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[LGUs urged to prioritize agriculture spending](#)

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) are urged to spend more efficiently, particularly for agriculture, the World Bank said, adding this will help improve growth and productivity in the sector.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SUNSTAR

[DOE to local officials: Use waste-to-energy tech](#)

By: Honey Cotejo

Amid criticism, particularly from environmentalists, the Department of Energy (DOE) has encouraged local government units (LGUs) to pursue waste-to-energy (WTE) technology, saying many Philippine investors are looking to invest in the innovation.

[IEA: Renewables could top coal as electricity source by 2025](#)

The expansion of renewable power generation picked up sharply in 2022 and within three years it could pass coal as the top source of electricity, the International Energy Agency said in a new report published Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DoE: Future-proofing energy security at 50](#)

By Dafort Villaseran

THE occasion of the golden, 50th golden anniversary of the Department of Energy (DoE)'s foundation has coincided with the recent push of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. for the DoE and other related agencies in the energy sector to ensure the sustainability of the country's power needs.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Philippines seeks closer, effective partnerships in Asia-Pacific](#)

By Pia Lee Brago

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines called for closer and more effective partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region to ensure that oceans remain zones of peace and prosperity for the benefit of present and future generations.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Climate-tied drills are also a must, says CCC chief](#)

By Samuel Medenilla

MORE frequent extreme weather incidents prompted the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Wednesday to call for the conduct of “disaster drills.”

DZBB SUPER RADYO

[Gobyerno, naglalatag na mga paghahanda kaugnay sa posibleng pagtama ng malakas na lindol at malalakas na bagyo sa hinaharap, ayon sa Climate Change Commission.](#)

By Tuesday Niu

... Sinabi ni Climate Change Commission Robert Borje sa pangunguna ng NDRRMC at office of Civil Defense ay naglalatag na ng mga hakbang para maging handa ang bansa.

GMA INTEGRATED NEWS

[Gradual sinking of barangay in Bulacan possibly caused by climate change](#)

By GMA News

Barangay Taliptip in Bulakan, Bulacan may be providing a preview of things to come in other coastal areas in the country including Manila due to climate change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Gov't boosts earthquake preparedness in Metro Manila](#)

By Azer Parrocha

MANILA – The national government continues to carry out initiatives to protect public buildings against earthquakes in Metro Manila while strengthening emergency preparedness and response, an official said Wednesday.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

[LGUs urged to prioritize agriculture spending](#)

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) are urged to spend more efficiently, particularly for agriculture, the World Bank said, adding this will help improve growth and productivity in the sector.

“It’s about helping LGUs to spend effectively. If you look at farm-to-market roads, irrigation, research and development — those have been undervalued and that’s where you need sufficient funding to raise productivity. Those areas could receive much more resources,” World Bank Country Director for the Philippines Ndiame Diop said at a briefing on Wednesday.

World Bank Senior Agriculture Economist Anuja Kar said LGUs should prioritize agriculture spending.

“Agriculture has remained a very important source of livelihood in the country, especially during the pandemic, where it absorbed the retrenched workers. It has a profound importance in livelihood, food security, and jobs,” she said.

In 2021, the agriculture sector employed about 24% of the country’s total workforce.

Ms. Kar noted that despite an increase in nominal terms, agriculture’s share in the national budget has been steadily declining to 1.3% in 2019 from 2.6% in 2015.

The sector has put a lot of emphasis in “commodity-based banner programs” such as rice, which has not yielded the desired results, Ms. Kar said.

“Rice hasn’t really picked up, overall, we are seeing the amount of spending going into the sector is not generating the result,” she said.

According to the World Bank’s Philippine Economic Update report, the effectiveness of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling could be transformational for local service delivery if managed properly.

“Though such devolution presents an opportunity to make agriculture service delivery more client-driven and accountable, there remain significant risks if it is not managed well,” the World Bank said.

Ms. Kar said that the LGUs’ allocation for agriculture is “mismatched.”

“LGUs’ spending allocation for agriculture is small relative to the Department of Agriculture. There has to be a clear prioritization of agriculture. The devolution transition

plan can be a very effective tool in terms of correcting these discrepancies in the subnational level spending,” Ms. Kar said.

The World Bank recommended that agricultural public expenditure policies should improve sectoral competitiveness and resilience to ensure food security; boost effectiveness of the current spending; and address public expenditure issues related to devolution.

Ms. Kar said there should be a “greater balance in sectoral priority-setting and budget allocation to support agricultural diversification.”

