



NEWS ROUNDUP

15 December 2022 [08:00 am]

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- The will to push 'smart agriculture'
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BUSINESS MIRROR

[ADB to extend \\$12.9B worth of loans, grants to PHL until 2025](#)

By: Cai Ordinario

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) is extending \$12.9 billion worth of loans and grants to the Philippines in the next three years under its new assistance framework for 2023 to 2025. The amount is equivalent to P718.659 billion at current exchange rates.

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CNN PHILIPPINES

[Marcos: Climate change fight a 'race against time'](#)

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Chito Chavez

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Nestor Corrales

BRUSSELS — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday renewed his call for rich countries to fulfill their climate finance promises to vulnerable nations like the Philippines during a meeting with European Union (EU) leaders and businessmen here.

[Meet 'The Outstanding Young Men' of 2022](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Four doctors, one of them writing for the Inquirer, two exponents of native culture and the literary arts, a cartoonist, an environmental educator, a civic leader, and a city councilor make up The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees for 2022.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Azer Parrocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday (Brussels time) called for “more progress” in the commitment of rich nations to set up a “loss and damage” fund to support poorer countries severely impacted by climate change.

[Negros town residents get P3.3-M cash-for-work aid](#)

By Nanette Guadalquiver

BACOLOD CITY – The Department of Social Welfare and Development-Western Visayas has released almost PHP3.3 million in wages to beneficiaries from E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental under its Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

SUNSTAR

[Pampanga SK execs attend safety briefing](#)

By: Ian Ocampo Flora

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO Some 4,823 Sangguniang Kabataan officials attended the safety briefing and preparedness seminar organized by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center on Tuesday.

THE MANILA TIMES

[EU to bolster ties with Asean](#)

By: Agence France Presse

EUROPEAN Union leaders met their counterparts from Southeast Asia for a summit in Brussels on Wednesday, looking to bolster ties in the face of the war in Ukraine and challenges from China.

[New EU carbon tariff a potential tool for PH](#)

A NEW carbon dioxide (CO₂) tariff announced by the European Union this week — the first of its kind in the world — should be studied carefully by the Philippines, as it may serve as a useful template for funding our own country's climate change adaptation and mitigation needs.

[The will to push 'smart agriculture'](#)

By: William Dar

I DELIVERED a keynote speech during the 13th Agriculture Leadership Enclave 2022 held last December 13 to 14 at New Delhi, India as the event's guest of honor, and I discussed how smart agriculture can be among the keys to attain food global food security amid the challenges presented by the three dangerous Cs: Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts in geopolitics.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Budget hike urged to address climate change](#)

By: Louella Desiderio

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government is being urged to encourage green lending and investments to make funds available to fight climate change, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

[ADB to extend \\$12.9B worth of loans, grants to PHL until 2025](#)

By: Cai Ordinario

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) is extending \$12.9 billion worth of loans and grants to the Philippines in the next three years under its new assistance framework for 2023 to 2025. The amount is equivalent to P718.659 billion at current exchange rates.

In a news briefing last Wednesday, ADB Philippine Country Director Kelly Bird told reporters that the Manila-based multilateral development bank's assistance is estimated at \$4.3 billion (about P239.553 billion) annually.

This is larger than the 2019 to 2022 program worth \$8.7 billion. During the period, ADB programmed P2.9 billion-worth of assistance every year.

"We are discussing with the government the Country Partnership Strategy [CPS] and we are looking at three core strategic pillars that are aligned with President Marcos's 8-point socioeconomic agenda and it will also be aligned with the development plan that's forthcoming," Bird said in ADB's first onsite news briefing at its headquarters in Manila since lockdowns were imposed to address the pandemic in 2020.

Bird said the three core pillars are climate change and food security; climate smart infrastructure; and Filipino's well-being which covers projects focused on education, health, social protection, and nutrition, among others.

For climate change and food security, the ADB intends to finance climate change action policy reforms and finance, resource mobilization and institutional capacity building.

Climate, housing

THE ADB will also finance climate investments on mitigation, adaptation and conservation—agriculture, floods protection, irrigation, environmentally sustainable tourism, disaster management and resilience, protecting biodiversity

The Manila-based multilateral development bank also intends to focus on institutional capacity building as well as climate investments on mitigation, adaptation and conservation —agriculture, floods protection, irrigation, environmentally sustainable tourism, disaster management and resilience, protecting biodiversity.

For climate smart infrastructure, the ADB will prioritize the financing of transport and communication policy reforms such as e-vehicles and digitalization; and institutional capacity building.

An example is the \$300-million loan for the Department of Transportation and Department of Public Works and Highways Infrastructure Preparation and Innovation Loan which has a technical assistance support of \$5 million to \$6 million.

