



NEWS ROUNDUP

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BUSINESS WORLD

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THE PHILIPPINES is seeking a \$1-billion World Bank loan to boost agrifood productivity and resiliency in the face of challenges posed by climate change.

DAILY TRIBUNE

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MANILA TIMES

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The US Peace Corps empowered Philippine Science High School System (PSHS) students to tackle climate challenges through a workshop held from Nov. 18 to 22 in Iloilo City, equipping them to develop sustainable, science-driven solutions for their schools and communities.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Batangas opens biodiversity center to protect Verde Island Passage](#)

BATANGAS CITY – The provincial government of Batangas officially opened the Verde Island Passage Marine Biodiversity Center (VIP-MBC) on Saturday, marking a significant step in efforts to protect the Verde Island Passage (VIP), known as the "center of the center" of the world's marine biodiversity.

PHILIPPINE STAR

[‘SDG practices can unlock \\$12 trillion in opportunities for exporters’](#)

MANILA, Philippines — The country’s exporters can unleash \$12 trillion worth of business opportunities by adopting practices aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport).

SUNSTAR PHILIPPINES

[CEB transitions key facilities to 100% renewable energy](#)

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[OceanX to help Philippines understand fishery sector, apply for blue carbon credits](#)

US-BASED nonprofit exploration group OceanX is set to conduct a research mission in the Philippines next year using the world's most advanced research vessel, as it tries to help the Southeast Asian nation understand the state of its fishery sector and apply for blue carbon credits.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Climate rights are human rights](#)

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[Paete carvers tackle batikuling challenge](#)

The small town of Paete in Laguna is known as the country's "Carving Capital." It is home to master artisans whose wooden sculptures have graced churches, homes and galleries worldwide.

[Sibugay, Del Carmen wetlands named Ramsar sites](#)

Wetlands play a crucial role in protecting diverse ecosystems by providing shelter for migratory birds, fish and amphibians, including endangered and near-threatened species. They also provide essential services for local communities such as flood mitigation, carbon sinks and water quality maintenance. For agriculture, wetlands ensure fertile lands and reliable water sources for crops.

[Guevarra calls on ICJ climate change guidance](#)

Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue authoritative guidance to member states regarding climate change. Leading the Philippine delegation, Guevarra called for decisive global action during the ongoing ICJ hearings in The Hague.

GMA INTEGRATED NEWS

[2 PH Ramsar sites hailed for crucial role in biodiversity](#)

The newly declared Ramsar site Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve (SWNR) and the Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve (DCMR) in Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (SIPLAS) were named Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, according to a statement by the Philippine Climate Change Commission on Friday.

LAW ASIA JOURNAL

[EACs: The alternative for Philippine carbon credit market](#)

Does the Philippines need a new trading system to guide it towards a domestic carbon credit scheme? The authors have a suggestion to get things moving.

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH achieves Guinness World Record for bamboo planting](#)

In a landmark environmental initiative, the Philippines set a Guinness World Record (GWR) for the most participants simultaneously planting bamboo, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and climate resilience.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC lauds PH, vulnerable states' climate change arguments before ICJ](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has commended the Philippines' and climate-vulnerable states' presentation of oral arguments in the public hearings on advisory proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands.

SMNI NEWS

[Super Typhoon Pepito, nag-iwan ng matinding pinsala sa mga pananim at imprastraktura sa Quirino Province](#)

MGA nasirang pananim, mga tulay at kalsadang hindi pa madaanan, mga bahay na winasak at inanod ng matinding pagbaha.

UPLB NEWS

[UPLB celebrates CCC Week, rolls out eLBeep microbuses](#)

November 27 was a momentous day as UPLB joined the nationwide celebration of the 17th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week) with a seminar and a rollout of campus electric microbuses at the Rural Economic Development and Renewable Energy Center.

BUSINESS WORLD

[PHL seeks \\$1-B World Bank loan for resilient agri](#)

THE PHILIPPINES is seeking a \$1-billion World Bank loan to boost agrifood productivity and resiliency in the face of challenges posed by climate change

The proposed Philippine Sustainable Agriculture Transformation program aims to boost “agriculture and fisheries development by enhancing agrifood system resilience through climate-responsive strategies, diversification, supportive policies, and improved fiscal performance,” according to a World Bank loan document.

The project cost is expected to amount to \$12.90 billion over 2025-2029. The World Bank will finance \$1 billion while the government will provide P11.90 billion.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) hopes to begin the procurement process by July 2025.

The cost to the economy is estimated at P26 billion a year due to climate change, according to a report from the International Center for Tropical Agriculture and DA. The study had been commissioned by the World Bank.

The bank said climate change will decrease agricultural productivity in the Philippines by 9% to 21% by 2050.

During the three months to September, the value of production in agriculture and fisheries at constant 2018 prices fell 3.7% to P397.43 billion, the Philippine Statistics Authority said.

Tropical cyclones Kristine and Leon caused P9.81 billion in damage across 183,877 hectares of farmland, on lost production of 380,704 metric tons, according to the DA.

This was the first project undertaken by the government under the bank’s Program-for-Results (PforR) financing scheme. The World Bank said the PforR scheme uses a country’s institutions and processes and links the disbursement of funds directly to the achievement of specific program results.

“The PforR would particularly focus on the country’s rice-based cropping systems. This encompasses 1.9 million hectares and some 3 million farmers, which represent 37% of the country’s farmers and fisherfolk,” it said.

The DA’s plan to carry out the program is known as the Para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas (MBP) 2024-2027 framework, it said.

Expected MBP outcomes are higher incomes for farmers through enhanced productivity growth and resilient natural resource and input use.

It also seeks to attract a “new generation of agri-entrepreneurs to invest in post-harvest agri-logistic activities and increase and diversify agri-food production across value chains.”

“The PforR would particularly focus on the country’s rice-based cropping systems,” the bank said, adding that this sector encompasses 1.9 million hectares and some three million farmers that represent 37% of all farmers and fisherfolk.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Green credit wins ACES award for DBP](#)

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) received the “Green Initiatives Award” at the Asia Corporate Excellence and Sustainability (ACES) Awards 2024 for loan projects that help protect the environment and communities vulnerable to climate change.

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) received the “Green Initiatives Award” at the Asia Corporate Excellence and Sustainability (ACES) Awards 2024 for loan projects that help protect the environment and communities vulnerable to climate change.

State-owned DBP was among the 100 companies and business leaders from 22 countries in Asia that were awarded by the event organizer, Malaysia-based MORS Group, in Bangkok, Thailand.

“DBP will remain a top sustainability advocate in the country in the foreseeable future through its various development financing facilities as well as its strategic partnerships with other government agencies, international organizations, and private entities,” DBP president and chief executive officer Michael de Jesus said.

As of end-December last year, DBP provided credit to over 509,194 borrowers, which include micro, small and medium enterprises, with the focus on their projects’ environmental impact as the bank requires all borrowers to submit feasibility studies on the project location and impact,

including flood or earthquake scenarios, wildlife and biodiversity preservation, and pollution under the DBP's Credit Policy on Environmental and Social Due Diligence.