“It has to come out of the single commodity focus and look at a more holistic level,” she said.

The government should also scale up climate smart policies and programs to foster increased resilience of the food system. “Agriculture has remained a victim of climate change but it can become a solution to climate change,” Ms. Kar added.

In terms of devolution, the World Bank said that ensuring procedural improvements on government budgeting institutions will be critical.

“We have to understand that a one-size-fits-all solution will not help. There are LGUs that have great potential, some need more hand holding,” Ms. Kar said.

The World Bank also cited improving evidence-and results-based monitoring and evaluation through enhanced and targeted capacity development for LGUs and investing on extension services to improve capacity development.

“The Philippines can play a phenomenal role. It can play an important role in transforming the sector by putting money in the right place. there has to be more research and development, infrastructure, investment in developing the extension system, all that can lead to improving the efficiency of the budget and productivity,” Ms. Kar added. — Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

[Marcos to attend APEC Summit in US in November, says ambassador](#)

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. will attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in the United States in November, according to its ambassador to the US.

“President Marcos will be coming in November for the APEC meeting in the West Coast,” Philippine Ambassador Jose Manuel G. Romualdez told CNN Philippines on Thursday. “I am confirming that President Marcos will be attending together with all the leaders who have been invited to APEC.”

The presidential palace did not respond to a Viber message seeking comment.

The summit will be held in San Francisco, California on Nov. 12, US Vice-President Kamala D. Harris earlier said, noting that the US would work with APEC economies to pursue enhanced sustainability and decarbonization initiatives.

The Philippine president is also expected to meet with business groups during his stay in the US.

“By that time, we are ready to show the economic reforms and programs so that they will be enticed to come to Philippines,” Mr. Romualdez said.

Mr. Marcos attended the recent APEC meeting in Thailand, where he told global leaders threats such as climate change and conflicts all boil down to the fundamental concern of ensuring sufficient and sustainable food supply.

“First, food security is a serious global problem,” he said in a speech at the APEC CEO Summit in Bangkok. “This is felt by every household, by every family, by everyone.”

“The issues that the world faces now — from climate change, to inflation, to war — are viewed by the ordinary Filipino through the lens of food security,” he said.

The Philippine leader said climate change and food insecurity are “very closely interconnected,” noting that there have been steep declines in farm output and productivity due to changing weather patterns.

Mr. Marcos, 65, took the helm of the Philippine Agriculture department in June, vowing to boost local food production.

He also asked his fellow leaders to continue reinforcing global health systems, not only against new and emerging variants of the coronavirus, but also against other infectious diseases that may emerge.

Mr. Marcos said the global economy could not afford another series of lockdowns and travel bans that deflate consumer confidence, dampen tourism recovery and derail the stability of global markets.

“Governments must continue to invest in pandemic preparedness and in ensuring the resilience of the global health system,” he said. “Adopting the One-Health approach and strengthening health surveillance systems for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, from the human-animal-environment interface, can be part of the solution.”

The Philippine leader said in his first address to Congress in June the country would no longer enforce lockdowns during the pandemic.

Mr. Marcos also rallied Asia-Pacific leaders to do more to address the effects of climate change, which he said is “the most pressing existential challenge of our time.”

He said global agreements that seek multilateral solutions to the climate crisis, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, have been in force “but not enough progress has actually been made as emissions continue to rise.” — A.N.O. Tan

MANILA BULLETIN

[ELEVENTH HOUR: The role of the arts in overcoming climate anxiety](#)

By Climate Reality Project Philippines

Eight out of 10 children and young people across the world are worried that climate change is threatening people and the planet.

Forty-five percent globally reported that their feelings toward the prevailing climate crisis are having negative impacts on daily functioning, which include eating, concentrating, work, school, sleeping, spending time in nature, playing, having fun, and dealing with relationships.

In our country, this number went up to a worrying 75 percent, with the report recognizing that young people in the Global South are experiencing more severe climate anxiety—which is defined by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) as “a chronic fear of environmental doom.”

These figures were according to a 2021 study “Young People’s Voices on Climate Anxiety, Government Betrayal, and Moral Injury: A Global Phenomenon.”

The said study is the first large-scale investigation of climate anxiety in children and young people globally and its relationship to government response. It surveyed 10,000 children and young people, aged 16 to 25, from Australia, Brazil, Finland, France, India, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, UK, and the US. The Climate Reality Philippines first featured the findings in the 18th episode of the Klimatotohanan webcast series that aired in October last year.