BIRD also said ADB will support investments on mass public transport projects, pedestrian walkways, bridges, expressways, and road networks.

In terms of investing in Filipino's well-being, ADB intends to support projects that seek to address learning losses in education; improve technical and vocational skills development; and business and employment recovery.

ADB will also provide financing for social protection; projects that support vulnerable mothers/child nutrition and job transition programs; universal healthcare and health sector investments; and, housing for the poor.

Projects supported

BIRD also mentioned a number of projects that will be included in the new CPS. These are: the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge; the Laguna Lakeshore Expressway; MRT 4 (a railway that will connect Ortigas and Taytay); and, the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project.

The list of projects and programs also include: the Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project Phase 1; Mindanao irrigation project; Post-Covid Business and Employment program; Competitive and Inclusive Agriculture Development program; and, the Climate Change Action Plan program.

For 2022, the ADB has a committed lending program of \$2.5 billion. This includes the \$1.75-billion worth financing for the South Commuter Railway Project Tranche 1 and the \$400-million Support to Capital Market Generated Infrastructure Financing, Subprogram 2.

The ADB is also supporting the Climate Change Action program (Subprogram 1), which is co-financed with the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement) for 150 million euros while ADB's portion is \$250 million.

The list also includes the \$100-million loan for the Supporting Innovation in the Philippine TVET (technical and vocational education and training) System project.

OPCC 2022 Assists Philippine Cities to Enhance NDC Implementation

Recognizing cities and their role in achieving a climate-resilient and sustainable future, WWF-Philippines' One Planet Cities (OPC) program and its flagship activity, One Planet City Challenge (OPCC), has once again highlighted the critical role of local governments, particularly cities, in addressing climate change's impacts through an in-person comeback culminating event amidst the pandemic.

Launched in 2011, the OPCC is the largest and longest-running biennial global challenge initiated by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), with over 400 cities from 53 countries on 5 continents participating since its inception. OPCC recognizes participating cities for their contribution and efforts to mitigate the climate crisis. This biennial initiative seeks to help cities across the globe align their inclusive climate actions with the 1.5 C global target and develop climate-smart recovery plans through community engagement, public awareness, and capacity building.

With the theme "Cities and the NDC: Discussion on Gaps and Opportunities", a one-day event was held last December 6 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Ortigas that serves as the culmination of this year's run in the Philippines. A roundtable discussion formed part of the program wherein invited speakers from the Climate Change Commission, the Philippine League of Local Environment and Natural Resources Officers, Inc. (PLLENRO), business and NGO sectors exchanged insights on how cities can align their climate actions in the country's submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). In the afternoon session, a total of sixteen (16) participating cities were recognized for their efforts in taking on the global challenge of WWF to present their commitments and action plans towards low-carbon development.

Cities included in the country's OPCC 2021-2022 implementation are Baguio, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Legazpi, Makati, Ormoc, Pasig, San Carlos, San Fernando (La Union), Santa Rosa, Tagum, Zamboanga, and Vigan. Quezon City and Davao City distinguished themselves as national finalists in this year's global challenge.

Although Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte was unable to attend the face-to-face OPCC culminating activity, he still gladly expressed his gratitude for the recognition received.

"It is through the collective effort and influence of both government and private sector that helped the city enhance its environmental reforms and attain significant progress toward sustainability. Above all, let us further our shared commitment to environmental protection and preservation," Duterte shared.

"On behalf of the Quezon City Government with the leadership of Honorable Mayor Joy Belmonte, we are truly honored to be one of the national finalists of WWF's One Planet City Challenge 2012-2022. This recognition is a testament that we are on the right track as we aim to build a livable, green, sustainable, and climate-resilient city," Vincent

Vinarao, Acting Assistant Department Head, Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability Department (CCESD).

Dipolog City emerged as the National Winner for the Philippines in this year's One Planet City Challenge. The city was awarded for its bold leadership and holistic efforts to create innovative and impactful action plans for long-term environmental benefits. Dipolog was also awarded as the "Most Lovable City," a special award from OPCC's related public engagement campaign, "We Love Cities." Mayor Darel Dexter Uy was present at the event and received the recognition on behalf of his constituents.

"Our environmental actions may not represent the best that the country has to showcase, but I believe it is the guts and the conviction to make a difference. The targets that we have committed were called as most ambitious but also aligned with the country's nationally determined contributions," Mayor Uy shared. "We therefore share this OPCC award and the challenge that comes with it with all cities and climate advocates in our country."

WWF-Philippines' Technical partner, ICLEI-Southeast Asia, discussed during the event the essential involvement of all the stakeholders in the NDC implementation and the crucial role of cities in helping achieve the country's part in the overall global climate commitment. The event also highlighted the importance of public engagement and youth participation which has been seen to strengthen the national contribution of the country.