To encourage businesses to provide renewable energy (RE), DBP introduced the Solar Merchant Power Plant Financing Program which funds solar power developers that aim to sell their product through the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market.

The Philippine government aims to produce 15,304 megawatts of RE by 2030. The Department of Energy said this means the country's sources of RE should expand to 35 percent of its total energy mix during this period.

For its loan portfolio, the bank regularly evaluates environmental factors and related incidents that may affect the viability of DBP-financed projects.

To further boost critical industries anchored on sustainability, DBP in May announced a P8.75 billion in bond proceeds for projects on telecommunications, water and agriculture.

"With this issuance, DBP takes another crucial step to shore up economic recovery and resilience efforts in the post-pandemic era for the Philippines with the Bank leading the way in channeling much-needed capital into the economy while facilitating investments in key sectors to boost economic activity," De Jesus said.

The new award to DBP also recognized its policies in preventing greater poverty among marginalized groups. This means the projects should not result in involuntary resettlement or loss of livelihood of persons and irreversible adverse impacts on physical cultural resources and heritage.

DBP is the 10th largest bank in the country in terms of assets.

MANILA TIMES

[Legal action on climate crisis sought](#)

THE Philippines has made a "passionate" plea at the Great Hall of Justice of The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a decisive legal action on the global climate crisis.

In advisory proceedings focused on "Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change," the delegation, led by Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra, presented harrowing evidence of the Philippines' extreme vulnerability to climate change and called for enhanced international accountability under existing legal frameworks.

Opening the proceedings held last Dec. 3, Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Eduardo Malaya highlighted the existential threat posed by climate change, calling it "the greatest challenge humanity faces."

He underscored the Philippines' experience with unprecedented typhoons and rising heat levels. The seven typhoons that swept through the nation from October to November 2024, including three super typhoons, caused devastation, displacing over 258,000 people and destroying more than 200,000 homes.

Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), which claimed over 8,000 lives in 2013, was referenced as a grim reminder of the intensifying impact of global warming. The delegation also noted alarming ocean temperature increases leading to widespread coral damage and food security threats.

Solicitor General Guevarra, meanwhile, presented scientific evidence confirming the dire consequences of exceeding 1.5°C of global warming, citing extreme weather events and socioeconomic disruptions.

He said that the environmental crisis caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions requires urgent collective action.

Drawing on international legal precedents, including the principles of trans-boundary harm and due diligence, the Philippines asserted that states must be held accountable for their contributions to climate change under customary international law, human rights conventions, and treaties such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos).

Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva Carlos Sorreta framed the climate crisis as a violation of fundamental human rights and a threat to international peace and security. Referencing United Nations General Assembly resolutions and key human rights treaties, he argued that states are obligated to safeguard their citizens from foreseeable harm due to climate change.'

Further, the Philippines highlighted its innovative domestic legal remedy, the Writ of Kalikasan, as a model for international application. This legal tool aims to provide swift justice for large-scale environmental harm and was proposed as a potential framework for global legal redress.

Concluding the presentation, the Philippine delegation urged the ICJ to provide authoritative guidance on the responsibilities of states in combating climate change.

[US Peace Corps trains science high school students in climate leadership](#)

The US Peace Corps empowered Philippine Science High School System (PSHS) students to tackle climate challenges through a workshop held from Nov. 18 to 22 in Iloilo City, equipping them to develop sustainable, science-driven solutions for their schools and communities.

During the workshop titled "Building Student Volunteer Leaders for Climate Change Initiatives," 36 students from PSHS campuses nationwide trained on conceptualizing, planning, and prototyping climate change solutions.

They are expected to implement these projects following consultations with their local communities, exemplifying volunteerism and the role youth can play in the fight against climate change.

Funded by the US Agency for International Development and co-facilitated by climate change expert-facilitators from SEED4COM, the training is part of the US Peace Corps' broader commitment to addressing global climate challenges by collaborating with host country partners and integrating climate change adaptation in its program and training activities.

"We are partnering with the PSHS System to tap the potential of STEM education when applied to climate action," said Peace Corps Country Director Marguerite Roy. "I am excited to see how the participating students will build on this training, bring their projects to life, and influence others to become agents of change."

Student participants, together with 16 PSHS System faculty members and eight Peace Corps Volunteers with their work partners, also attended discussions and field visits to local climate resilience projects such as the Leganes Integrated Katunggan EcoPark, Climate Field School, and Orchard Valley Farm to deepen their knowledge on climate change, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, and volunteerism.

"This program provides a structured framework for advocacy, which will be incorporated in our climate action plan in the PSHS System," said PSHS System Executive Director Ronnalee Orteza.

The US Peace Corps-sponsored training supports Project Planet Lemniscate, a PSHS System initiative that uses project-based learning and design thinking in its campuses to empower students to develop innovative solutions for climate change.

"The involvement of our youth is crucial. We cannot afford to wait until it's too late," Executive Director Orteza added.

The workshop also served as a platform for PSHS System students to collaborate with experts and fellow volunteers, receive feedback on their project proposals, and refine their project prototypes.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Batangas opens biodiversity center to protect Verde Island Passage](#)

BATANGAS CITY – The provincial government of Batangas officially opened the Verde Island Passage Marine Biodiversity Center (VIP-MBC) on Saturday, marking a significant step in efforts to protect the Verde Island Passage (VIP), known as the "center of the center" of the world's marine biodiversity.

Located at Montemaria International Pilgrimage and Conference Center, the site of the world's tallest statue of the Virgin Mary (322 feet), the center is designed to promote and preserve the ecological wealth of VIP.

"We want to show that we truly give importance to the VIP's significant contribution to the world's marine shorefish biodiversity. We recognize that we should be at the forefront of the conservation efforts as stewards of creation," Governor Hermilando Mandanas said, emphasizing the importance of the center in boosting eco-tourism and educating visitors about the global significance of the VIP.

He highlighted the growing threats to the area, including unsustainable practices and climate change, prompting the provincial government to establish the center as a response to the challenges.

The VIP-MBC will feature an exhibition area with interactive displays, an e-library, and a memory hall for events and workshops. (PNA)

PHILIPPINE STAR

['SDG practices can unlock \\$12 trillion in opportunities for exporters'](#)

MANILA, Philippines — The country's exporters can unleash \$12 trillion worth of business opportunities by adopting practices aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport).

During the 2024 National Exporters' Week and National Export Congress, Philexport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said exporters can unlock \$12 trillion in business opportunities by delivering the United Nations (UN) SDGs.

Adopted by UN member states in 2015, the SDGs seek to create a more just, sustainable and peaceful world by 2030.

Ortiz-Luis urged exporters and manufacturers to adopt sustainability into their businesses to create new markets or expand existing ones even as they face challenges in the global trade environment.

“More than a trend, going green has evolved to be our core strategy in sustainably developing and growing our exports,” he said.

He said businesses can gain by taking advantage of mega trends that support consumer shifts including the adoption of circular business models and carbon labelling, including for food and consumer packaged goods.

“Working with a sustainability lens also enables companies to differentiate or build brands, penetrate new markets or new segments where sustainability matters and develop new partnerships and sales channels,” he said.