Climate change and global climate inaction are placing a huge burden on people’s mental health.

The realities of climate change, coupled with global inadequate action, lead to chronic and inescapable stressors that will inevitably impact the mental health of children and young people.

We need to acknowledge the distress and find ways to support one another and this is what The Climate Reality Project Philippines emphasized during the Arts for Climate event on the sidelines of the 27th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Arts For Climate, which was organized by Climate Reality Canada with the David Suzuki Foundation, brought together at COP27 the voices, emotions, and perspectives of climate activists from several continents.

During the event, Climate Reality Philippines Branch Manager Nazrin Castro highlighted the crucial role of the arts in creating spaces to process the anxiety, grief, and rage brought on by the climate crisis.

By bringing arts and culture into climate discussions, Climate Reality is providing spaces for a broader range of people to tell their stories, participate in policy and decision-making, and drive world leaders to do what they have to do for a more sustainable future.

Castro also emphasized during the event that arts and culture have the potential to serve as a valuable source of knowledge for reimagining and creating paths toward climate action and sustainable development.

The Climate Reality Philippines is a witness that more and more individuals want to be part of the climate change movement. However, scientific jargon and intimidating conferences like COP27 are slowing things down for them.

By injecting arts and culture into climate policymaking and decision-making spaces, we also create pockets of opportunity to invigorate climate movements.

The arts can connect and bridge the gap between science and the realities of the climate crisis. It enables us to showcase the similarities, diversity, and connectedness of the lived experiences of different communities, and consequently boost people-centered, just, and human rights-based climate solutions.

From left: Albert Lalonde (Youth Climate Activist from Canada); Charles Bonhomme (Public Affairs Specialist, David Suzuki Foundation), Senator Patricia Bovey (Canada); André-Yanne Parent (Manager, Climate Reality Canada); Amy Gilliam-Thorp (Manager, African Climate Reality Project), Nazrin Castro (Manager, Climate Reality Philippines); and Ewi Stephanie Lamma (Climate Reality Leader from Cameroon) during the Arts for Climate event last Nov. 16 at the Canadian Pavilion in COP27.

Integrating Poets For Climate in climate education and activist training programs

In previous articles for this column, we talked about “Poets for Climate,” a program that aims to highlight the lived experiences of people on the ground and the need for world leaders to address the vicious cycle of loss and damage experienced by communities across the globe through the arts.

Aside from the Pebble Poem Workshops and mural projects we’ve conducted with African Climate Reality and Climate Reality Canada, we’ve integrated Poets for Climate into our Klima Eskwela program.

Klima Eskwela translates to climate school. These are learning and knowledge exchange sessions conducted in the most vulnerable communities in the country—those that are often visited by catastrophic typhoons exacerbated by climate change and experiencing sea level rise and drought.

Designed for cascading the latest climate science and policies to local government officials and local youth groups and students, our Klima Eskwela sessions now include sessions on poetry and the arts.

We've also integrated Poets for Climate into Klima Pandayan, our flagship mentoring program for Climate Reality Leaders. By doing this, we ensure there is a space for arts and culture in advocating for a clean energy transition, sustainable production and consumption, and sustainable and active mobility.

Moving forward, we look forward to working with Climate Reality Africa and Canada on taking Poets for Climate to new heights and bringing the arts and humanities in movements, policy spaces, and leadership spheres for climate action and sustainable development.

[PH new climate fund program launched](#)

By Chino S. Leyco

The Department of Finance (DOF) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) sealed the implementation agreement for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Program that seeks to speed up climate action through green finance.

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno and GGGI Philippines Country Representative Juhern Kim led the signing of the agreement for the program, entitled Readiness Support to Strengthen Philippines' Capacity and Knowledge on Accessing Green Climate Fund (RPSP1), on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

"This program will bolster the country's capacity in planning, accessing, delivering and monitoring climate finance through this new global financial mechanism for climate adaptation and mitigation," Diokno said.

RPSP1 aims to strengthen coordination among government agencies and enhance capacity to govern climate action and finance in the country. The agreement will help guide the government in achieving the program's targeted outcomes beginning 2023.

The program includes capacity development activities, including training on GCF for national government agencies and government financial institutions (GFIs), such as the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and Landbank of the Philippines.

Additional resources such as a handbook and a GCF Philippines website will also be developed to guide government agencies and key stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities in the program.

Kim said he hopes that RPSP1 will enable the Philippines to gain better access to international climate finance.

He said that GGGI Philippines will help the country translate adaptation and mitigation opportunities into well-crafted project proposals that will unlock doors of international climate finance.