Atty. Angela Ibay, Head of the Climate and Energy Programme of WWF-Philippines, acknowledged all the OPCC participating cities and encouraged the local governments to continue joining the global challenge.

"Cities have really been at the forefront of facing the climate crisis. Thank you so much for being part of this One Planet City Challenge." Atty. Ibay said. "We want you to know that, as we go through the year, we'll be here to help you and assist you in your journey. Because we really want to go on the journey of Changing the Ending."

Over the next two years, WWF-PH hopes to expand the global challenge to support more local governments in the country in developing actions to combat climate change. With the commitment and active participation of partner cities and organizations, the Philippines will undoubtedly achieve the climate trajectory and secure firm its NDC implementation to #ChangeTheEnding for the environment.

About WWF-Philippines:

The World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines is an environmental non-government organization committed to create an impact on biodiversity protection and responding to the climate crisis -towards a safe and just recovery. WWF-Philippines works with a host of partners including national and local governments, to co-create inclusive, innovative, and interdisciplinary solutions that emphasize the role of science in the service of life.

WWF-Philippines' focus is on scaled solutions with our partners to match the enormity of the tasks required to address the urgent environmental challenges facing the present and next generations of Filipinos. Its mission is "to stop, and eventually reverse the accelerating degradation of the Philippine environment – to build a future where Filipinos live in harmony with nature."

CNN PHILIPPINES

Marcos: Climate change fight a 'race against time'

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 14) --- President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. rallied support for the fight against climate change during his opening remarks at the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit in Brussels, Belgium.

"It is race against time to conserve and prevent habitat and biodiversity loss," said Marcos, as he stressed the importance of cooperation between ASEAN and the EU in resolving the climate crisis.

The president warned that climate change "threatens to radically transform for the worse many vulnerable ASEAN landscapes."

He also urged the EU to continue supporting the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), which is based in the Philippines.

"We are currently losing huge chunks of our natural resources at a rate difficult to repair and impossible to replenish in our lifetime. The ACB's work is vital in preserving and growing ASEAN's rich natural heritage which serves as a main pillar of our culture and our economy," he said.

Marcos earlier asked EU leaders and businessmen to help vulnerable countries like the Philippines cope with the effects of climate change.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Abalos urges LGUs to protect coastal areas, aquatic resources](#)

By: Chito Chavez

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benjamin ‘Benhur’ Abalos Jr. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, called on the local government units (LGUs) to strictly enforce measures to protect the country’s coastal areas and aquatic resources.

He issued the pronouncement after conferring the “MANILA BAYani Awards and Incentives (MBAI) and the Fisheries Compliance Audit (FishCA) awards to the outstanding LGUs for their contribution in the rehabilitation and protection of the Manila Bay watershed and compliance to the Philippine Fisheries Code.”

The eight LGUs receiving the prestigious MBAI Award and five recognized through FishCA Award are testaments to local governments’ efforts to protect the country’s body of water and natural resources “but there’s more to be done, especially in the face of climate change.”

“Congratulations to all the winners of MBAI and FishCA. Your contribution and outstanding efforts for the protection of our aquatic resources are truly remarkable. Kami ay natutuwa at katuwang namin kayo (LGUs) sa pangangalaga ng ating likas na yaman (We are pleased that you are one with us in protecting our natural resources),” Abalos said.

“As we face the threat of climate change, we need more LGUs to step up and hold hands with us in this advocacy. This pandemic has really given us a silver lining. If there is one thing I would say, it is the importance of making peace with nature. While we have made strides in this development, what is important is we have this goal of balancing development with ecology,” he added.

The MBAI Award aims to incentivize LGUs and recognize their exemplary performance in advancing effective waste management, uplifting the welfare, safety, and living conditions of informal settler families and the general public, promoting the protection of coastal and marine resources, and strengthening their institutional mechanisms, all of which contribute to the rehabilitation and protection of Manila Bay.

Among the MBAI awardees for 2018 to 2020 are Baliuag (Bulacan), Kalayaan (Laguna), and Magallanes (Cavite) for the Municipal category, while Balanga (Bataan), Biñan (Laguna), Imus (Cavite), Makati City, and City of Navotas bagged the award for the City category.

For the year 2021, the LGUs of Biñan and Kalayaan (Laguna), Baliuag (Bulacan), and Balanga (Bataan) were recognized anew for the MBAI Award.

The DILG chief emphasized the significant gains in improving the water quality of Manila Bay, particularly the fecal coliform level indicating its level of contamination from sewage.

He added “that from 92 million most probable number per 100 millimeters (mpn/100ml) fecal coliform level in the Manila Bay waters in 2019, it decreased to only 1.8 million mpn/100ml as of June 2022.”