“Further, there are a lot of investment funds and banks that offer preferential terms if companies can demonstrate that they are working within this framework,” he said further.

He also emphasized the importance of being aware and complying with the sustainability policies and standards imposed by the European Union (EU), the country’s fourth largest trading partner.

The EU market represents a further \$11 billion worth of unrealized export potential for the Philippines, he said.

To help micro, small and medium enterprises adopt sustainable practices, become more productive and reduce the cost of doing business, Philexport is working with the government to push for support.

Exporters are grappling with a challenging global trade environment with Ortiz-Luis expressing concern over the 91 new trade-restrictive measures on goods introduced by G20 economies between mid-October 2023 and mid-October 2024, as shown in the Trade Monitoring Report by the World Trade Organization.

G20 economies cover 19 countries and two regional bodies that include Philippine export markets like China, Japan, US and EU.

Ortiz-Luis said other challenges include geopolitical shifts, climate change effects, import regulations in key markets like the US and the EU, as well as inflation that can affect demand for consumer goods.

“Considering these developments, I believe that the ambitious targets set under the PEDP (Philippine Export Development Plan) of \$143.4 billion for this year and \$240.5 billion by 2028 will somehow be adversely affected and difficult to achieve,” he said.

Amid challenges in meeting the targets under the PEDP, Department of Trade and Industry Export Marketing Bureau director Bianca Sykimte said earlier that the export goals would be revised.

While adjustments are being eyed in the export targets under the PEDP, she said the government is confident export goals under the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) or the government's overall development blueprint, will be achieved.

For this year, the PDP set a \$107 billion target for exports covering both goods and services.

By 2028, the target under the PDP is for total exports to hit \$135.08 billion.

From January to September, the Philippines' merchandise exports rose slightly to \$55.67 billion from \$55.08 billion in the same period in 2023.

SUNSTAR PHILIPPINES

[CEB transitions key facilities to 100% renewable energy](#)

CEBU Pacific (CEB), the Philippines' leading carrier, has strengthened its commitment to decarbonizing its operations by powering two of its major facilities with 100 percent renewable energy (RE).

In partnership with ACEN Renewable Energy Solutions (ACEN RES), one of Asia Pacific's fastest-growing energy platforms, CEB has transitioned its APlus and AirJuan buildings to be powered entirely by RE.

"This shift to clean energy is an important component of further reducing our emissions, in this case, those generated from the use of electricity in our buildings and facilities. Partnering with ACEN also allows us to take advantage of the benefits of the Green Energy Option Program of the Department of Energy including cost savings for Cebu Pacific and supporting the country's goal to boost renewable energy supply," said Felix Lopez, CEB Chief Human Resources Officer.

The APlus and AirJuan buildings are essential to CEB's daily operations, housing its maintenance, ground handling, and catering operations. Shifting these facilities to RE complements the airline's broader decarbonization strategy which includes transitioning to a modern and fuel-efficient all-NEO fleet, implementing fuel-efficient practices, optimizing flight routes, and electrifying its ground support equipment.

ACEN RES expressed its enthusiasm for the partnership, with Sheila Mina, Vice President and Head of Account Management, stating, "We are delighted to partner with Cebu Pacific to support their commitment to sustainable aviation. By providing renewable energy solutions, we are enabling Cebu Pacific to reduce its carbon emissions and operate more efficiently. This partnership aligns with our mission of making renewable energy accessible for businesses across the Philippines."

As 2024 comes to a close, CEB continues its sustainability leadership in the domestic aviation sector, setting a benchmark for the industry and advocating sustainable air travel. PR

Information and Knowledge Management Division

CCC IN THE NEWS

BUSINESS WORLD

[OceanX to help Philippines understand fishery sector, apply for blue carbon credits](#)

US-BASED nonprofit exploration group OceanX is set to conduct a research mission in the Philippines next year using the world's most advanced research vessel, as it tries to help the Southeast Asian nation understand the state of its fishery sector and apply for blue carbon credits.

OceanX, a nonprofit initiative by Dalio Philanthropies, will work with scientists from Philippine universities and government agencies, Chief Executive Officer Mark Dalio said in an interview inside their flagship vessel OceanXplorer, which was docked at the port of Manila on Thursday.

He said they would accept study proposals from Philippine sectors, noting that the open call would focus on the fishery sector and carbon-related studies. Priorities also include coral and deep sea studies.

"The reason why we're focused on fisheries and biodiversity assessments is that these have a financial impact on countries," Mr. Dalio said, noting that the sector is a major source of protein — and exports — for the Philippines.

"Using our full genomics laboratory that we have on board, we can kind of understand the health of fisheries in a much more targeted way," he added.

OceanX would help the country spot areas where there are declines in fishery outputs and understand why it's happening, he added.

"The research will allow for the countries to have a much more real-time assessment of that. We'll have long-term benefits in terms of the health of the oceans, but also long-term financial benefits as well."

For carbon studies, the goal is to come up with data that would help the country "apply for carbon credits," Mr. Dalio said.

The Philippine Environment department has been pushing legislation that will formalize the Philippines' carbon credit system.

In May 2023, it signed a memorandum of agreement with Marubeni Corp., DMCI Holdings unit Dacon Corp. and the University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources for the development of a carbon credit program focused on reforestation.

In November 2023, the Climate Change Commission and Maharlika Carbon Technologies Liability Limited Corp. signed a deal to support efforts to create a national registry that will let the Philippines sell sovereign carbon credits to the global market.

UNMAPPED SEAS

Mr. Dalio said studying ocean-based carbon credits is relatively “a new concept,” noting that its studies with Philippine scientists would likely “open up new ways of getting carbon credits.”

More than 80% of the world’s ocean remains unmapped, according to Oceana.

“Overall in the entire world, there’s very little known about the deep sea because there are few organizations that have submersibles with remotely operated vehicles,” said Mr. Dalio, who used to be a filmmaker for National Geographic.

“The organizations that have the most knowledge is usually the oil and gas vessels because they are the ones that have remotely operated vehicles,” he added.

Mr. Dalio said OceanX’s flagship vessel was originally an oil surveyor ship. “Because it had all the deep sea capabilities, we took the oil surveyor vessel off the market and we converted it into a science research vessel and then converted it with science labs and other facilities,” he said.

Two of the four vehicles aboard the 87.1-meter OceanXplorer, which uses state-of-the-art optical technology to stream ocean exploration in real time, are manned submersibles that can go as deep as 1,000 meters.

It also has two 6,000-meter remote-operated vehicles.

“When you get into Southeast Asia, it has some of the deepest seas around this region yet it doesn’t have, let’s say, research,” he said. “It has research vessels, but it’s not an extensive amount of research vessels.”

“So the deep sea is very unexplored overall, and part of what we’re hoping to do is map it, show it, learn more about it, and get more individuals and more organizations and governments interested in doing scientific studies that will benefit the health of the oceans.”

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. said the government hopes that the research by OceanX in the Philippines would “make us understand more how we can repopulate our fisheries, how we can breed, and how we can hatch more fingerlings and fries and all different species.”

