



NEWS ROUNDUP

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- Groups call for more action from developed countries to mitigate effects of climate change
- Marcos Jr recognizes PH's 'slow' transition to renewable energy
- Signify unveils ultra efficient lights vs climate change
- Philippines' budget to fight climate change lacking—ADB
- Facing up to the reality of climate change
- PH to host plastic pollution summit
- COP29 and beyond: Forging Philippines' path to environmental stewardship

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- ITLOS chief: Int'l law drives climate action
- Unity, youth, science key to resiliency
- ITLOS President's visit highlights key role of international cooperation to strengthen climate action
- Legal frameworks seen vital in climate action, ocean protection
- Climate Change adaptation plans dapat madaling maintindihan – CCC
- Local Strategies Key To Climate Change Adaptation

ABS CBN

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By: Jasmin Romero

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DAILY TRIBUNE

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Ben Arnold De Vera

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Facing up to the reality of climate change](#)

By: Nono Felix

The series of typhoons (Nika, Marce, and Leon), super typhoons (Pepito and Ofel), and severe tropical storm (Kristine) that battered the Philippines this November and October serves as an urgent call for both government non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH to host plastic pollution summit](#)

By: Javier Joe Ismael

The Department of Science and Technology said the Philippines was chosen to host the first International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) International Conference on Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (Nutec Plastics) in November 2025.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) marked the Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on 19 to 25 November with a call for unity from President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., active participation of the youth in finding solutions to the challenges of changing weather patterns, and use of simplified technical data to develop resilience from climate disasters.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[ITLOS President's visit highlights key role of international cooperation to strengthen climate action](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) highlighted the need for stronger international cooperation to combat climate-related threats to oceans, emphasizing the role of international legal frameworks in driving climate action. This came with the visit of H.E. Tomas Haukur Heidar, President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), to the Philippines.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Legal frameworks seen vital in climate action, ocean protection](#)

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) president Tomas Haukur Heidar has emphasized the importance of legal frameworks in driving climate action and ocean protection.

REMATE

Climate Change adaptation plans dapat madaling maintindihan – CCC

Binigyang diin ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) ang kahalagahan ng masusing paghimay ng climate change adaptation plans sa local government units (LGUs) upang masiguro na madali itong maiintindihan ng publiko.

THE PINNACLE GAZETTE

Local Strategies Key To Climate Change Adaptation

Communities unite to innovate and respond to the urgent challenge of climate change. Localizing Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Effective Action.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[Groups call for more action from developed countries to mitigate effects of climate change](#)

By: Jasmin Romero

Civil society groups urged developing countries participating at COP27 to act more to mitigate the effect of climate change.

“Well, there's been a lot of talk a lot of inspiring speeches, a lot of saying that they understand what's going on, but if you look at the targets it's still very far from what's really needed to achieve,” Masungi Georeserve Co-founder Ann Dumaliang told ABS-CBN News.

Dumaliang is in Egypt and spoke as a panelist at the COP27 Tuesday, where she highlighted the contributions of Masungi Georeserve to the conservation of the environment.

“A lot more action you know, that needs to happen .We have more than enough science to tell us what needs to be done then we should be pursuing this more aggressively,” Dumaliang said.

The fisherfolk group PAMALAKAYA called on support from countries to address the effects of climate change.

“The ongoing COP27 should significantly address the climate crisis, instead of coming up with the usual false climate solutions. Specifically, we demand an adequate support for the loss and damages caused by severe climate change impacts. This is long overdue given that the threats of climate change continue to wreak havoc in the most vulnerable countries like the Philippines. Up to now, a significant number of fisherfolk in Manila Bay have yet to return to their normal socio-economic lives as their fishing boats and equipment have been destroyed by huge waves and typhoon debris. The devastating impacts of natural calamities were worsened by the massive destruction of forests and mangroves for large-scale logging, mining, and reclamation,” the group said in a statement.

Based on the Global Index Report, the Philippines is ranked most susceptible country to hazards brought by climate change.

Dumaliang is hopeful that the countries participating in the COP27 would head the Philippines' call.

“As far as civil society actor go, nakakatuwa because everyone has been very aggressive in making the Philippines heard. Andami nating civil society organizations that are here, rallying outside COP and attending multiple sessions and meetings just to put the Philippines front and center,” she said.