Abalos also pointed out that the 10.6 million kilograms of waste collected during the rehabilitation and clean-up operations from Jan. to March 2022, in which 6,022 barangays and 187 cities and municipalities participated.

“This is a clear manifestation of what unity could do. If we’re all just united in our goal and our ways. Let’s rid our jurisdictions of bad practices, injustices, inequality and heedless dominion over our planet and its resources. Let’s have a dream which is to recover not just in terms of economy, but to recover better as one in the preservation of our Mother Earth for the good not only of ourselves but for our children and their children,” Abalos noted.

The MBAI awardees shall receive cash incentives of up to P1.5-million which can be used for financing programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) serving to increase the compliance of the LGUs with the Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program (MBCRPP) and for service payments.

Abalos also stated that the FishCA awardees for 2020 to 2021 are Naic, Cavite; Tanza, Cavite; Pilar, Bataan; Sasmuan, Pampanga; and, Balanga, Bataan. Similarly, he said, cash incentives of up to P1 million will be awarded to the winners which they can utilize to implement PPAs that contribute to enhancing the management of municipal waters or coastal areas.

The FishCA is a pioneering monitoring tool to supervise coastal LGUs’ compliance with the Philippine Fisheries Code or Republic Act (RA) No. 8550 as amended by RA 10654. (Chito A. Chavez)

PH secures European Council's support on climate change, seafaring

By: Betheena Unite

The Philippines has gained the commitment of the European Council on climate change mitigation and its support in addressing seafaring industry-related issues.

Malacañang said this was among the matters discussed by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and European Council President Charles Michel in their bilateral meeting on Dec. 13 on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-European Union (ASEAN-EU) Commemorative Summit in Brussels, Belgium.

According to Marcos, Michel agreed with him on the need to operationalize the green fund on climate change and the damage and loss policy.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was designated as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

It aims to encourage the paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development by providing support to developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) while at the same time adapting to the effects of climate change,

“We couldn’t agree with you more,” Michel told Marcos, referring to the latter’s pitch at the ASEAN-EU working luncheon for more concrete funding guidelines on mitigating climate change damage and loss.

Michel also said the EU is ready to work with the Philippines and ASEAN on climate change, particularly on the transfer of green technology, which involves improving resilience to climate change and reducing GHGs.

The chief executive also got an added boost of support in the country’s bid to address issues in its seafaring industry—one of his top agenda of his visit to Brussels.

He said the country “will kick the can on the road” in order to prevent at least 50,000 Filipino seafarers employed by Europe-based shipping companies from losing their jobs.

The country has been flagged by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) for deficiencies in seafarer training and education and risks being banned if they are not immediately addressed.

In response, Marcos ordered the creation of an advisory board to address deficiencies identified by EMSA in the Philippine seafarers’ education, training, and certification system.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Marcos urges action on climate change fund](#)

By: Nestor Corrales

BRUSSELS — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday renewed his call for rich countries to fulfill their climate finance promises to vulnerable nations like the Philippines during a meeting with European Union (EU) leaders and businessmen here.

In his remarks at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-EU working luncheon, he asked for “more concrete funding guidelines” on mitigating climate change damage and loss.

“When you speak of damage and loss, how do we quantify that damage and loss? What are the rules that we apply? When does it begin?” Marcos said.

Even if countries succeeded in quantifying the damage and loss, in terms of dollars and other measures, “we still cannot, we still have not come to the conclusion as to what we do with that number,” he added.

“And so we really would like to see much more progress in terms of that, the financing, with the mitigation and the adjustment of our countries who are at great risk to the effects of climate change,” the president told EU leaders.

According to him, climate action is important to the Philippines which is “regarded as probably one of the most, if not the most, vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change.”

“Since that seems to be the case and that is what we are facing in the Philippines, we are very much in need of the assistance of Europe, of all the First World countries, and to be able to adjust our economy, our communities to the onset of the effects of climate change,” he said.

The president said that he observed “all the progress” in the Conference of Parties (COP) 27 summit and views with “some optimism” that “the concept of damage and loss has now been accepted by all parties involved.”

After weeks of intense negotiations at the COP 27 summit held in Egypt, world leaders from 196 countries agreed to establish a fund to compensate countries that suffer the most from climate-induced disasters yet contribute little to global warming.

The president was obviously feeling under the weather on his second day in Brussels as the temperature dropped to -3 degrees, prompting him to skip his scheduled press briefing with the media on Tuesday night.

[Meet 'The Outstanding Young Men' of 2022](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Four doctors, one of them writing for the Inquirer, two exponents of native culture and the literary arts, a cartoonist, an environmental educator, a civic leader, and a city councilor make up The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees for 2022.