“The research that will be done here will be a chance for us to repopulate our fisheries faster,” he said in a fireside chat on the sidelines of the tour of OceaneXplorer at the Manila port. — Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

DAILY TRIBUNE

[\[OPINION\] Climate rights are human rights](#)

BY: Secretary Robert E.A Borje

As the climate crisis continues to escalate, the Philippines is at a place where ecosystem degradation intersects with human vulnerability. The undeniable reality is that climate rights are human rights.

This often-overlooked connection forms the bedrock of global efforts to address the effects of climate change. It is a fight for the planet’s survival as well as for the protection of fundamental human rights — the right to life, food security, water, health and a safe planet.

The recent visit of President Tomas Heidar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to the Philippines underscores the country’s proactive engagement in the battle for climate justice. The Philippines, as one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, has consistently highlighted the importance of human rights-based international cooperation to address the climate crisis. The visit reaffirms our commitment to harness the international legal system, such as ITLOS, to define state obligations, assert climate accountability, settle disputes, and ensure that nations act in accordance with global commitments.

At the heart of the ensuing discussion is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), a crucial instrument in clarifying the responsibilities of States in the management of marine resources, including the impacts of climate change on oceans and coastal areas.

As rising sea levels threaten coastal communities and marine biodiversity, UNCLOS provides a legal framework that compels nations to take responsibility for their environmental impacts. More than ever, this convention is a vital tool for asserting the climate rights of affected populations.

Similarly, the recent proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have been pivotal in pushing forward the global discourse on climate justice. These proceedings delve into the legal responsibilities of States in mitigating climate change and protecting vulnerable populations from its devastating effects. The ICJ’s role in interpreting international law on this issue could reinforce the inextricable link between human rights and environmental protection.

The Philippines, under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., has amplified its voice on the global stage, advocating for a rules-based international system that upholds not only environmental sustainability but also human dignity. The Marcos administration continues to push for international accountability, particularly from countries and industries that have contributed significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions.

The core of this advocacy recognizes that addressing climate change is both a matter of protecting ecosystems and safeguarding human lives. The impacts of climate change — intensified typhoons, rising sea levels, extreme heat, and flooding — pose direct threats to the livelihoods and well-being of millions of Filipinos.

These impacts disproportionately affect the most vulnerable — those in poverty, marginalized communities, and indigenous populations. This underscores the urgency of framing climate action as a human rights imperative.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), as the lead policy-making body on climate change in the country, is fully aligned with this vision. Working closely with the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Foreign Affairs, the CCC fully supported crafting the Philippines' legal, scientific and policy positions on the global stage. This collaborative, inter-agency and one-country-team approach strengthens the nation's advocacy for justice, resilience and sustainability. It highlights our commitment to ensure that the Philippines remains a strong advocate for both human rights and ecological protection amid the climate crisis.

The Philippines' participation in international climate discussions, including those at ITLOS and the ICJ, reaffirms the country's resolve to hold the international community accountable. As we push for climate justice, we are also fighting for the recognition that climate change is a human rights issue — one that affects not just the environment, but the most basic rights of individuals and communities worldwide.

Locally, the impacts of climate change are already evident. Coastal communities face the constant risk of rising sea levels. Agricultural livelihoods are increasingly under stress due to erratic weather patterns. As sea temperatures rise, our rich marine biodiversity is under threat, impacting food security and the millions who depend on the seas for their livelihoods and sustenance. These realities ground our global advocacy in local experiences, where the need for stronger climate action becomes irrefutable.

As climate impacts continue to wreak havoc, the Philippines remains resolved in calling for equitable solutions and ensuring that the most vulnerable have a voice in shaping global climate policies. The CCC is committed to ensure that the Philippines meets its international obligations and continues to champion the human rights of those most affected by climate change.

The message is clear: protecting ecosystems and upholding human rights are two sides of the same coin. Without strong action to address the climate crisis, we risk eroding the

very foundations of human dignity and security. The Philippines will remain steadfast in its advocacy to push for climate justice through a rules-based international system that holds all nations accountable. We stand united with the global community, advocating for a future where the planet and its people are both safeguarded. Climate rights must be recognized as human rights — an essential pillar in the global quest for a sustainable, equitable and resilient future.

Paete carvers tackle batikuling challenge

The small town of Paete in Laguna is known as the country's "Carving Capital." It is home to master artisans whose wooden sculptures have graced churches, homes and galleries worldwide.

Yet, behind this vibrant tradition, Paete's long-standing artistry is faced with the pressing challenges of climate change, particularly dwindling wood resources and persistent flooding. However, the community is carving a new narrative — one of sustainability, adaptation and hope.

For generations, Paete's artisans have relied on batikuling (*Litsea leytensis*), a soft and durable wood ideal for detailed carving. However, with the classification of the tree as endangered, its cutting in the forest has been banned.

The logging ban has left Paete artisans struggling to source wood. Many have turned to alternatives like santol and marang, but their properties fall short of the quality offered by batikuling. The scarcity has also led to rising costs, making the craft less sustainable.

In response, communities have planted batikuling trees on private lands to secure future supplies. They have also initiated partnerships with state universities to propagate batikuling through cloning technology.

However, sustaining these efforts remains a challenge, as the propagation of endangered trees requires decades of commitment.

Paete is also no stranger to typhoons, landslides, and flooding that continue to threaten livelihoods and its artisanal heritage. The devastating monsoon of 2011, which claimed 50 lives, highlighted the urgency for robust climate adaptation measures.

Thankfully, Paete has aligned itself with the national climate resilience initiatives. The municipality has submitted its Local Climate Change Action Plan to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), gaining access to technical and financial support mechanisms such as the People's Survival Fund. This funding is crucial for projects in agriculture, water resource management and disaster risk reduction.

Under the leadership of Mayor Ronald "Bokwet" Cosico, Paete is intensifying its climate initiatives. Reforestation programs, renewable energy investments, and sustainable

agriculture projects are among the town's key strategies. These efforts earned the town the prestigious Seal of Good Local Governance in 2019.

The CCC has also stepped in to bolster Paete's climate resilience. Through partnerships with institutions like the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute, Paete is updating vital plans such as its comprehensive development plan, drainage master plan and public service continuity plan. These collaborative efforts aim to enhance Paete's adaptive capacity and safeguard its cultural and natural assets.

In August 2023, the CCC launched the Net Zero Challenge (NZC) at the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed. This initiative seeks to offset carbon emissions through tree-growing activities, nature-based solutions and community engagement. Paete's participation represents its resolve to align local actions with global climate goals.

"It is important that we find ways to reduce our carbon footprint and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Planting and growing trees is the easiest, most effective, and impactful method to achieve this," said CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje during the 2023 NZC.

Cosico also expressed gratitude for the selection of Paete as the site for the reforestation project.

"We can no longer ignore climate change; it is already here. Paete is fortunate to have been selected as the launch site for the Net Zero Challenge of the Climate Change Commission," Cosico remarked during the same event.

For this year's Climate Change Consciousness Week 2024, Paete joined stakeholders in planting more seedlings to expand forest cover and strengthen carbon sinks. This activity is another significant stride in the town's goal of a climate-smart and sustainable community that embraces both its cultural heritage and ecological responsibilities.