At the moment the Philippine delegation, led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is expected to call for “bolder climate action” at COP27, currently being held in Egypt until November 16, 2022.

Marcos Jr recognizes PH's 'slow' transition to renewable energy

By: Job Manahan

President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday said he recognized the country's slow transition to renewable energy, noting the importance to build infrastructure to support it.

"We all have great hopes that the transition to renewables will be easy or simple. It turns out that is not going to be the case and we have to be realistic in this regard," Marcos said during his message at the US-ASEAN Business Council.

"We recognize the rule that we have set for ourselves that is the slow transition and it is slow," he added.

The President has been repeatedly pushing to improve the share of renewables in the country's energy mix. He told leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) last year that half of the Philippines' power would be sourced through renewable power plants by 2040.

Under the Philippines' renewable energy plan — a requirement under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 — the country targets to increase to 35 percent of the share of renewable energy in the power mix by 2030.

This is where, he said, partnerships with the United States and the private sector would come in to establish important infrastructure for the country's shift to renewable energy.

"The rule we [applied] for ourself is first of all is that we must be able to provide sufficient power for the development of our industry, sufficient power so that we can expand the economy, and it must be accompanied by a continuing effort to move our power sources from the traditional fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy," he said.

Marcos Jr. had said his administration will prioritize the use of renewable energy sources to cushion the impacts of climate change in the Philippines.

In order to alleviate the effects of climate change, he said there is a need to prioritize the use of renewable energy sources.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Signify unveils ultra efficient lights vs climate change](#)

Signify, the world leader in lighting, has introduced its new Philips UltraEfficient Light product line designed to reduce energy consumption and promote sustainability.

The new range of products, including panel lights, flood lights, lamps, recessed luminaires, and light strips, offer up to 100,000 hours of operation and feature advanced LED technology. These energy-efficient solutions are ideal for various applications, including street lighting, retail establishments, offices, and industrial facilities.

“Our UltraEfficient range is more than a lighting solution — it’s an investment in sustainable growth,” said Raghuraman Chandrasekhar, Signify Philippines commercial leader. “This launch underscores our commitment to creating brighter lives and a better world.”

One of the standout features of the UltraEfficient line is its integration with Internet of Things technology. This enables users to control and monitor lighting systems remotely, optimize energy usage, and create more comfortable and productive environments.

“We’re thinking about how we can gather data to change the air conditioner temperature depending on the light level,” Chandrasekhar explained.

Signify is also leveraging its lighting solutions to promote sustainable agriculture. By using specific light spectra, the company can help grow plants indoors, reducing the environmental impact of traditional farming practices.

“We’re able to grow indoor plants through our lighting with very specific formulas,” Chandrasekhar said.

As climate change continues to pose significant challenges, Signify is committed to developing innovative lighting solutions that contribute to a more sustainable future. By reducing energy consumption and promoting sustainable practices, the company aims to help mitigate the effects of climate change and create a more livable planet.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Philippines' budget to fight climate change lacking—ADB](#)

By: Ben Arnold De Vera

Despite the Philippine government's ambitious commitment to mitigate and adapt to climate change, public expenditures to do so have been lacking, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"Climate finance remains insufficient to combat the increasing impacts of climate change. An estimated investment of \$72 billion is needed between 2020 and 2030 to meet the mitigation goals of the NDC, and adaptation costs are not yet estimated," the ADB said in a report published in November, referring to the Philippines' nationally determined contribution.

The country's NDC targets to slash greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by three-fourths six years from now.

The ADB noted that the Philippines' GHG emissions are "relatively low" or equivalent to only 2.25 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) per capita in 2022, compared to the global average of 6.21 tCO₂e.

"But emissions have more than tripled since the 1990s, driven by economic growth, rapid urbanization, and increasing demand for energy and other resources," it said.

While the Philippines is regarded as an "early mover" in climate policy formulation, which started through the Climate Change Act of 2009 under Republic Act (RA) No. 9729, the ADB lamented that "the scale and speed of climate action does not yet match the challenge of delivering the NDC and NAP" or the National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050.

In particular, the ADB blamed "weak planning, financing, and institutional links for climate action."

"In 2023, national budget financing for mitigation activities was only about 12 percent of the required annual amount, even though the share of budget financing allocated to climate change adaptation and mitigation had risen from six to seven percent during 2017 to 2021, to 8.8 percent" last year, it noted.