Announcing the awardees on Dec. 8, TOYM Foundation chair Bienvenido Tantoco III noted how this year's honorees came from a wide range of fields and professions, but that they all shared something in common: "The choice they have made on a daily basis is to serve and enrich others rather than to be served and to enrich themselves."

"Your sense of purpose and your calling somehow make you expend your life so far in the hardest paths, the most difficult battles, the most futile process, advocacies that attract the least resources, and sometimes generate the most mockery and the most controversy," Tantoco said of the awardees.

The awarding ceremony will be held in January next year.

The TOYM awards, which used to be called "The Outstanding Young Filipinos," gives annual recognition to Filipinos age between 18 and 40 years old who have significantly contributed to their respective field or community.

The awards, which were established in October 1959, are handed out by Junior Chamber International (JCI) Philippines with the support of the TOYM Foundation and other partners and stakeholders.

Making up the 2022 TOYM roster are the following, with their backgrounds and credentials based on materials provided by the award-giving body:

Paul Gideon Lasco (Education and the Academe)

A physician and medical anthropologist, Lasco has contributed to his field by teaching at the Diliman and Manila campuses of the University of the Philippines (UP). His research projects have focused on contemporary health issues, including drug use and drug policy, the COVID-19 pandemic, and medical populism.

Currently writing the column "Second Opinion" in the Inquirer, he has also produced more than 40 journal articles and two books in the past four years.

Lasco also served as a consultant to Asian Development Bank, the International Drug Policy Consortium and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Manix Abrera (Literature, Culture and the Arts)

He is most famous as the creator of Kikomachine Komix, which covers a wide range of Pinoy experiences, such as commuting and the everyday life of college students.

Abrera has been telling stories through comics, including silent comics, for 25 years. He began writing and drawing his “Kikomachine” strip for the Inquirer in 2001.

He is a three-time National Book Awardee. In 2019, he won the award for Best Book of Graphic Literature for his collection of Kikomachine strips, which originally appeared in the Inquirer.

Beverly Ho (Health and Medicine)

As an undersecretary of the Department of Health, Ho has been the focal person for the promotion of healthy practices and safety standards as the country coped with the pandemic. She has been particularly active in the agency’s Bida and ResBakuna information campaigns.

A physician by profession who also advocates reforms in the health system, Ho cofounded the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, a nonprofit organization that seeks to raise the profile of public health and develop a critical mass of public health professionals in the Philippines.

This year, Ho was also named one of The Outstanding Women in the Nation’s Service by the TOWNS Foundation.

Ramon Lorenzo Luis Guinto (Health and Medicine)

A physician, Guinto is recognized as one of the world’s pioneers in the new field of planetary health—a scientific and solutions-oriented approach to addressing health issues arising from global environmental changes traced to human activity.

He has also been cited as one of the 50 Most Influential Voices in Health Care Globally, a list drawn up by the online health information platform Medika Life.

Guinto is the first from Southeast Asia to finish the innovative doctor of public health program at Harvard University, with his doctoral thesis focusing on the local health systems’ responses to climate change and drawing lessons from coastal municipalities in the Philippines.

Ronnie Baticulon (Health and Medicine)

A pediatric neurosurgeon, Baticulon specializes in procedures done on children with congenital and acquired disorders of the brain and the spinal cord. He works with the Hydrocephalus Foundation and Spina Bifida Foundation of the Philippines, which provide neurosurgical care for charity patients.

Baticulon is also an associate professor at UP Manila and has completed research projects in global neurosurgery with the vision to identify barriers to global neurosurgical care. He was named one of the Outstanding Young Scientists in 2022 by the National Academy of Science and Technology.

Rico Ancog (Education and the Academe)

An environmental educator, Ancog was appointed dean of the School of Environmental Science and Management of UP Los Baños (UPLB) in 2021, serving a term of three years. Specializing in environmental science and environmental economics, he has done research projects on the systematic understanding of socioecological systems for efficient resource conservation and resilience.

He was named Outstanding Young Scientist in 2019 by the National Academy of Science and Technology. He serves as managing editor of the Journal of Environmental Science and Management, which is produced at UPLB.

Victor Mari Baguilat Jr. (Literature, Culture and the Arts)

The multidisciplinary designer and stylist proud of his Ifugao lineage, Baguilat is the founder of the social enterprise Kandama, which seeks to empower indigenous communities, especially the women, while preserving culture and protecting the environment.

Kandama was recognized by the National University of Singapore and the Development Bank of Singapore as one of the Top 100 Social Enterprises in Asia in 2018. The word “kandama” means power in Tawali, a form of Ifugaoan language.