GGGI is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization implementing climate adaptation and mitigation projects serving the needs of member countries, including the Philippines.

GGGI is GCF's major Readiness delivery partner that strengthens developing partner countries' institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks for a transformational long-term climate action agenda.

As the world's largest multilateral climate fund, the GCF has nearly \$11 billion in approved climate funding and a total portfolio of over \$40 billion.

Diokno recognized that the complexity of the climate finance landscape, the country's lack of structural capacity, and the stringent procedures for accessing funds and resources make climate finance difficult to obtain.

RPSP1 will help address this challenge by providing technical assistance in developing quality project pipelines for GCF.

Diokno also said that investing in climate adaptation and mitigation activities is essential in alleviating poverty, reducing inequality, and promoting a low carbon and green economy.

To this end, the government allocates at least P1 billion, or around \$18 million, for the People's Survival Fund (PSF) to finance adaptation projects of local government units (LGUs) and community organizations annually.

According to a report submitted to the Senate, however, the fund is unable to be fully optimized with the disbursement rate only at around 31 percent.

Resilience not enough, preparedness key to disaster mitigation – Faustino

By Martin Sadongdong

There is no doubt that Filipinos are naturally resilient that's why they are capable to withstand the calamities and disasters that hit the country. But resilience is simply not enough.

This was the sentiment pointed out by National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRMC) Chairman and Department of National Defense (DND) Officer in Charge Jose Faustino Jr. during the 22nd Gawad Kalasag (GK) Ceremony held at the Manila Hotel on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

For Faustino, it is more important that the public knows how to prepare and respond when a calamity strikes.

“Year after year, these uncontrollable calamities ravage our nation physically and in spirit. However, the same overwhelming challenge further proves the resilience of Filipinos,” Faustino said in his speech.

“But beyond our natural resilience as a people, we have to be scientifically and technically adept, adequating systems and processes that work. We need to continuously upgrade so that the next time a disaster comes along we are more prepared to respond,” he stressed.

The Philippines is highly exposed to a host of natural disasters mainly due to its geographical location.

The Philippines is located to the west of the Pacific where many tropical cyclones form, where many active volcanoes are situated, and where it is surrounded by tectonic plate subduction zones which keep the people constantly on the lookout.

There are at least five major fault systems in the country and these are located across the western, central, and eastern Philippines, Southern Mindanao, and in Marikina Valley.

In September, the World Risk Report cited the Philippines as the country which is at the highest risk of disasters and calamities out of 192 countries.

The Philippines obtained a risk score of 46.82 after several factors were considered such as exposure to natural disasters, vulnerability in terms of susceptibility to their adverse effects, lack of coping capacity to short term, and lack of adaptive capacity in the long term.

In terms of exposure alone, the Philippines ranked Top 4 with a score of 39.99, following Japan, Mexico, and China.

“Exposure is an element that is outside of our control so it becomes imperative that we continuously improve our nation’s capability to address effectively our vulnerabilities,” Faustino underscored.

During the event, the NDRRMC, through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), recognized local government units (LGUs), schools, hospitals, private groups and institutions, and private individuals for their exemplary performance and notable contributions in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance.

The GK, according to NDRRMC Executive Director Raymundo Ferrer, is a performance assessment mechanism and instrument that reinforces the commitment and support of stakeholders towards the enhancement of their DRRM programs.

“Along with the mission to recognize the stakeholders, GK continues to highlight the importance of DRRM and Climate Change Adaptation towards sustainable development,” Ferrer said.

“It also promotes the spirit of volunteerism among agencies and individuals as well as assessment of the capacity of stakeholders in identifying risks, reducing vulnerabilities in the communities, and addressing challenges brought by emergencies and disasters,” he added.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[WWF names Dipolog 'most lovable' PH city in 2022](#)

ILIGAN CITY, Lanao del Norte Philippines — Dipolog, the capital city of Zamboanga del Norte province, earned the tag of “most lovable city” in the country this year after gaining popular acclaim from experts and ordinary netizens for its target of reducing local carbon emissions by 75 percent in 2030.

Mayor Darel Dexter Uy received the citation from World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) at an event in Pasig City on Tuesday, during which Dipolog was also formally awarded for winning the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) 2021-2022.

WWF announced the OPCC winners last June.

Ernie Rojo, Uy’s executive assistant, told the Inquirer on Wednesday that the OPCC was a friendly competition among participating cities on putting out a commitment to reduce carbon emissions as part of the global climate action.