It does not help that NDC commitments "are mainly conditional on external financing and support that have not yet been mobilized," the lender pointed out.

For the ADB, "while bilateral and multilateral sources have contributed to the financing of railways and urban mass transit systems, similar support is needed for other adaptation and mitigation needs."

"Public finance must be better leveraged to mobilize private investments, but the lack of a robust project pipeline and limited capacity in governments to design and implement climate-focused projects hamper efforts," it added.

This is why the ADB's board of directors last week extended a fresh \$500-million loan to the Philippines, as a follow-through to the earlier \$250-million Climate Change Action Program (CCAP) green-lit in 2022—the first-ever climate action policy-based financing in the Asia-Pacific region.

The newest ADB loan aims to strengthen financing, institutional linkages as well as planning for both national and local climate actions.

Specifically, this loan will help secure the targeted minimum of \$4-billion climate-related development finance commitments coming from bilateral as well as multilateral sources for Philippine programs and projects by 2027, more than the \$2.4-billion annual average from 2018 to 2021.

The loan program shall likewise "promote greater private-sector climate investment through regulatory incentives offered by BSP [the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas] to private lenders, effectively allowing access to cheaper capital for green projects and reducing their risk profile," the ADB said.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH to host plastic pollution summit](#)

By: Javier Joe Ismael

The Department of Science and Technology said the Philippines was chosen to host the first International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) International Conference on Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (Nutech Plastics) in November 2025.

"Plastic pollution is a major global concern that necessitates global solutions. Nuclear applications can provide one of them," said Science and Technology Undersecretary Leah Buendia,

Buendia led the Philippine delegation to the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Program in Vienna from Nov. 26 to 28.

The conference discussed the role of nuclear science and technology in addressing challenges in health, food security and safety, water resource management, and climate change.

Nutech Plastics is IAEA's flagship initiative to address plastic pollution. It brings together countries and partners worldwide to fight plastic pollution on two fronts: at the point of source, by introducing new technologies to improve plastic recycling, and in the ocean, where the bulk of plastic waste ends up. More than 80 countries were part of the initiative.

Buendia said the Philippines was host to various IAEA-supported projects on the peaceful applications of atomic energy, including cancer care, pharmaceuticals, food safety, education and environment protection.

"The Philippines recognizes the transformative effect of atomic energy for sustainable development and commends the agency for its continued delivery of assistance," she added.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[COP29 and beyond: Forging Philippines' path to environmental stewardship](#)

By: Joanna Perfecto

The Philippines finds itself at a crossroads in its fight against climate change, all while dealing with shifts in its internal political landscape.

Our country's chairing of the Loss and Damage Fund Board at COP29 represents more than just a national achievement; it is a crucial opportunity to reassess our approaches to environmental governance and sustainable development.

The impact of climate change is becoming increasingly apparent as we face prolonged droughts debilitating agriculture, rising sea levels threatening communities and intense typhoons wreaking havoc on urban infrastructure.

These challenges extend beyond mere concerns; they present serious risks to our food security, public health, and social stability. The consequences of inaction, both human and economic, worsen with each passing year.

The emphasis on climate finance at COP29 is particularly important for the Philippines at this moment. As a nation consistently regarded as most vulnerable to disasters under the World Risk Report since 2022, our leadership role in overseeing the Loss and Damage Fund Board holds meaning beyond financial management.

It signifies our responsibility to advocate for nations vulnerable to climate change, ensuring that aid reaches communities requiring assistance for rehabilitation and fortification against such disasters.

As we move closer to the 2025 mid-term elections, striving for effective political leadership domestically to complement our international participation in environmental governance remains crucially important now more than ever. The use of the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework serves as a tool for assessing the actions and future promises of our political representatives.

The environmental component of ESG goes beyond surface-level efforts. It requires leaders who grasp the complex link between protecting the environment and driving economic growth. Striking the crucial balance between advancing renewable energy adoption and sustainable urban development, while promoting climate-resilient farming practices.

Equally important is the need to tackle climate justice by ensuring that environmental policies do not prejudice marginalized groups and establishing inclusive structures for these communities to participate in crucial environmental decisions.

Perhaps most critically, the governance element calls for transparency and accountability in environmental programs. The management of climate funds, including our role in the Loss and Damage Fund, requires meticulous oversight and clear metrics for success.

The Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST), in a statement we released, emphasized our role as environmental stewards. We echoed the importance of transparency and accountability in these programs, particularly in ensuring that aid reaches communities most in need while promoting sustainable practices across industries.

As voters, we must demand evidence-based environmental policies and concrete action plans from candidates, not just campaign promises.

As we look towards 2025 and beyond, there are several pressing issues that call our attention. First, meeting our Nationally Determined Contributions in line with the Paris Agreement demands an increase in both ambition and implementation.

Second, it is crucial to shift from policy to practice when it comes to integrating climate resilience into our national development plans. Finally, enhancing our capabilities is essential for managing and allocating climate finance. This ensures that aid reaches the communities most in need of support, especially for their adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The Philippines' current position on the global stage presents both an opportunity and a responsibility. Our role in climate governance initiatives such as the Loss and Damage Fund Board showcases our ability to impact international environmental regulations?.

Nevertheless?, sustaining this external leadership requires strong support within our country in terms of political determination and tangible measures.

As we evaluate potential leaders for the 2025 mid-term elections, we must look beyond traditional political metrics. Instead, let us assess their environmental expertise, dedication to sustainable practices, and history of open governance as essential requirements for reliable public service.

The urgent issues brought about by climate change demand leaders who grasp not the urgencies but also the social and economic aspects of environmental strategies.

The path forward requires a balance between immediate action and long-term planning. We want leaders who are adept at handling climate challenges, while also preparing the groundwork for enduring socioeconomic development.

This includes investing in green infrastructure, supporting renewable energy transition, and strengthening our disaster response capabilities, all while ensuring transparent and accountable governance.

The upcoming 2025 midterm elections is more than a political exercise -- it serves as a crucial assessment on our commitment to environmental stewardship and climate resilience. As voters, we hold both the power and duty to choose representatives who will advance our global environmental leadership efforts and reinforce environmental policies at a national level.

The intersection of COP29 discussions with our involvement in climate finance and the approaching elections presents an opportunity to promote environmental stewardship in the Philippines.

By advocating for environmental management and supporting leaders who possess a genuine commitment to sustainability, we can guarantee that our country not only responds effectively to climate-related issues but also sets an example for sustainable progress in the region.

The choices we make in 2025 will have lasting implications beyond election day, influencing our environmental landscape for years to come. It is essential that we exercise our democratic rights thoughtfully, electing leaders committed to safeguarding our natural world and promoting effective governance to secure a sustainable and resilient future for generations to come.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[ITLOS chief: Int'l law drives climate action](#)

The president of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) has made a historic visit to the Philippines to lecture on the role of international laws in driving climate action.

Tomas Heidar delivered a series of high-level lectures at the University of the Philippines and Asian Institute of Management for the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to deepen understanding of the international legal framework in relation to climate change and its global impacts, as well as highlight the need for multistakeholder support for a rules-based ocean regime to resolve disputes, clarify sovereign commitments under international frameworks, and identify areas for cooperation towards a just, peaceful, climate-resilient future for all.

At the University of the Philippines, Heidar said that the Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law “will improve cooperation between states.”

“It’s a key in climate change because you will not deal with climate change unilaterally. You need to do it together,” he said.

Given the Philippines’ vulnerability to climate impacts and its position as an active actor in various international legal frameworks such as the Loss and Damage Board, the lecture was an important step in the Philippines’ ongoing commitment to address climate change through international discussions on marine protection and climate governance.

The Philippines has one of the world’s longest coastlines and thriving coral ecosystems within the Coral Triangle and climate-related threats such as sea level rise and ocean acidification pose significant risks to the country’s marine biodiversity, fisheries and coastal economies.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo, Loyzaga said the landmark ITLOS Advisory Opinion that Heidar delivered serves as guide for the Philippines in continuously working with other states tackling climate change that she described as “the greatest global governance challenge of our generation.”

“As a responsible member of the international community, the Philippines relies on international law to clarify responsibilities and commitments to advance climate action, including on greenhouse gas emissions and marine pollution,” said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Climate Change Commission vice chairperson and executive director.

Unity, youth, science key to resiliency

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) marked the Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on 19 to 25 November with a call for unity from President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., active participation of the youth in finding solutions to the challenges of changing weather patterns, and use of simplified technical data to develop resilience from climate disasters.

