (38%) are more likely to take adaptation actions than those with limited education (23%) and lower income (30%).

Younger Filipinos aged 18 to 35 (36%) are more proactive compared to those aged 56 and above (28%).

Dr. Vinck pointed out the importance of integrating climate adaptation and disaster preparedness.

“People who are aware of climate change, believe it is happening, or take action to adapt are also more likely to be prepared for sudden-onset disasters like typhoons. This link underscores the need for comprehensive strategies,” he said.

The survey’s disaster preparedness scoring system showed a 60% increase in overall preparedness among Filipinos aware of climate change, underscoring the value of targeted awareness programs.

Significant regional differences emerged in the survey. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) had the lowest awareness and engagement.

Only 48% of BARMM residents had heard of climate change, compared to 70%-86% in other regions. Even after receiving a definition, only 31% in BARMM perceived significant personal risks from climate change, far below the national average.

Regions frequently affected by extreme weather events showed higher awareness and engagement. Central Visayas (48%) and Eastern Visayas (44%), heavily impacted by Typhoon Haiyan, recorded the highest levels of personal adaptation measures. In contrast, BARMM lagged at 21%.

Dr. Vinck noted the specific vulnerabilities of BARMM, a region heavily reliant on agriculture.

“Altered growing seasons, reduced crop yields, and increased prevalence of crop diseases will threaten food security and livelihoods,” he warned.

“Without adequate awareness and belief in the human causes of climate change, necessary adaptive measures may remain insufficient,” he added.

Dr. Bollettino stressed the importance of educational outreach to build resilience in underprepared regions.

“There is an urgent need to enhance communication about personal adaptation actions and preparedness measures, especially among socioeconomically vulnerable groups,” he said.

He also urged the government to integrate climate change strategies into policies.

The government must ensure, Dr. Bollettino said, that strategies not only address environmental concerns but also support economic and social adaptation.

The HHI conducted the survey from February to March 2024, gathering data from 4,608 Filipinos through face-to-face interviews. The study aims to understand the factors contributing to disaster and climate resilience in the Philippines.

Operating in the country since 2015, HHI’s Resilient Communities program supports disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation initiatives. The HHI is a research center affiliated with Harvard University, specializing in humanitarian crises and leadership.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tapping Earth's power: PH's reliable clean energy source

By: Annelle Tayao-Juego

As the world continues to find better ways to harness clean, sustainable energy, the Philippines, quite literally, stands on one of its most powerful resources: geothermal energy.

The country is the third-largest producer of geothermal energy across the globe, which means it could be at the forefront of maximizing a renewable gold mine that could be key to Filipinos' energy security. That is if it can overcome challenges to its development.

"Geothermal energy is often overlooked in discussions about renewable energy, but it's one of our most reliable clean power sources," said Jeffrey Estrella, President of AP Renewables Inc. (APRI), a subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corporation (AboitizPower) that operates the Tiwi and Makban geothermal facilities across the provinces of Albay, Laguna, and Batangas.

Unlike its renewable cousins solar and wind power, geothermal energy doesn't depend on weather conditions. Throughout 2023, while solar panels only achieved about 20 percent of their peak capacity and wind turbines managed just 31 percent, geothermal plants in the Philippines maintained an impressive 65-71 percent capacity factor, rivaling traditional coal plants' 58-69 percent.

This reliability makes geothermal energy ideal for baseload power, or the consistent electricity supply needed to meet minimum daily demand. "Think of baseload power as the foundation of our electricity supply," Estrella explained. "While solar and wind power output fluctuates throughout the day, geothermal plants can run continuously, providing stable power 24/7."

This reliability makes geothermal energy ideal for baseload power, or the consistent electricity supply needed to meet minimum daily demand. "Think of baseload power as the foundation of our electricity supply," Estrella explained. "While solar and wind power output fluctuates throughout the day, geothermal plants can run continuously, providing stable power 24/7."

Power producers like AboitizPower's APRI aren't letting these challenges stop them from taking advantage of this indigenous source.

In APRI's Tiwi and Makban facilities, which contribute 300 megawatts in net sellable capacity to the national grid, they are exploring ways to increase energy production. The recent drilling campaign for new production and injection wells by the Philippine Geothermal Production Company (PGPC) added 94 megawatts of output, double the initial expectations.

APRI's latest energized venture, the Tiwi Binary Power Plant, also showcases efficacy and efficiency in the sector. By capturing residual heat from existing geothermal processes—energy that would otherwise go unused—the plant generates an additional 17 megawatts of clean power for the Luzon grid.