Dipolog, Davao, and Quezon cities, which were the three finalists in the country, qualified to compete for public engagement on social media for the most lovable city tag.

Bold plan

WWF intended the competition to encourage more climate action as cities are key contributors to climate change. According to WWF, an estimated 75 percent of global carbon emissions are from cities, with transport and buildings among the most significant contributors.

“Dipolog City was commended by the international jury of the OPCC Core Team in Sweden for its bold emissions reduction plan, which is aligned with science-based targets needed to keep global warming within 1.5 degree Celsius,” said WWF.

Cities participating in the OPCC were measured for their ambitious climate targets, bold leadership, ability to meet upcoming challenges, and a holistic climate action plan that is well balanced toward their goals.

Dipolog has committed to cutting emissions by 75 percent, based on a 2018 baseline, in 2030, and being carbon neutral by 2050.

A greenhouse gas inventory done in 2020 estimated the city’s total emissions at 1.7 million tons of carbon dioxide, generated mostly by stationary combustion or fuel used by households, establishments, and other facilities.

As part of its climate commitment, the Dipolog local government has shifted to renewable energy for its street lights, saving P500,000 in monthly electricity costs.

The local government also went full blast on forest protection and rehabilitation projects to enhance the local environment's capacity for absorbing carbon emissions.

SUNSTAR

[IEA: Renewables could top coal as electricity source by 2025](#)

The expansion of renewable power generation picked up sharply in 2022 and within three years it could pass coal as the top source of electricity, the International Energy Agency said in a new report published Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022.

The Paris-based agency said the global energy crisis stoked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered an unprecedented surge in renewables as countries look to wind and solar power to bolster their energy security.

More than 90 percent of global electricity expansion will be from renewable sources in the coming five years, the IEA said, revising its forecast for 2027 upward by 30 percent.

"Renewables were already expanding quickly, but the global energy crisis has kicked them into an extraordinary new phase of even faster growth as countries seek to capitalize on their energy security benefits," IEA's executive director, Fatih Birol, said. "The world is set to add as much renewable power in the next five years as it did in the previous 20 years."

"This is a clear example of how the current energy crisis can be a historic turning point toward a cleaner and more secure energy system," Birol added.

Replacing fossil fuels with renewables will help keep alive the possibility of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the agency's report. That is the more ambitious limit countries agreed to in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DoE: Future-proofing energy security at 50](#)

By Dafort Villaseran

THE occasion of the golden, 50th golden anniversary of the Department of Energy (DoE)'s foundation has coincided with the recent push of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. for the DoE and other related agencies in the energy sector to ensure the sustainability of the country's power needs.

Since immediate and medium-term plans for energy development and power supply in the Philippines have been tackled, the golden measures of the DoE for "future-proofing energy security at 50" have dived deeply into detailed steps and projected outcomes. Projections have covered the use of renewable energy that have also ramped up the nation's initiatives to overturn the negative effects of climate change. Initiatives have even mapped out the success of the first green auction and how it led to preparations for the second one in June 2023. Preparations have presented new or supplemental investments in renewable energy capacities, using more sustainable energy sources to meet power requirements. Most importantly, the DoE presents how the long-term intent has been to reduce electricity costs. To round things off, the Energy department has intended to show how power security has been a top priority of the present administration.

More effort for green energy needed

In an Oct. 11, 2022 article of The Manila Times (TMT), it was reported that transitioning to more green energy had become even more pressing in the face of the heightened impact of climate change. Although the government had already made initial moves to distance itself from carbon-intensive energy and fossil fuels, coal continued to lord it over the energy mix of the country.

DoE data showed that the majority of Philippine energy, specifically 56.8 percent, was generated through imported materials. Last year, coal imports were at 31.238 million metric tons (MMT) while this year's imports were up by 35.836 MMT, revealing an 87.2-percent dependence on outsourced coal.

For carbon-intensive energy, the Philippine mix stood at 37.1 percent coal, 34.6 percent oil and 5.5 percent natural gas. For green energy, the mix was 16.5 renewables, 4.5 percent hydropower and 1.8 percent geothermal.

Within the framework of the updated National Renewable Energy Program, the government intended to raise the percentage of renewables to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040. This framework was mandated by Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 for nurturing, using and commercializing renewable energy sources.

First green auction and the next

Through the DoE's first round of its Green Energy Auction Program, the private sector was able to secure mandates for contributing toward the country's renewable energy capacity.