This year's theme, "Aksyon at Adaptasyon ng Makabagong Henerasyon," emphasizes the importance of collaborative action in realizing the nation's climate goals, promoting sustainability, and raising public awareness on the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, in line with the government's long-term vision for sustainable development and climate resilience.

Marcos, the chairperson of CCC, expressed confidence that through unity and shared commitment, Filipinos can rise to the challenge and secure a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

"We are continuously called to press on so that the next generations can still enjoy the lush and bountiful Philippines that we have inherited," the President said.

"As we commit to building a Bagong Pilipinas, let our vision be vivid. We want the Philippines that is well taken care of. We want a nation that will remain unshaken no matter the situation. Most importantly, we want to have a people that truly appreciate the abundance of our lands and our seas," he added.

The President also stressed the significance of CCC Week as a platform to inspire change and spark appreciation for the country's rich natural resources.

"Together with deeds both big and small, let us stay on our mission for a safer, greener, brighter future for all," he said.

CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje underscored the President's vision on climate solidarity in his closing remarks.

"This gathering is more than a recognition of partnerships; it is a rallying call for action. Climate action and adaptation is a whole-of-nation, a whole-of-society, and a whole-of-world endeavor, and there is much at stake," Borje said.

Briefing, seminar

Dr. Rodel D. Lasco, executive director of the OML Center, emphasized the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events during the Climate Briefing 2024.

“This generation is experiencing more frequent and intense extreme weather events, with noticeable changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, tropical cyclones, and sea level rise,” Lasco said.

Dr. John A. Manalo, weather specialist at the state-owned weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said that the weather patterns we experience are largely caused by human activities, including the impacts of El Niño and intensified tropical cyclones. These contribute significantly to the broader phenomenon of climate change, which underscores the urgent need for climate action, he said.

The briefing highlighted the CCC’s policies focusing on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP). These frameworks integrate climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into national and local policies.

“The NAP and NDCIP are roadmaps or guides that help us adapt to climate change and reduce the harm caused by extreme weather. Our collaboration with cities, towns, and communities is key to turning these strategies into actions,” Borje said at a seminar held at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

The discussion centered on the power of collective effort and how Filipino youth can make meaningful contributions through simple actions such as reducing single-use plastics, conserving energy and choosing eco-friendly transportation options.

Borje encouraged students to actively participate in discovering solutions for climate challenges. “Explore how you can contribute to efforts to solve climate challenges. Learn, get involved, and lead by example,” he said.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[ITLOS President's visit highlights key role of international cooperation to strengthen climate action](#)

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Heidar delivered a series of high-level lectures at the University of the Philippines (UP), the Asian Institute of Management for the Office of the Solicitor General, and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). These engagements aimed to deepen the understanding of the international legal framework in relation to climate change and its global impacts.

Heidar's historic visit to the Philippines, the first to be undertaken by an ITLOS President, highlighted the need for multistakeholder support for a rules-based ocean regime to resolve disputes, clarify sovereign commitments under international frameworks, and identify areas for cooperation towards a just, peaceful, climate-resilient future for all.

This opinion emphasized the need for States to protect the oceans from climate-related threats such as sea level rise and ocean acidification. For the Philippines, with one of the world's longest coastlines and thriving coral ecosystems within the Coral Triangle, these threats pose significant risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal economies.

At the University of the Philippines, Heidar delivered a lecture titled "Intersections between the Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law: The Role of ITLOS in Climate Action." He emphasized the importance of legal frameworks in driving climate action and ocean protection.

"Hopefully, this particular Advisory Opinion will improve cooperation between states—it's a key in climate change because you will not deal with climate change unilaterally. You need to do it together," Heidar said.

Given the Philippines' vulnerability to climate impacts and its position as an active actor in various international legal frameworks such as the Loss and Damage Board, the lecture was an important step in the Philippines' ongoing commitment to address climate change through international discussions on marine protection and climate governance.

The CCC is committed to ensure that the Philippines remains a key player in shaping global climate policy, particularly in advocating for the rights of vulnerable island states and coastal communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

“The ITLOS opinion aligns with the Philippines’ National Adaptation Plan and defines our State’s promises under UNCLOS, the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, and other relevant international legal instruments,” said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director.

“As a responsible member of the international community, the Philippines relies on international law to clarify responsibilities and commitments to advance climate action, including on greenhouse gas emissions and marine pollution. This lecture is crucial for a better understanding of the nexus between UNCLOS and UNFCCC,” he added.