The path to a net-zero future is not without challenges, but Paete's story showcases the power of local action in addressing global challenges. Through intergenerational commitment, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and deep respect for its heritage, Paete is sculpting a future where tradition and resilience coexist — a sustainable tomorrow for generations to come.

[Sibugay, Del Carmen wetlands named Ramsar sites](#)

Wetlands play a crucial role in protecting diverse ecosystems by providing shelter for migratory birds, fish and amphibians, including endangered and near-threatened species. They also provide essential services for local communities such as flood mitigation, carbon sinks and water quality maintenance. For agriculture, wetlands ensure fertile lands and reliable water sources for crops.

In the Philippines, the list of Ramsar Sites is growing. A Ramsar site is a wetland that has been designated as being of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, an international environmental treaty signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

Just recently, the Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve (SWNR) and the Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve (DCMR) in Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, making them the 9th and 10th Ramsar sites in the Philippines.

The SWNR is an important habitat for thousands of migratory birds during the migratory season. Here, they rest, eat, drink and find safe refuge from predators. Its mudflats serve as a critical stopover for migratory shorebirds within the East Asia Australasian Flyway, including the endangered great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), Far Eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), the vulnerable Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*), and the endemic Philippine duck (*Anas luzonica*).

The reserve also hosts nine near-threatened species, namely black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*), bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), grey-tailed tattler (*Heteroscelus brevipes*), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Asiatic dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*), curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), red knot (*Calidris canutus*), red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), and Malaysian plover (*Charadrius peronii*).

The critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the endangered green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the vulnerable olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) also find refuge at the SWNR. Two of the world's largest flying foxes, the Philippine endemic and endangered golden-crowned flying fox (*Acerodon jubatus*), and the large flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*), use the reserve as roost sites.

Meanwhile, the DCMR is home to a diverse collection of organisms, including species that are globally threatened or endemic to the Philippines and the Mindanao region. These include the Philippine duck and the southern rufous hornbill (*Buceros mindanensis*), and the two restricted-range species, namely the Mindanao hornbill (*Penelopides affinis*) and the yellowish bulbul (*Hypsipetes everetti*).

The mangroves in DCMR cover approximately 4,871 hectares or 53.24 percent of Siargao Island's total mangrove forest, providing nearby communities with protection against storm surges. It also supports local livelihood through food production and ecotourism activities.

[Guevarra calls on ICJ climate change guidance](#)

Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue authoritative guidance to member states regarding climate change. Leading the Philippine delegation, Guevarra called for decisive global action during the ongoing ICJ hearings in The Hague.

“The entire gamut of international law informs the obligation of 33 States for their anthropogenic GHG emissions in a manner that is far more encompassing than what has already been achieved by the international community under the climate change regime. Now more than ever, the authoritative guidance of this Court is being sought to express in no uncertain terms that the contributory conduct of States in relation to climate change is bound by established conventions, customary law, and general principles,” said Guevarra in his speech.

Speaking on behalf of one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable nations, Guevarra disclosed the scientific consensus on rising global temperatures and its devastating impacts.

“This environmental crisis attributed to anthropogenic GHG emissions is surely not experienced in isolation by the Philippines. As we have learned from Vanuatu, the Bahamas, Bangladesh and South Africa, among others, these unusual and unprecedented climate changes have become a global phenomenon,” Guevarra said.

The ICJ hearings, running from 2 to 13 December, aim to clarify states’ legal obligations under international law to mitigate climate change and address the harm caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

With 97 states and 11 international organizations participating, it marks the largest case ever brought before the ICJ, reflecting the gravity of the climate crisis.

Guevarra stressed that state obligations extend beyond treaties, pointing to general principles of international law and Customary International Law.

He also cited domestic measures such as the Writ of Kalikasan, a unique judicial remedy in the Philippines that safeguards environmental rights.

Ambassador Carlos Sorreta, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, linked climate change to global peace, security and human rights.

He urged states to uphold legal frameworks that ensure dignity and resilience for all in the face of escalating climate challenges.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) of the Philippines echoed these sentiments, praising the delegation’s strong position.

CCC vice chairperson Robert E.A. Borje stressed the country’s commitment to a rules-based international system and climate justice for vulnerable nations.

GMA INTEGRATED NEWS

[2 PH Ramsar sites hailed for crucial role in biodiversity](#)

Two Ramsar sites in the Philippines have been noted to be critical to biodiversity and human protection.

The newly declared Ramsar site Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve (SWNR) and the Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve (DCMR) in Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (SIPLAS) were named Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, according to a statement by the Philippine Climate Change Commission on Friday.

“Wetlands play a crucial role in protecting diverse ecosystems by providing shelter for migratory birds, fish and amphibians, including endangered and near-threatened species. They also provide essential services for local communities such as flood mitigation, carbon sinks, and water quality maintenance. For agriculture, wetlands ensure fertile lands and reliable water sources for crops,” the statement read.

Sibugay Wetland was recognized for its role as habitat for migratory birds within the East Asia Australasian Flyway and nine other near-threatened species, while the 4,871-hectare Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve acts as home to several organisms, including globally threatened species and those endemic to the Philippines and Mindanao.

“These Ramsar sites showcase our commitment to the National Adaptation Plan's goal of protecting biodiversity and strengthening ecosystem services. Wetlands play a critical role in our climate resilience strategy by safeguarding communities from disasters and supporting livelihoods. The designation of the Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve and Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve is a significant step toward achieving our adaptation targets,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

In November, the two sites were named the 9th and 10th Ramsar site in the Philippines, recognizing their ecological, economic and cultural value in the face of climate change.

Ramsar sites are designated Wetland of International Importance, determined by the Ramsar Convention through nine criteria emphasizing its importance in sustaining biodiversity.

Collectively known as the Ramsar list, Ramsar sites are the largest network of protected areas in the world with over 2,400 sites in 172 nations.

Founded in 1971, the Ramsar Convention is an international treaty promoting the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands worldwide. — Jiselle Anne Casucian/LA, GMA Integrated News

[\[OPINION\] EACs: The alternative for Philippine carbon credit market](#)

Does the Philippines need a new trading system to guide it towards a domestic carbon credit scheme? The authors have a suggestion to get things moving.

World incentives

The past few decades have seen collective actions by governments to slow global warming as the world faces the consequences of climate change. Mitigation efforts have been incentivised by certificates of pecuniary value: carbon credits. The major treaties governing carbon credits are the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The Philippines is among the parties that ratified both treaties, and is internationally bound by their provisions.

In 1997, more than 150 countries signed the Kyoto Protocol. In 2016, the Paris Agreement was signed to strengthen the global response to climate change. The Paris Agreement has superseded the Kyoto Protocol as the principal regulatory instrument, and created a policy of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), a domestic climate action plan to cut emissions. In 2020, the Philippines submitted its first NDC, committing to a 75% greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction. Of this, 2.71% is unconditional and 72.29% is conditional upon the support or means of implementation for 2020-30.

Carbon markets are seen as part of the solution to climate change. More than two-thirds of countries use carbon markets to meet their NDCs, including Japan and India. The private sector has also initiated efforts such as Global Carbon Council carbon credits, the International Civil Aviation Organisation's carbon offsetting and reduction scheme for international aviation, and gold standard project certification by the World Wildlife Fund.