Furthermore, in a groundbreaking move, APRI is now developing the Philippines' first battery energy storage and geothermal hybrid system. The Bay Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in Laguna will allow the Makban geothermal plant to provide rapid support during peak demand periods, helping address grid stability and power reliability.

"As the Department of Energy works on its 'Geothermal De-risking Roadmap,' the future of this underutilized resource looks promising," Estrella said. "With the Philippines' installed geothermal capacity at 1,952 megawatts as of April 2024, there is still significant room for growth."

Peak demand in the Philippines continues to grow annually, with forecasts indicating it will double within the next 13 years to over 36,000 megawatts by 2037. Meanwhile, on the geothermal supply side, only about 151 megawatts of committed geothermal power projects are in the pipeline, according to the Department of Energy.

While geothermal power stands out as a reliable, clean, and homegrown solution that could help secure the Philippines' energy future, it should be clear that there is no such thing as a singular solution.

The road to clean energy will need all types of generation technologies to ensure energy security as the country builds the energy system of the future.

Geothermal energy is a puzzle piece to the bigger picture of finding the right mix of power plants that can handle varying electricity demands throughout the day and in the years to come.

With this in mind, AboitizPower constantly pursues opportunities to grow its portfolio, not just for geothermal but also for solar, hydro, wind, and energy storage systems, en route to reaching 4,600 megawatts of clean capacity. In balance, it also continues to invest in thermal power plants to support the country's baseload and peak energy demands.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PH sets Guinness World Record for simultaneous bamboo planting

By: Ercel Maandig

The Philippines has earned a Guinness World Record (GWR) for the most participants simultaneously planting bamboo, with 2,305 planters taking part in 19 locations across mainland Mindanao and Leyte province on Oct. 18, officials announced Thursday.

The record was confirmed by GWR adjudicator Sonia Ushiriguchi during the National Science and Technology Week celebration, with the Mindanao leg held in this city.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) led the initiative to highlight bamboo's role in promoting a circular economy, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. called on lawmakers to create policies supporting a circular economy framework, using bamboo as a key example. "We must love our environment as much as we love our children, ensuring they live in a healthy, peaceful, and stable place," Solidum said.

Bukidnon 1st District Representative Jose Manuel Alba,chair of the House Committee on Sustainability Goals and Climate Change, emphasized the importance of monitoring the growth of the bamboo seedlings planted during the event. Alba advocates for bamboo propagation as a climate change mitigation strategy.

The event showcased bamboo’s potential as an ecological and economic resource, strengthening the Philippines' commitment to sustainability.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

More Filipinos aware of climate change, but only a few take action

By: Raphael Bosano

If there's any place in the world that can clearly illustrate just how much impact climate change has had in recent years, look no further. In just a little less than seven decades, the Philippines has, unfortunately, seen various changes in terms of rising temperature, intensity of extreme weather events and sea level rise.

According to the Oscar M. Lopez Center's Philippine Climate Change Assessment, from 1951-2018, the Philippines has seen an increasing trend in annual average temperature by 0.16 degrees celsius per decade, totaling to 1.12 degrees celsius in the last sixty seven years.

While the figure may seem small, studies show that a rise in temperature by over one degree increases the likelihood of more hot days.

Higher temperatures at night have seen a significant trend, especially in urban areas, due to the urban heat island effect.

Dr. Rodel Lasco, Technical Coordinator of the PCCA, admits that while indications of rainfall is "a bit more ambiguous" as there is no increasing trend, there is still an observed shift towards the country becoming "wetter."

And while the number of tropical cyclones entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility does not seem to increase in number, Lasco says damage from these extreme weather events are increasing.

"Yung cost of damage is increasing. The frequency and intensity, walang pattern, no long-term trend. But the number of Christmas typhoons, amazingly, has significantly increased. It's becoming more common," he said.

A weather specialist of state weather bureau PAGASA explains that tropical cyclones are in fact decreasing by number but their intensity is growing stronger.

"What we saw is that the total number of tropical cyclones we're observing are decreasing. But the stronger ones are growing in number," explains Dr. John Manalo.

More Filipinos aware of climate change

A recent survey by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) revealed that most Filipinos have a perceptive understanding of climate change and their risks.

Data collected from over 4,600 Filipinos in different parts of the country showed that eight out of 10 believe in climate change while around four of 10 “anticipate that they will be significantly impacted in the next five years.”

However, the same study points to only a few Filipinos taking actions to address the potential effects of climate change with six of 10 taking no measures. For others, the measures are mostly focused on planting trees (21%), reducing energy consumption (15%), conserving water (15%), insulating (7%), and using renewable energy (7%).

The more significant steps like livelihood adaptation and relocating from a heavily affected area is also few.