Heidar’s visit also serves as a reminder of the global responsibility to protect the planet’s oceans and ensure that international law supports climate resilience.

“The Philippines will continue to work with other states in contributing to the ongoing work premised on the interconnectedness of a healthy ocean, climate change, and the human rights of all. Guided by, among others, the landmark ITLOS Advisory Opinion, climate change is the greatest global governance challenge of our generation,” Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga stated.

The CCC continues to work closely with academic institutions, international bodies, and stakeholders to ensure the Philippines remains at the forefront of climate and ocean governance.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Legal frameworks seen vital in climate action, ocean protection](#)

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“Hopefully, this particular Advisory Opinion will improve cooperation between states—it’s a key in climate change because you will not deal with climate change unilaterally. You need to do it together,” Heidar said as quoted in a news release of the Commission on Climate Change (CCC) on Friday.

The ITLOS issued its Advisory Opinion on May 21, 2024, upon the request of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law in December 2022.

The CCC said Heidar, the first ITLOS president to visit the Philippines, delivered a series of high-level lectures at the University of the Philippines (UP), the Asian Institute of Management for the Office of the Solicitor General, and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) during his recent visit to the country.

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The CCC said Heidar’s lecture was an important step in the Philippines’ ongoing commitment to address climate change through international discussions on marine protection and climate governance.

It said the ITLOS president’s historic visit highlighted the need for multistakeholder support for a rules-based ocean regime to resolve disputes, clarify sovereign commitments under international frameworks, and identify areas for cooperation towards a just, peaceful, climate-resilient future for all.

“This opinion emphasized the need for States to protect the oceans from climate-related threats such as sea level rise and ocean acidification. For the Philippines, with one of the world’s longest coastlines and thriving coral ecosystems within the Coral Triangle, these threats pose significant risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal economies,” it added.

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The CCC said it will continue to work closely with academic institutions, international bodies, and stakeholders to ensure the Philippines remains at the forefront of climate and ocean governance.

REMATE

Climate Change adaptation plans dapat madaling maintindihan – CCC

Binigyang diin ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) ang kahalagahan ng masusing paghimay ng climate change adaptation plans sa local government units (LGUs) upang masiguro na madali itong maiintindihan ng publiko.

Sa isinagawang briefing sa pinakabagong ‘agham at polisiya’ ukol sa climate change sa Pilipinas na inorganisa ng CCC sa Pasig City, tinalakay ng mga nagpartisipa ang weather patterns at inobserbahan ang climate trends sa bansa.

Sinabi ni CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E.A. Borje na ang climate change adaptation plans ay dapat na nakasalin sa aksyon lalo na sa lokal na antas.

“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,” ayon kay Borje.

“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 climate change is really locally led,” dagdag na wika nito.

Winika pa ni Borje na tanggap ng pamahalaan na mayroong pagtaas sa kamalayan ng publiko, lalo na matapos ang serye ng malalakas na tropical cyclones na kamakailan lamang ay tumama sa bansa.

Gayunman, sa kabila aniya ng mataas na kamalayan ng publiko, ang epektibong adaptasyon ay nangangailangan ng hight pa sa pag-unawa sa usapin.

Aniya, mahalagang mabigyan ng kapangyarihan ang LGU at tiyakin na mayroong gamit o kasangkapan ang mga ito para labanan ang epekto ng climate change.

Tinuran pa ni Borje na ang gobyerno ay may ilang national frameworks na nilikha para gabayan ang climate action, kabilang na ang National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050 at ang Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan 2020-2030.

“Both plans must be tailored to meet the specific needs of local populations,” ayon kay Borje.

“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,” aniya pa rin.

THE PINNACLE GAZETTE

[Local Strategies Key To Climate Change Adaptation](#)

Communities unite to innovate and respond to the urgent challenge of climate change. Localizing Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Effective Action.

Climate change is no longer just on the horizon; it's already here, and its impacts are starkly visible. From the flooded fields of Missouri to the peaty landscapes of the Netherlands, the urgency for effective climate adaptation strategies is more pressing than ever. The interplay of global forces demands localized responses, requiring innovative integration of local knowledge, scientific insight, and community action.