Based on the Gold Standard non-profit organisation's impact registry, there are several Philippines-based corporations with certified projects, in various phases, which avail carbon credits. They include: the 160MW Balaoi wind project; ACEN's solar project; and the 81MW Caparispisan wind project.

Philippine situation

In the Philippines, carbon credits are still a novel concept. The Philippines has no carbon credit market that considers the GHG baseline or measures GHG emissions of stakeholders.

Meantime, the Department of Energy (DOE) has established a renewable energy market (REM) under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008. The REM is the platform for trading of renewable energy certificates (RECs) with values equivalent to an amount of power generated from renewable energy resources. It is intended as a facility for mandated participants to comply with renewable portfolio standards obligations, a

market-based policy that mandates electricity suppliers to source an agreed portion of their energy supply from eligible renewable energy resources.

RECs v credits

Although geared towards the same end, RECs and carbon credits are not the same. Carbon credits help offset GHG emissions by placing a cap on allowable emissions, while RECs offset electricity use from non-renewable sources by mandating a shift to renewable sources such as solar and wind.

One tradable carbon credit equals one tonne of carbon dioxide or its equivalent of a different greenhouse gas (CO₂e) that is avoided, whereas one REC equals one megawatt-hour of electricity delivered to the grid from a renewable energy resource. While carbon credits place a cap on the carbon emissions allowed and actually used globally, RECs directly reduce carbon footprint by lifting the use of renewables.

EAC alternative

Institutionalisation of carbon credits in the Philippines may require the passage of an enabling law, which may take time. In the meantime, the DOE, the Climate Change Commission and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources may consider establishing an energy attribute certificate (EAC) trading system, distinct from the REM and RECs, to determine how much generation from RE plants is necessary to meet the country's NDC.

EACs are issued to measure units of energy generated from RE resources with a corresponding specified CO₂e reduction. By establishing an EAC registry, the DOE will avoid double counting or double reporting of GHG emission reductions. The EAC registry may be used to monitor legitimacy of carbon credits through stringent verification processes to ensure that only one certificate is issued for every amount of reduction in GHG emissions. This will encourage more investors to build RE plants in the Philippines and monetise RE generation by selling EACs to global carbon markets. It also presents an opportunity for the Philippine government to earn taxes from the sale of EACs.

As the DOE pushes for 50% share of RE in the Philippines' total installed capacity by 2040, recognising the reduction of GHG emissions through the EAC platform is a good mechanism for reporting, accounting and monetising RE generation to guarantee reductions in GHG emissions.

Jose M Layug Jr is a senior partner at DivinaLaw in Metro Manila

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH achieves Guinness World Record for bamboo planting](#)

BY Rey Ilagan

In a landmark environmental initiative, the Philippines set a Guinness World Record (GWR) for the most participants simultaneously planting bamboo, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and climate resilience.

On October 18, 2,305 planters across 19 locations in Mindanao and Leyte province came together to achieve this record-breaking feat. On November 28, the record was officially confirmed by GWR adjudicator Sonia Ushiriguchi during the National Science and Technology Week celebration held in Cagayan de Oro City.

The initiative, led by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in collaboration with its Kawayanihan Circular Economy Movement partners, underscored bamboo's pivotal role in advancing a circular economy, fostering climate resilience, and supporting sustainable development. "We must love our environment as much as we love our children, ensuring they live in a healthy, peaceful, and stable place," said DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr., emphasizing the need for policies that align with a circular economy framework.

DOST's efforts garnered strong support from local leaders, including Bukidnon 1st District Representative Jose Manuel Alba, who championed bamboo propagation as a key strategy to combat climate change. "By harnessing the transformative power of bamboo innovation and trade, we can cultivate prosperity from the roots up, lifting communities out of poverty and building a sustainable future for all," Alba said.

Bamboo is widely recognized as an environmental powerhouse. According to the Climate Change Commission, it absorbs more carbon dioxide than most tree species, sequestering over five tons of carbon dioxide per hectare annually. Additionally, its extensive root system prevents soil erosion, enhances water retention, and aids disaster risk reduction, especially in flood-prone areas. As a versatile material, bamboo also improves air quality, supports biodiversity, and reduces reliance on wood-based products, thereby curbing deforestation.

"The versatility of bamboo makes it an ideal ally in our fight against climate change. Bamboo serves as a carbon sink and contributes to disaster risk reduction. It strengthens community resilience by providing sustainable livelihoods, reducing the need for wood-based products, and preventing deforestation," said Secretary Robert Borje, Climate Change Commission vice chairperson and executive director.

Borje further highlighted bamboo's economic potential: "The strategic integration of bamboo in national and local climate initiatives enhances our mitigation and adaptation efforts and empowers communities, especially in rural areas. Through bamboo cultivation, we create economic opportunities and build resilience against the adverse effects of climate change."

With this achievement, the initiative highlights the power of collective action, showing that when we unite with a shared vision, we can achieve our sustainability goals more effectively and create lasting impact.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC lauds PH, vulnerable states' climate change arguments before ICJ](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has commended the Philippines' and climate-vulnerable states' presentation of oral arguments in the public hearings on advisory proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands.

In a news release on Thursday, the CCC said the climate change arguments underscored the importance of a robust international rules-based system in advancing transformative climate action and support for climate-vulnerable states.

These hearings, taking place from Dec. 2 to 13, seek to address two key questions involving the obligations of States under international law to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and the legal consequences for those who have caused significant harm to the climate system and other parts of the environment.

With 97 States and 11 international organizations participating, this is the largest case ever brought before the world court. The ICJ hearings follow the adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/276, spearheaded by small island developing states, particularly Vanuatu.

The Philippines, standing in solidarity with vulnerable countries, presented its position in alignment with the broader international call for urgent climate action and justice.

“The reality of extreme weather events, rising sea levels and other adverse effects of warming temperatures around the world, all of which are beyond natural climate variability, requires all of us to take bold and decisive actions,” Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Eduardo Malaya said.

Scientific consensus

During the proceedings, Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra highlighted the scientific consensus on the alarming rise of global temperatures and the devastating impacts of climate change on vulnerable nations such as the Philippines.

“...This environmental crisis attributed to anthropogenic GHG emissions is surely not experienced in isolation by the Philippines. As we have learned from Vanuatu, the Bahamas, Bangladesh and South Africa, among others, these unusual and unprecedented climate changes have become a global phenomenon,” Guevarra said.

Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, Ambassador Carlos Sorreta, emphasized that climate change threatens global peace, security, and human rights.

He called on the international community to uphold the principles of international law to address this crisis.

“States are bound to address the climate crisis within a legal framework that maintains peace and security, respects sovereignty, and upholds human rights. Law is essential to ensure a future where all can live with dignity, security, and resilience in the face of a dramatically changing climate,” Sorreta said, speaking on the UN Charter, human rights, and UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Guevarra also presented the general principles of international law, as well as the Customary International Law (CIL), underscoring that state obligations to mitigate GHG emissions are not limited to signed treaties but are anchored in universally recognized norms.