“Few people have adapted their livelihood or even moved to less affected areas, but these percentages are likely to grow rapidly as people increasingly face the consequences of climate change,” says Dr. Patrick Vinck, director of research of HHI, and also co-lead of this study.

Climate Change Commision Executive Director Robert Borje says that while they acknowledge the findings of the HHI, it’s also important to understand the country’s context and the strides it has made.

“Before it was very difficult for our people to understand the importance of preemptive evacuation. I think several decades forward, we’ve seen more willingness from our people to comply,” he said.

“We understand it's a function of time, but we also do not have the luxury of time. What's important right now is that we have leadership recognizing the intersectionality of the different government agency work.”

Borje also stressed that the accessibility of information is an important facet of holistic preparedness and resilience to climate change saying that the science must be in the form most appreciated by the public.

“When you have an appreciation of the risk that is involved, you know the exposure of the people, you know their vulnerabilities, you know their exposure to hazards, the capacity is important to minimize the risk for them.”

His response comes after the HHI survey pointed to wealthier and more educated Filipinos as being more likely to undertake adaptation actions.

Ultimately, government is gearing to cascade its National Adaptation Plan on climate change adaptation. This "aims to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building the adaptive capacity and resilience of the country and facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation into new and existing policies, programs, and government activities."

More specifically, it will pave the way towards identifying priority high-risk climate change vulnerable areas in the country, serve as a guide on integrating adaptation considerations and harmonize national strategies and international commitments.

Putting an end to climate change, at this point, is farfetched as more developed countries continue to contribute to greenhouse gas emission. But making the Philippines, which has been ranked the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, more prepared and resilient to a myriad of risks is possible.

All it requires is synergy and commitment from all sectors to achieve a common goal which ultimately will benefit the next generation of Filipinos.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Climate change adaptation plans must be localized, understandable: CCC

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday emphasized the importance of cascading the climate change adaptation plans to the local government units (LGUs) to ensure that these are easily understood by the public.

During the briefing on the latest science and policies on climate change in the Philippines organized by the CCC in Pasig City, participants discussed weather patterns and observed climate trends in the country.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E.A. Borje said climate change adaptation plans must be translated into actions, especially at the local level.

“Importante na understandable na naiintindihan ang agham sa likod ng climate change. Pag hindi natin ginawa ito, we run the risk na magiging for compliance lang yung plano at dokumento (It is important to understand the science behind climate change. If we don't do this, we run the risk that the plan and document will only be for compliance),” Borje said in a media interview.

“Gusto natin ang plano ay hindi lang mananatiling papel, but ito'y buhay na dokumento na magbibigay ng giya para sa dapat gawin ng ating mga LGUs, dahil sa totoo lang, ang laban talaga ng (We want the plan to not just remain on paper, but to be a living document that will provide guidance for what our LGUs should do, because in reality, the battle of) climate change is really locally led,” he added.

Borje said the government acknowledges that there has been an increase in public awareness, especially after a series of strong tropical cyclones recently hit the country.

He, however, said despite the increased public awareness, effective adaptation requires more than just understanding the issue.

He said it is important to empower the LGUs and ensure that they have the tools to combat the impacts of climate change.

Borje said the government has several national frameworks created to guide climate action, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050 and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan 2020-2030.

He said both plans must be tailored to meet the specific needs of local populations.

Borje said the Philippine Development Plan’s dedicated section on climate and disaster risk resiliency also calls for localized implementation, with officials urging all sectors of society to work together for effective change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Christmas typhoons up 210%

By: Bella Cariaso

A study conducted by Filipino scientists showed that the number of typhoons during Yuletide has significantly increased by 210 percent since 2012, while the 15-day heat waves experienced during the onslaught of El Niño could happen every two years amid the impact of climate change.

Rodel Lasco, executive director of the Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, presented the findings of the study during the climate change briefing in Pasig City.

“The cost of damage associated with tropical cyclones is significantly increasing. While the annual frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones in the Philippines show no discernible long-term period, the number of Christmas typhoons has significantly increased by 210 percent since 2012,” Lasco said.

He noted that higher and more significant trends are observed in nighttime temperatures than in daytime, especially from December to February, attributing this to “urbanization.”

According to the study, Lasco said that the country’s heat wave is hotter by 1.2 degrees Celsius because of climate change.

Meanwhile, Lasco said that there was a significant increase in rainfall over Metro Manila by about 78 millimeters per decade from 1901 to 2018.

The study was supported by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

CCC vice chairman and executive director Robert Borje said that the commission does not want to be alarmist despite extreme findings by the study.

=END=