As far back as 2021, the DoE awarded offshore wind service contracts to PetroGreen Energy Corp.

In June 2022, the DoE released results that Solar Philippines won 70 percent of the Green Energy Auction Program's renewable energy capacity and 91 percent of all the solar capacity for auction, which allowed it to reach 10-gigawatt energy capacity.

In July 2022, the DoE declared Pavi Green Renewable Energy Inc. as the successful bidder for its Naga solar power plant initiative with a bid capacity of 40.40 megawatts. Upon implementation, the Naga solar power plant would be able to supply a minimum of 15,000 households annually and would be able to lessen carbon emissions by about 144,680 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

In November of this year, top officials of the DoE met up with the President to inform him that preparations were underway for the second Green Energy Auction Program that was set for June 2023 to entice investments in new or supplemental renewable energy to reduce power costs in the long-term.

New investments in renewable energy capacities

In order for energy sources to be considered green, these were precluded from polluting the environment in the manner that fossil fuels did. Naturally, this implied that not all renewable energy sources qualified as being green. A prime example of this was how power generated from burning organic material from sustainable forests, while technically renewable, was still not green because the process polluted the air with excessive carbon dioxide. Thus, the DoE went on record, stating that it was reviewing measures to raise the Philippines' renewable-energy capability for addressing government requirements.

"Our dependence on imported fuel is a major factor [in power outages and energy-related problems], and therefore, over time, we need to decrease our dependence on imported sources of fuel and develop the indigenous resources," DoE Secretary Raphael Perpetuo Mercado Lotilla said.

Early in October, the ruling of the Department of Justice to allow 100-percent foreign ownership of green energy allowed the DoE to briskly formulate measures to capitalize on new and supplemental investments on green renewables. Indeed, a great number of policies and foreign investors were needed to meet the sustainable energy targets of the DoE for the years 2030 and 2040.

Policies enacted to offset energy costs

Also on October 11, another TMT article reported that energy costs would stay in flux. This was attributed to the Russian invasion of Ukraine earlier in the year that disrupted global energy supplies and sent power prices into the stratosphere. Policies enacted since the invasion began have regulated prices to a certain extent, but international markets continued to be in a fluid state.

The country also continued to experience pump price surges. DoE data on Sept. 27, 2022, showed that petrol prices increased by P14.85 per liter, diesel went up by P29.40 per liter and P kerosene was up by P24.10 per liter.

To assist in offsetting the effects of energy price increases, the government raised to P6.1 billion the total budget for targeted subsidies while the Social Welfare department began distributing targeted cash transfers.

Last June 1, an excess of 300,000 eligible tricycle drivers got cash subsidies. More than 180,000 public utility vehicle operators and drivers received a P6,500 fuel subsidy from the Pantawid Pasada initiative. Over 158,000 fisherfolk and farmers each got P3,000 in fuel discounts.

Meanwhile, the Energy Regulatory Commission rejected the petition of local power producers for a 30-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour increase.

Power security as a top priority

In terms of energy increase, what the country needed was technology that was immediately available and feasible, that optimized reliability and environmental sustainability, and that eliminated or reduced dependence on imported energy sources, which was identified by the DoE as one of the Philippines' biggest challenges when it came to energy security.

Through the three sources of animal waste, of plant waste from agriculture and of garbage, natural gas was produced by the Philippines in abundance that could be harvested with tried-and-tested technologies to greatly meet the country's energy requirements and largely eliminate the need for energy imports.

Cost-effective and efficient energy systems on a large scale, such as hydrogen fuel cells, also made for a practical transition into renewables.

To future-proof the country, renewable energy would be best used as supplementary power, reducing baseload demand by distributing to buildings, villages or remote islands from microgrids or local power networks rather than the national grid.

On its own terms and in terms of facilitating investments in renewable and green technologies, the DoE has, so far and in all appearances, been on track and showed no signs of being derailed for the foreseeable future.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Philippines seeks closer, effective partnerships in Asia-Pacific](#)

By Pia Lee Brago

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines called for closer and more effective partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region to ensure that oceans remain zones of peace and prosperity for the benefit of present and future generations.

In his remarks at the Second World Ocean Summit in Singapore, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo highlighted the Philippine government's priorities toward the vision of a stable and secure future for all Filipinos, which include food and energy security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, regional and global peace, all inextricably linked to the maritime space.

The summit covered sustainable ocean economy with sessions on governance, climate change, finance, supply chains, innovation and technology, shipping, tourism, fishing and aquaculture.