He also introduced domestic remedial measures, particularly the writ of kalikasan, a judicial remedy that offers legal protection for environmental rights.

Guevarra noted that this remedy, under the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases (RPEC), is the first of its kind globally.

He further underscored the binding nature of various legal frameworks, adding: “...The entire gamut of international law informs the obligation of 33 States for their anthropogenic GHG emissions in a manner that is far more encompassing than what has already been achieved by the international community under the climate change regime.”

“Now more than ever, the authoritative guidance of this Court is being sought to express in no uncertain terms that the contributory conduct of States in relation to climate change is bound by established conventions, customary law, and general principles,” Guevarra said.

Core considerations

The CCC affirmed that the Philippines’ statement at ICJ reflects the core considerations of historic anthropogenic GHG contributions, climate justice, transboundary impacts, intergenerational equity, and the need for urgent interventions.

The Philippines’ position is rooted in fundamental principles of international law, and it is not confined to specific treaties. It draws upon well-established norms, including those enshrined in the Philippine Constitution and domestic legal remedies such as the writ of kalikasan.

“Underscoring UNCLOS and international instruments that clarify responsibilities and commitments of States, the Philippines under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., remains a strong voice, arguing for rules-based international system, security and sustainability of the planet and respect for human rights amid a climate crisis,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

“The CCC is honored to be part of the inter-agency and one-country-team approach led by the Office of the Solicitor General in the development of the Philippines’ position,” he added.

The ICJ’s advisory opinion will play a crucial role in shaping future global climate policies, reinforcing the collective duty of States to protect the environment for present and future generations.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized that the opinion could guide stronger climate action and ensure accountability among States.

As the world awaits the ICJ’s opinion, the Philippine government, through the CCC, remains committed to supporting this process by working with local and international partners to strengthen climate action and advocating for legal clarity and justice on behalf of vulnerable communities worldwide.

Lifeline for climate-impacted communities

The Greenpeace Philippines, together with the Filipino community in the Netherlands and the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC), also hailed the government’s powerful stance which marked a strong support towards the global fight for climate justice.

The groups said the Philippines statement serves as a welcome lifeline for climate-impacted communities.

“The Philippine government showed that it can be a key part in changing the course of global history on the climate crisis,” Greenpeace Philippines country director Lea Guerrero said in a news release on Wednesday.

“For decades, Filipino communities have led the way in demanding climate justice, and have been among the loudest voices demanding climate accountability and reparations not only from states but also from fossil fuel companies. With their strong submission to the ICJAO proceedings, the Philippine government has followed suit and stood up alongside impacted communities,” he added.

Greenpeace said in March 2024, it submitted a brief to the ICJ on the Obligations of States Regarding Climate Change.

The submission is grounded in international law, scientific evidence, and testimonies from affected communities worldwide, including testimonies from people in the Pacific, typhoon survivors in the Philippines, women in Mexico who had to relocate due to climate change, Saami Indigenous Youth, Senior Women in Switzerland and community activists in South Africa.

The testimonies underscored the urgent need for global action to mitigate climate change and protect the rights and well-being of impacted communities worldwide. (Marita Moaje/PNA)

SMNI NEWS

[Super Typhoon Pepito, nag-iwan ng matinding pinsala sa mga pananim at imprastraktura sa Quirino Province](#)

MGA nasirang pananim, mga tulay at kalsadang hindi pa madaanan, mga bahay na winasak at inanod ng matinding pagbaha.

Ilan lang 'yan sa mga pinsalang dulot ng Super Typhoon Pepito sa lalawigan ng Quirino.

Dahil sa taglay nitong lakas ng hanging umabot sa 185 kilometro kada oras at pagbugso na nasa higit 300 kilometro kada oras, isinailalim sa Signal No. 5 ang maraming lugar sa lalawigan at mga karatig-probinsiya nito.

Bago pa man ang pananalasa ng Super Typhoon Pepito, magkakasunod na malalakas na bagyo na rin ang bumayo sa bansa.

Sinabi ng Administrator ng Office of Civil Defense (OCD) na si Usec. Ariel Nepomuceno na hindi maitatangging epekto ito ng climate change.

“Yung nararanasan natin kakaiba talaga. Ito ay epekto ng climate change. Ang paliwanag sa amin at ito rin ang paniniwala ko, ang climate change ‘yung pagbabago ng panahon o klima, hindi na debate iyan. Nasa gitna na tayo niyan. Napapagrabe niya at napapalala ang mga dumadating na bagyo dahil naririnig natin kaliwa’t kanan na dati silang hindi binabaha ng todo eh ngayon dinadanas nila ngayon ‘yung todong-todong baha,” saad ni Usec. Ariel Nepomuceno, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense.

Ayon sa mga eksperto, ang pagbabago ng klima ay dulot ng lumalalang carbon emissions.

Karaniwang nagmumula ito sa mga aktibidad ng tao tulad ng pagsunog ng fossil fuels at mga usok na nagmumula sa mga pabrika at sasakyan.

Ayon sa World Bank, maaaring mawalan ang Pilipinas ng 13.6% ng GDP taon-taon pagsapit ng 2040 kung walang aksiyon laban sa climate change.

Ayon sa Climate Change Commission, mahalagang magtanim ng mas maraming puno na nagsisilbing carbon sinks.

“We are here for our planet. We are here for the people who are affected the most by climate change. We need to plant more trees, dahil malaki ang naitutulong ng mga puno bilang carbon sinks,” pahayag ni Robert E.A. Borje, Executive Director, Climate Change Commission.

Ibig sabihin, ang mga puno at kagubatan ay sumisipsip ng carbon dioxide at tumutulong na mabawasan ang epekto ng pagbabago ng klima.

Ilang kagubatan ng Sierra Madre sa Diffun, Quirino Province, nakakalbo na

Pero paano kapag ang natatanging protector ng Luzon mula sa mga malalakas na bagyo ay unti-unting nauubos ang mga puno at kagubatan?

Isa sa mga nakakalbong bahagi ng Sierra Madre ang Diffun, Quirino Province. Kung saan makikita ang mga putol na mga punongkahoy. Isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit nakakalbo ang kagubatan sa Sierra Madre ay ang kaingin.

Malawak ang mga lugar sa nasabing bulubundukin na sakop ng munisipalidad ng Diffun ang wala nang mga puno dahil patuloy na sinusunog ng mga Tribong Ifugao na bahagi na ng kanilang kultura at kabuhayan.

“Marami po ang kinakaharap ng ating Sierra Madre lalo na hindi natin maibibigay ang mga taong nakatira doon.”

“Hindi po maiwasan ‘yung mga nagkakaingin na bahagi na po ng kanilang kultura po lalo na sa mga IPs natin.”

“Ang kailangan po siguro ay mabigyan sila ng alternative livelihood para sa ganoon ay mawala ‘yung attention nila sa kagubatan,” saad ni Randy Romero, Representative, PENRO Quirino.

Sabi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), mahigit 160,000 hectares na forest cover ng Sierra Madre ang nawala na mula 1998 hanggang 2010.

Ayon sa mga eksperto, ang pagkakalbo ng mga bundok ang nagiging dahilan ng mga pagbaha at landslide.