Just recently, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) of the Philippines held a briefing underscoring the importance of tailoring climate adaptation plans to local conditions. Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E.A. Borje emphasized, "It is important to understand the science behind climate change. If we don't do this, we run the risk of these plans being just for compliance." This highlights the necessity of translating complex scientific information about climate change and its impacts so local communities can easily digest it.

Meanwhile, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) has taken significant steps to bridge the gap between sophisticated climate science and community-led practices through initiatives like the Climate Adaptation Changemakers School, which attracted master's students from diverse backgrounds. Held from October 14 to 18, this program equipped participants with practical knowledge about climate adaptation, featuring sessions led by influential experts and field visits to innovative projects.

During this week, students explored several key topics, including early warning systems, nature-based solutions, and the effects of global weather patterns such as El Niño. They learned about successful adaptation strategies through real-world insights, which included visiting significant water management projects. The mixture of classroom learning and field experience provided them with invaluable perspectives on how adaptation works on the ground.

The students encountered professionals like Dr. Sarah Feron and Dr. Margo van den Brink. They discussed how local realities, such as the challenges of technology and funding, can hinder the effective implementation of adaptation strategies. Dr. Carrasco pointed out the disparity of weather data between the Global North and South, demonstrating how this gap complicates localized responses to climate change.

But it's not just about learning from the experts—it's also about sharing experiences. One memorable aspect of the Changemakers School was the exchange of ancestral wisdom during discussions. For example, Ghanaian farmers adapt by resting their land one day each week to bolster soil health, showcasing the practical knowledge embedded within local practices.

Across the ocean, Missouri farmers are also feeling the heat as climate change affects their livelihoods. With agriculture being particularly vulnerable to changing weather patterns, the state's largest crop—corn—is under threat from increasingly frequent heavy rainfall and flooding. This could not only lead to immediate drops in yields but also long-term consequences for corn-dependent industries.

"We will need to adapt and introduce new crops and agricultural practices," said one local farmer, underscoring the pressing need for adaptive measures. Beyond corn, Missouri's beef production, which generates significant revenue and jobs statewide, faces analogous risks. Increased precipitation can lead to greater prevalence of diseases among livestock, jeopardizing both health and income.

The common thread across these narratives is the urgent need for adaptive action to counter climate change. When communities are empowered with the right tools and knowledge, they can develop locally relevant solutions. This is where the CCC's initiative takes center stage, reinforcing the idea of local leadership. Borje insists, "The battle of climate change is really locally led," adding urgency for enhancing the capacity of local governments as frontline responders to climate impacts.

One particularly exciting development is the Climate Smart project initiated by Trinity College Dublin. Under the leadership of Professor Anna Davies, this project focuses on equipping Transition Year students with skills to engage with climate adaptation. The program includes interactive workshops, quizzes, and role-playing games to encourage proactive learning about the challenges posed by climate change.

The Climate Smart Game, for example, immerses students in decision-making scenarios where they have to plan for their city's adaptation to climate-related challenges. It cleverly combines education with real-world strategies, preparing future leaders to manage the impacts of climate change effectively. "Developing adaptive capacity across society is fundamental," Professor Davies stated, emphasizing the necessity of early engagement with youth.

Adaptation strategies resonate equally with older generations, as Missouri farmers confront changing agricultural realities. Farmers, as stewards of the land, are beginning to embrace innovations such as water-conserving crops and ecosystems services techniques. "The solutions are there; it's time to scale them up," emphasizes one agricultural expert reflecting on the importance of knowledge exchange between farmers facing similar challenges.

With the impact of climate change hitting local communities hard, collaborative efforts become not only desirable but necessary. Engaging with local expertise and drawing from community knowledge can act as catalysts for change. This is why initiatives like the Youth Adaptation Action Day at the GCA are pivotal. They empower young leaders to envision solutions for their communities, inspiring climate action from the grassroots up.

Meanwhile, the CCC's emphasis on cascading adaptation plans is reflective of this need for inclusivity. By ensuring local governments understand the science of climate change and have the requisite tools, communities can be proactive rather than reactive to climate impacts. Borje remarks, "We want the plan to not just remain on paper, but to be alive—providing guidance for what our LGUs should do."

The future of climate adaptation lies not only in policy frameworks but also within the frameworks developed by local communities. Solutions are not one-size-fits-all; they must reflect the uniqueness of each region and engage local perspectives. Collaboration across disciplines—from scientists to policymakers, farmers to educators—is fundamental. Without localizing strategies and employing collective knowledge, the fight against climate change could easily recede to the sidelines.