Manalo also outlined the government's key efforts on environmental and marine protection, ocean governance and sustainable development.

He said these efforts reflect consistent and concrete action of the government against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; innovations on sustainable aquaculture; enhancement of maritime transport in view of the country's status as largest provider of the global seafaring workforce and the fourth-largest shipbuilder in the world; adoption of a National Plan of Action for the prevention, reduction and management of Marine Litter to achieve "zero waste in Philippine waters by 2040," and the recently passed legislation introducing extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging waste.

The two-day summit brought together ocean leaders for a discussion on the most critical topics and reflections on how to ensure that the Asia Pacific remains at the heart of the global ocean conversation.

The World Ocean Summit is an annual global event which brings together the widest cross-section of the ocean community from business and finance to governments, national and international policymakers, civil society and academia.

Constructive engagement

Meanwhile, the Philippines underscored the importance of constructive engagement with the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) that fully respects the role of the state as a sovereign duty bearer.

Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva Evan Garcia shared his observations on current dynamics in the HRC during a dialogue of ASEAN Permanent Representatives in Geneva with newly appointed UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk on Nov. 29.

Garcia joined the other ASEAN permanent representatives in the dialogue.

With Cambodia as chair of the ASEAN Committee in Geneva, the ASEAN Permanent Representatives and Türk exchanged views on progress and challenges in human rights promotion and protection in the ASEAN region, engagement and cooperation of ASEAN members states with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and potential areas of cooperation, including capacity building and technical assistance.

Garcia noted that the Philippines has recently undergone major reviews on its compliance with international human rights obligations, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child in September and International Convention on Civil and Political Rights in October this year.

The Philippines also underwent the 4th cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the HRC where the government accepted 200 recommendations on various human rights issues.

The ambassador noted that the United Nations Joint Program on Human Rights is an example of such an approach to human rights action and meant to support national initiatives, including the ongoing law enforcement and justice reforms being undertaken by the Department of Justice.

He said that the Philippines is one of the pilot countries for the OHCHR's National Recommendations Tracking Database, which is hoped to enhance the capacity of government agencies to monitor and implement human rights recommendations arising from the UPR and constructive dialogues with treaty bodies.

Garcia reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to work closely with the OHCHR on issues of common interest within the framework of ASEAN and in its national capacity.

CCC IN THE NEWS

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Climate-tied drills are also a must, says CCC chief](#)

By Samuel Medenilla

MORE frequent extreme weather incidents prompted the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Wednesday to call for the conduct of “disaster drills.”

CCC Commissioner Robert E. Borje said the concerned government agencies should consider preparing the public for other “climate change-induced risks” such as super typhoons.

“And may I say that perhaps it’s also appropriate to consider typhoon preparedness as part of the plan. If we have a national earthquake day or earthquake drill, it is probably good if we have similar activities for climate change induced risks and hazards so everyone will be prepared for anything that could happen,” Borje said.

The proposal, Borje said, is now being discussed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

CCC made the remark after a magnitude 5.3 earthquake hit parts of Luzon and Visayas on Wednesday afternoon.

The jolt disrupted the operations of private companies and government offices as their workers were evacuated.

DZBB SUPER RADYO

[Gobyerno, naglalatag na mga paghahanda kaugnay sa posibleng pagtama ng malakas na lindol at malalakas na bagyo sa hinaharap, ayon sa Climate Change Commission.](#)

By Tuesday Niu

... Sinabi ni Climate Change Commission Robert Borje sa pangunguna ng NDRRMC at office of Civil Defense ay naglalatag na ng mga hakbang para maging handa ang bansa.

Ayong kay Borje mayroong pag-aaral na nagsasabing may pangangailangan talagang alamin kung anong dapat gawin ng pamahalaan lalo na dito sa Metro Manila kung sakaling tumama ang malakas na lindol,

Kauganay nito sinabi ni Borje bukod sa lindol may pangangailangan na rin paghandaan maging ang malakas na bagyo, kalamidada, sakuna, panganib na dala ng climate change para preparado ang lahat ano man ang mangyari

GMA INTEGRATED NEWS

[Gradual sinking of barangay in Bulacan possibly caused by climate change](#)

By GMA News

Barangay Taliptip in Bulakan, Bulacan may be providing a preview of things to come in other coastal areas in the country including Manila due to climate change.

According to Joseph Morong's special report on "24 Oras", residents in the barangay are wary of the high tide coming in and when tropical cyclones bring heavy rain as the water creeps into the roads, something that didn't happen years ago.