“If the storm hits the mountain without the trees, without the forest you would expect turbulence. When you have turbulence that would have intensified the wind. And it will cause landslide. It will cause flooding,” wika ni Dr. Peter Suson, Director, MSU-ITT Center for Resiliency.

One Tree, One Nation Initiative, nagpapatuloy para ibsan ang epekto ng climate change

Dahil dito, naging malinaw ang agarang pangangailangan ng pangmatagalang solusyon upang mapangalagaan ang Sierra Madre.

Isa sa mga kumasa sa hamon para pangalagaan at ibalik ang katatagan ng nasabing bulubundukin ay ang spiritual leader ng Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) at senatorial aspirant na si Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy.

Isa ang Brgy. Don Faustino Pagaduan, sa Diffun, Quirino, sa mga lugar na naging benepisyaryo ng One Tree, One Nation: Save Sierra Madre Initiative ni Pastor Apollo.

Sama-sama ang mga volunteer ng Sonshine Philippines Movement (SPM) na nagtanim ng seedlings ng narra at calumpit bilang bahagi ng inisyatibo ni Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy.

Nagkaisa ang iba't ibang sektor para sa adbokasiya ni Pastor Apollo mula sa mga kabataan at estudyante, mga kababaihan, mga magulang, mga kapulisan, at mga kasundaluhan.

“Napakaganda ng One Tree, One Nation advocacy sa pangunguna of course ni Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy. Napakaganda ng layunin ng One Tree, One Nation especially nagi-invite ng ibang agencies na magkaisa tungo sa isang advocacy which is reforestation,” wika ni Patrolman Melchizedek Lacambra, Diffun Police Station.

“Kasama na po sa amin ‘yung pagseserbisyo ‘yung ganitong mga activities lalong-lalo na pagdating sa kalamidad. Nandiyan kami palagi. Nakaalert kami palagi ‘pag may kalamidad which is kung hindi po nasisira ‘yung environment nation lalong-lalo na itong Sierra Madre natin is male-lesser natin ‘yung mga sakuna na dumadating. Kaya napakalaking halaga ng mga ganitong activities,” ayon kay Staff Sergeant Virgilio Manuel, 86th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army.

Kamakailan lang ay kinilala rin ni Vice President Sara Duterte ang malawakang tree planting initiative ni Pastor Apollo na aniya ay napakahalaga lalo na sa panahon ngayon.

“Nagpapasalamat kami sa The Kingdom of Jesus Christ sa pamumuno ni Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy sa tree planting.”

“Napakahalaga na pangalagaan natin ang ating kalikasan. Napakahalaga na magtanim tayo ng puno dahil kailangan natin ng climate change mitigation at nakakatulong ito sa Disaster Risk Reduction and Management dahil alam naman natin na ang puno ay nagpe-prevent ng landslide at ang puno diyan nanggaling ang oxygen,” wika ni Vice President Sara Duterte.

Magdadalawang dekada na mula nang itatag ang Sonshine Philippines Movement (SPM) na nagtataguyod sa adbokasiya ni Pastor Apollo na pangalagaan ang kapaligiran.

Isa nga sa Exhibit A ni Pastor Apollo ang Glory Mountain sa paanan ng Mt. Apo sa Brgy. Tamayong sa Davao City kung saan libu-libong pine trees na ang naitanim doon.

Bilang isang future senator, target ni Pastor Apollo na mapabuti o mapalawak pa ang urban green spaces sa Pilipinas.

Ito ay sa ilalim ng pinaplanong 'Greening and Beautification Project' bill ng Butihing Pastor.

Kasama rin sa isusulong ni Pastor Apollo ay ang pagtanim ng mga bulaklak sa mga bulubunduking lugar sa buong bansa.

UPLB NEWS

[UPLB celebrates CCC Week, rolls out eLBeep microbuses](#)

November 27 was a momentous day as UPLB joined the nationwide celebration of the 17th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week) with a seminar and a rollout of campus electric microbuses at the Rural Economic Development and Renewable Energy Center.

Organized in partnership with the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the event was graced by CCC Secretary Robert E. A. Borje, who delivered an engaging message to more than 200 students of the UP Rural High School. In his keynote address, Borje emphasized the role of the youth in protecting the future of the planet and building a safer, healthier, and more resilient Philippines.

“Remember that the fight against climate change is everybody’s responsibility and your actions matter. We, the older generation, are responsible to help the young and make sure that you are prepared for the challenges of your future. But I think you have the opportunity to change things around, because you can tell us ‘you know you did your part, but we think we can do better,’” Borje said.

The seminar featured a dynamic lineup of speakers who highlighted various aspects of climate change. Jerome E. Ilagan, chief of the CCC Policy Research and Development Division, provided an overview of key laws and policies addressing climate change.

Two of UPLB’s experts shared their knowledge on climate change. Dr. Jennifer Marie S. Amparo, dean of the College of Human Ecology, explored the human ecology dimensions of climate change, while Dr. Juan M. Pulhin, professor at the College of Forestry and Natural Sciences and former member of the CCC National Panel of

Technical Experts, delved into the science, impacts, and strategies for responding to the climate crisis.

After the seminar, UPLB and CCC officials, along with event guests, took the inaugural ride on the electric minibuses labeled “eLBeep,” which stands for Electric Light Bus for the Environment and Economy Partnership.

As part of the UPLB Green Mobility Initiative, eLBeep aims to modernize campus transportation by forging partnerships and adopting environment-friendly and sustainable mobility solutions.

The minibuses, acquired by the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Drivers at Operators ng Los Baños (SNODLOB) Transport Service and Multi-purpose Cooperative from a Laguna-based vehicle assembler, exemplify UPLB’s commitment to zero-emission transportation and green energy systems.

Like the current fleet of Tipaklong e-bikes and e-scooters on the campus, the eLBeep units will be powered by solar energy and will service two routes: UPLB Loop and UPLB-UPRHS-Jubileeville.

In his message, Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs Roberto P. Cereno highlighted that the approval of the said routes and deployment of public utility vehicles was a result of coordination by the UPLB Office of the Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), SNODLOB, and the Los Baños local government.

Cereno further noted that the eLBeep and Tipaklong mobility projects, and the promotion of commuter services between UPLB and UPD campuses, are vital steps in UPLB’s vision to future-proof its campus and champion sustainability for the wider community.

Meanwhile, Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. said that the joint initiative reflects UPLB’s commitment to proactively addressing global climate issues.

He said that by advancing sustainable transportation and responsible climate actions, UPLB aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11, which focuses on sustainable cities and communities through safe, affordable, and eco-friendly transport solutions, and SDG 13, which emphasizes climate action through reducing carbon emissions and promoting renewable energy systems.

Laguna Provincial Administrator Dulce H. Rebanal, Los Baños Vice Mayor Josephine Sumangil-Evangelista, and Assemblepoint Philippines Inc. founder and chief executive officer Takashi Miyashita graced the event. Representatives from the LTFRB Region IV-A and SNODLOB joined them.

The celebration of CCC Week is pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1667, signed in 2008 by former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, emphasizing the country's commitment to climate awareness and action. (Roi Mojado)

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