By integrating lessons from local efforts, diverse cultures, and grassroots knowledge, it is possible to develop pathways toward climate resilience. The time is ripe for communities to come together, adapt their practices, and cultivate environments conducive to sustainable living and thriving ecosystems. The conversations happening today—from the classrooms of Dublin to the fields of Missouri—demonstrate the commitment to shaping a collective response to climate change. Every participant, whether farmer or student, holds the potential to be a changemaker. The adaptation challenge is vast, but with localized strategies and inclusivity at the forefront, hope for a more resilient future is within reach.

Let us look beyond policies and regulations. Let's focus on sharing wisdom, experiences, and responsibilities. This is how communities will rise to the occasion, crafting adaptive actions grounded firmly within their realities.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Facing up to the reality of climate change](#)

By: Nono Felix

The series of typhoons (Nika, Marce, and Leon), super typhoons (Pepito and Ofel), and severe tropical storm (Kristine) that battered the Philippines this November and October serves as an urgent call for both government non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

For NGOs, in particular, this signals the need for a fundamental shift in development approaches, strategies, and programs—especially among those committed to sustaining improvements in the lives of the poor.

NGOs engaged in development must prioritize vulnerable communities that bear the brunt of extreme flooding caused by typhoons. These include low-lying areas near rivers and seas, as well as flood-prone urban zones. Expansion efforts should focus on disaster-prone areas even if these have been previously served. In just one month, at least 160 lives were lost, more than 600,00 people were displaced as floodwaters swept away homes or destroyed them with strong winds, and over half a billion pesos worth of damage was sustained by agriculture and infrastructure. The economic repercussions ripple across the country, ultimately impacting the gross domestic product.

For the government, it is high time to push forward with plans to establish a dedicated department for disaster risk reduction. Such a move would consolidate efforts, enhance coordination, and improve the country's overall preparedness. For Bicol, which suffered unprecedented flooding due to severe tropical storm "Kristine," reviving the Bicol River Basin Development Program by leveraging institutional knowledge is a prudent step.

To create programs that deliver lasting improvements for the poor, NGOs may need to reassess their priorities and focus more on infrastructure support. While this may seem like a step back, it is, in reality, a necessary strategy to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change. Without robust infrastructure—such as flood control systems, reinforced housing, and disaster-resilient community facilities—years of development work can be undone in moments, erasing the gains of past interventions.

Protecting lives and livelihoods in vulnerable areas must take precedence. These interventions, though costly, are investments in resilience. NGOs must also advocate for the protection of natural barriers like the Sierra Madre mountain range, which plays a critical role in weakening the destructive forces of typhoons. Far from being a liability, these initiatives could attract more donor funding. Saving the environment and safeguarding communities yield clear, measurable, and relatable results. The outcomes resonate with donors and make securing grants more likely.

Implementing these changes will require strategic, high-level decisions, and approval from NGO boards. This is not entirely a paradigm shift. Many NGOs have extensive

experience in infrastructure projects that offer valuable lessons to inform future initiatives. Leveraging institutional knowledge can lead to more effective and sustainable solutions. For instance, NGOs can once again deploy trained community theater groups of children and young adults to raise awareness about flood preparedness and climate adaptation.

Collaboration with government agencies will be crucial for the financial, logistical, and technical execution of infrastructure projects. Community participation, from design and implementation to monitoring and evaluation, must remain a cornerstone of these efforts. To achieve this, NGOs should build coalitions and networks at the national level to strengthen their collective impact.

What is the point of empowering the poor, protecting children, prioritizing girls, and advocating for human rights if the same people are forced to evacuate repeatedly due to floodwaters, storm surges, mudslides, and typhoons? If their livelihoods are continuously destroyed, all efforts to uplift their lives become futile.

The time to act is now. Bangladesh, a developing country like the Philippines, has demonstrated success in combating floods. The erstwhile impoverished country has developed comprehensive flood warning systems. Advanced forecasting and early warnings have significantly reduced flood casualties, and local communities are trained in flood preparedness and adaptation. The country has also built cyclone shelters, elevated homes, and embankments to protect vulnerable areas.

NGOs and the government must rise to the challenge of climate change, ensuring that development work is not only sustainable but also resilient in the face of increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters.

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