The villagers have also come up with improvised vehicles such as the tipaklong, a long tricycle with the engine raised higher up so it may traverse flood waters.

Zaldy Abordo, a resident of the barangay for the past 40 years, said it was this way at all decades ago.

He said there were no floods only trees and plants.

The Climate Change Commission said the Philippines has experienced a high sea level rise due to the melting of ice caps at 60 centimeters — three times faster than the global average of 19 centimeters.

Experts said the world's sea level increased to 11 to 16 centimeters in the 21st century and is expected to further climb to 20 to 30 centimeters by 2050.

Environmental organization Greenpeace warned several cities around the world including Manila may possibly sink by 2030 due to the rise of sea level coinciding with ground subsidence, or the sinking of land due to the withdrawal of groundwater.

"If it's five centimeters per year, in ten years, it's half a meter. In 20 years, it's one meter," said UP Resilience Institute Executive Director Mahar Lagmay.

For the rest of this special report, please watch the video. —Sundy Locus/NB, GMA Integrated News

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Gov't boosts earthquake preparedness in Metro Manila](#)

By Azer Parrocha

SAFETY FIRST. Malacañang employees and members of the media go out of the building after a magnitude 5.3 earthquake jolted Camarines Norte and other parts of Luzon on Wednesday (Dec. 7, 2022).

Climate Change Commission vice chairperson and executive director Robert Borje said the national government continues to carry out initiatives to protect public buildings against earthquakes in Metro Manila.

MANILA – The national government continues to carry out initiatives to protect public buildings against earthquakes in Metro Manila while strengthening emergency preparedness and response, an official said Wednesday.

Robert Borje, Climate Change Commission (CCC) vice chairperson and executive director, made this remark after a 5.3 magnitude earthquake rocked Camarines Norte and other parts of Luzon on Wednesday afternoon.

The quake struck 19 kilometers northeast of Tinaga Island, Vinzons, Camarines Norte at 1:05 pm according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

“The government is doing all that it can to be prepared for this type of earthquake and other disasters and I think the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council) is working very hard together with OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and the members of the NDRRMC to ensure that we are all prepared,” Borje said in a chance interview with reporters.

He said several studies have found the need to “be more prepared”, especially in the path of the West Valley Fault, a 100-kilometer fault that runs through six cities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

This fault line runs through Metro Manila to the cities of Marikina, Quezon City, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, and Muntinlupa and also traverses Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan to Calamba, Laguna.

Borje said safety drills done to prepare for earthquakes may also be conducted for other “climate change”-induced disasters like flooding.

“Perhaps it’s also appropriate to consider typhoon preparedness as part of the plan. Kung meron tayong (If we hold) national earthquake day or earthquake drill, siguro maganda

may (perhaps it's good to have) similar activities for climate change-induced risks and hazards para preparado ang lahat sa anumang mangyayari (so everyone is prepared for whatever happens)," he added.

In 2018, former President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order No. 52, creating the Program Management Office for Earthquake Resiliency of the greater Metro Manila area and tasked it to ensure that all government efforts in preparing for a huge quake are well coordinated.

The EO 52 defines the institutional roles and responsibilities of government agencies to strengthen the country's resilience to earthquakes, and to ensure public safety and government continuity.

It also mandates government agencies to take proactive steps to "guarantee the resilience of public infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges, buildings, hospitals) in the Greater Metro Manila Area."

The government has been regularly holding earthquake drills in Metro Manila to prepare for the so-called "big one" or a worst-case scenario of an earthquake from the West Valley Fault. (PNA)

"I think the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council) is working very hard together with OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and the members of the NDRRMC to ensure that we are all prepared," he added.

POLITIKO

[Is PH gov't ready for earthquakes?](#)

By Prince Golez

Every effort is being taken by the government to be ready for earthquakes and other disasters, Climate Change Commission Commissioner Robert Borje said Wednesday.

Borje made the statement following a magnitude 5.3 earthquake that struck Camarines Norte on Wednesday afternoon and was felt in Metro Manila.

“The government is doing all that it can to be prepared for this type of earthquake and other disasters,” the official told reporters.

When asked about proposals to amend the National Building Code, Borje cited studies on the need for earthquake preparedness.

“Perhaps it’s also appropriate to consider typhoon preparedness as part of the plan. Kung meron tayong national earthquake day or earthquake drill, siguro maganda may similar activities for climate change induced risks and hazards para preparado ang lahat sa anumang mangyayari,” according to him.

- **END** -