Kristian Cordero (Literature, Culture and the Arts)

Cordero is a writer, teacher, filmmaker and bookseller. His books of poetry in three Philippine languages have won the Madrigal-Gonzales Best First Book Award, the Philippine National Book Awards and the Gintong Aklat Awards.

He represented the country in the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in 2017. Outside his achievements as a writer, he has produced films, such as his 2013 debut project “Angustia” and the 2016 production “Hinulid.”

Shawntel Nicole Nieto (Humanitarian, Civil Society or Voluntary Leadership)

She is one of the founders of One Cainta Program, which has partnered with different organizations to provide food hampers in Cainta and nearby towns and provinces. She also cofounded the volunteer-led organization SustainablePH and SustainaRumble, a public service podcast that explores issues on sustainable development in the Philippines. Nieto received the 2021 Diana Award from the Diana Award Charity UK, which is given to outstanding young people for their social action or humanitarian work.

Joanne Ascencion Valdez (Humanitarian, Civil Society or Voluntary Leadership)

Valdez is a councilor in the tobacco-producing city of Candon in Ilocos Sur. She received the 2022 Young Leader Award from the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative.

After earning a degree in communications from St. Paul University in Quezon City in 2008, Valdez landed her first job in a company that produced advocacy videos and documentaries. The experience exposed her to the critical role of local government officials in the lives of Filipinos.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Marcos wants more progress in climate change reparations

By: Azer Parrocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday (Brussels time) called for “more progress” in the commitment of rich nations to set up a “loss and damage” fund to support poorer countries severely impacted by climate change.

Marcos made this remark during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations - European Union (ASEAN-EU) working luncheon with EU leaders and businessmen in Brussels, Belgium.

In his speech, the President acknowledged the agreement of nearly 200 countries at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to create a funding mechanism to compensate vulnerable nations for “loss and damage” from climate-related disasters.

Marcos said he viewed with “some optimism” that “the concept of damage and loss has now been accepted by all parties involved.”

However, he said, several questions in terms of funding remain unanswered.

“This still brings us to a very difficult and fundamental question, and when you speak of damage and loss, how do we quantify that damage and loss? What are the rules that we apply? When does it begin?” he said.

“We really would like to see much more progress in terms of that, the financing, with the mitigation and the adjustment of our countries who are at great risk to the effects of climate change.”

Marcos pointed out that climate action is particularly important to the Philippines, which has been “regarded as probably one of the most, if not the most, vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change.”

“Since that seems to be the case and that is what we are facing in the Philippines, we are very much in need of the assistance of Europe, of all the first world countries and to be able to adjust our economy, our communities to the onset of the effects of climate change,” he said.

The COP serves as the decision-making body responsible for monitoring and reviewing the UNFCCC implementation.

Meanwhile, European Council President Charles Michel agreed with Marcos on the need to operationalize the green fund on climate change and the damage and loss policy.

"We couldn't agree with you more," Michel told Marcos during their meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit.

He said the EU is ready to work with the Philippines and the ASEAN on climate change, particularly on the transfer of green technology, which involves improving resilience to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Marcos earlier said the Philippines is prioritizing renewable energy options, such as hydropower, geothermal power, solar, and other low-emission energy sources.

The Green Climate Fund was designated as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC.

It aims to encourage the paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development by providing support to developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time adapting to the effects of climate change.

Negros town residents get P3.3-M cash-for-work aid

By Nanette Guadalquiver

BACOLOD CITY – The Department of Social Welfare and Development-Western Visayas has released almost PHP3.3 million in wages to beneficiaries from E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental under its Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

“This assistance is a result of the strong partnership between the local and national governments,” Mayor Marvin Malacon said in a statement on Wednesday.

The recipients, who started receiving their wages on Tuesday, included some 830 individuals such as fisherfolk, farmers, women and persons with disabilities, who rendered service for 10 days under the cash-for-work program.

They were paid PHP395 a day, or a total of PHP3,950 for their work on Nov. 14 to 18 and Nov. 21 to 25.

The beneficiaries were assigned various tasks, including tree-growing, bamboo-planting, mangrove propagules-planting, declogging of street drainages and constructing materials recovery facilities.

The agency’s RRP aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable families and communities by providing cash assistance and involving them in temporary employment activities that address climate and disaster risks.

Being the lead agency in disaster response, DSWD ensures the implementation of programs and services that will encourage disaster preparedness and mitigate the impacts of climate change, especially to vulnerable communities.

SUNSTAR

[Pampanga SK execs attend safety briefing](#)

By: Ian Ocampo Flora

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO Some 4,823 Sangguniang Kabataan officials attended the safety briefing and preparedness seminar organized by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center on Tuesday.

The event dubbed "Disaster Risk Information and Community Disaster Preparedness Measures" aimed at providing skills and preparing the community youth leaders on health, disaster preparedness, peace, and order.

PDRRM Chief Angelina Blanco spearheaded the program for youth leaders urging them to help mitigate the effects of climate change like practicing the proper segregation of waste, planting trees and mangroves in coastal areas, and in worse cases, adapting to the inevitable situations brought about by natural disasters.

SK Federation President Moshe Lacson expressed gratitude to Governor Dennis Pineda and Vice Governor Lilia Pineda for their support to the Kapampangan youth and programs that contribute to their development.

Dr. Sherwin Sarmiento, Internal Medicine Consultant for the Alagang Nanay Preventive Health Care program, educated the group on the risk factors and common diseases among the youth, assuring them treatment and primary health care services from the provincial government.

For the peace and order situation, Lieutenant Colonel Michael John Riego, Pampanga Police Provincial Office (PPO) Operations Chief, stressed the need for cooperation and crime awareness to maintain public safety in the province.

Glenn Guillermo of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) R-III Information Officer reiterated their campaign against illegal drugs, safeguarding the youth from involvement in various drug-related activities.

THE MANILA TIMES

[EU to bolster ties with Asean](#)

By: Agence France Presse

EUROPEAN Union leaders met their counterparts from Southeast Asia for a summit in Brussels on Wednesday, looking to bolster ties in the face of the war in Ukraine and challenges from China.

Europe is keen to boost trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which counts some of the world's fastest-growing economies.

"There is a need for Europeans to reconnect with Asean, one of the most dynamic areas in the world," the French presidency said.

The EU has been on a diplomatic push to galvanize a global front against Moscow as its invasion has sent economic and political shock waves around the world.

But Asean's 10 nations have been divided in their response to the Kremlin's war on Ukraine.

Singapore has gone along with Western sanctions on Russia, while Vietnam and Laos, which have close military ties to Moscow, have remained more neutral.

Along with Thailand, they abstained from a United Nations vote in October condemning Russia's attempted annexation of regions of Ukraine seized in February.

The diverging views led to intense wrangling over a final declaration from the summit as the EU pushed for stronger language to condemn Moscow.

An EU official said Brussels was satisfied in the end that it sent a "crystal clear message" of the need to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and independence.

China looms

While Europe presses for a tougher response to Russia, there is another global giant looming over the summit.

Chinese claims over the South China Sea have set it against some neighbors and sparked fears in Europe over trade flows through the key global thoroughfare.

But China remains the biggest trade partner for Asean and many in the region are wary of distancing themselves from their giant neighbor.

The EU is keen to pitch itself as a reliable partner for Southeast Asia's dynamic economies amid the growing rivalry between Beijing and Washington.

The EU and Asean are each other's third-largest trading partner and Europe sees the region as a key source for raw materials and wants to increase access to its booming markets.

EU nations are pushing to diversify key supply chains away from China as the war in Ukraine has highlighted Europe's vulnerabilities.

The EU is set to unveil investments that could be worth 10 billion euros (\$10.6 billion) for the region under its Global Gateway strategy, designed as a counterweight to China's largesse.

Asean and the EU suspended their push for a joint trade deal over a decade ago, and Brussels has focused on striking agreements with individual members.

So far, deals with Vietnam and Singapore are in place, but the bloc is keen to make progress with Asean's largest economy Indonesia and to resume talks with Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., acting as lead coordinator for the Asean, secured the commitment of European Council President Charles Michel in various areas, which include trade and climate mitigation.

The two leaders met Wednesday (Manila time) ahead of the formal opening of the Asean-EU Commemorative Summit here.

Marcos pointed out how the Asean increased its presence in the global stage through regional economic integration and supply chain resilience, giving it a vital role in the world economy, "as shown clearly by their growth with systems already in place."

The President emphasized that with economic progress, there must also be a corresponding responsibility to ensure environmental sustainability, thus the need for the Asean and EU to band together to operationalize the green fund on climate change, and the damage and loss policy.

One particular step was the establishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) that will act as the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The GCF aims to encourage the paradigm shift toward low-emission and climate-resilient development by providing support to developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Michel expressed the EU's eagerness to work with the Philippines and the Asean to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The will to push 'smart agriculture'

By: William Dar

I DELIVERED a keynote speech during the 13th Agriculture Leadership Enclave 2022 held last December 13 to 14 at New Delhi, India as the event's guest of honor, and I discussed how smart agriculture can be among the keys to attain food global food security amid the challenges presented by the three dangerous Cs: Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts in geopolitics.

The three Cs, however, should not push us to panic, for we know the strength of technology in resolving challenges, especially those faced by agriculture. This is because as scientists, we are used to battlegrounds with our choice weapons, which are also Cs: certainty, control and confidence in our civilization and timeworn methods.

Reflecting on that, today's challenges show the fallibility of certainty, control and confidence. A good example are unpredictable and extreme weather events that should remind us that we cannot control nature. Worse, climate change has exposed the brittleness of political action.

Also, let me state that there is a whole ecology of consequence for the dark and untrammled side of technology that led to other crises such as energy costs and food security challenges.

So, technology, as we have witnessed, can be a double-edged sword and can worsen inequality, which should prompt scientists to more consciously see to it that technology should have a positive impact, and in this case on the agriculture sector, especially the smallholders.

Hence, the era of smart agriculture should be marked by an abundance of innovation, investment and promotion. Let us also throw out the weakening of the human will when we advocate and promote smart agriculture.

Defining smart agriculture

Now, let us define smart agriculture in a way that will truly benefit humankind and society — smart agriculture is an approach providing the agriculture sector and industry with an ecosystem, including infrastructure, to utilize technology to sustainably increase crop production and the incomes of farmers, fisherfolk and agribusiness entities.

If I put forth that definition 20 or 30 years ago, the technological solutions for smart agriculture that will surely crop up in the minds of stakeholders, scientists and policymakers in agriculture are agrochemicals and machines. And we all know that those two solutions are not enough to level up food production today, and there is now an urgent need to reduce the amount of chemical inputs used in agriculture.

Also, what we are up against now in producing food is daunting. For one, arable land is dwindling due to rapid urbanization and population growth. Also, industrial agriculture's usual methods will all but ensure that 90 percent of the Earth's topsoil will be degraded by 2050, according to the prediction of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

Water is also running low, with 3 percent of the planet's freshwater on the edge of depletion. Today, agriculture still largely competes for the utilization of fresh water for human necessity.

Hence, environmental pressure and the loss of biodiversity due to the extractive processes of industrial agriculture will exacerbate land loss and climate change.

The latter concern is more alarming than we think, as we should also take into account that global diets have become more meat-dependent, having swelled by 50 percent in the last 20 years. Unless something drastic is done, the demand for meat will double well into the new century.

Under the "business as usual" scenario, more land will have to be converted for crop production for animal feed. Around 80 percent of land used for food production supports meat and dairy operations, including hosting the animals.

Thus, how can we reconcile food security — that is, the resource-heavy task of feeding the now 8 billion people in the world — while shunning the usual extractive ways of agriculture. Let us also take into account that as more developing countries see their status upgraded, their citizens will shift to a more affluent diet that is meat- and dairy-based.

Vertical farming and other technologies

Fortunately, science holds the solution to feeding humanity even with dwindling land and water resources. One such viable solution is vertical indoor farming, which removes the pressure to convert vast tracts of land into monocropped fields. Once much of crop production is shifted indoors through vertical systems, we can resume rehabilitating our soils.

Vertical farming's coupling with data science also represents incalculable resource savings. Take for example precise water utilization through automation and real-time adjustments to atmospheric conditions, which could spare 95 percent of water supplies from streaming into agriculture alone.

Fast-tracked data gathering and monitoring of crop conditions using digital tools can also be applied in both vertical farming and traditional farming. This will also lead to more judicious use of fertilizers, both in its volume and composition that can include organic elements, hence reducing the massive need for chemical fertilizers.

Vertical indoor farms could also evolve into veritable laboratories that can host cellular agriculture. This, of course, is a new frontier still raising eyebrows. But its benefits are just as compelling as we can grow and culture our meat and other protein sources from but a few animal cells. Eventually, this will spare the need to convert more lands to satisfy our growing appetite for meat and dairy products.

The impacts of smart agriculture, however, are not confined to increasing efficiency in producing sufficient food for the world. This means smart agriculture should also be about attaining quality food.

In fact, micronutrient deficiency has come to characterize the hollowness of our caloric intake. And this is partly due to the dwindling nutrients in fruits and vegetables cultivated in poor soils.

In a developing country like the Philippines, stamping out hidden hunger remains a challenge and if not addressed, will result in the next generation of workers and professionals severely hampered and undermining the economy.

So, at this point, smart agriculture should make more sense. And with the Fourth Industrial Revolution now playing a big part in realizing Agriculture 4.0, I can also declare that the technological frontier available for agriculture is also more exciting.

But what distinguishes Agriculture 4.0 and smart agriculture? I can say a lot to distinguish both and cite their similarities. But like I said, the prioritization for smart agriculture is more an act of will than of science.

New EU carbon tariff a potential tool for PH

A NEW carbon dioxide (CO₂) tariff announced by the European Union this week — the first of its kind in the world — should be studied carefully by the Philippines, as it may serve as a useful template for funding our own country's climate change adaptation and mitigation needs.

Known as the "Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism" (CBAM), the landmark agreement will cover industrial imports from the EU's 27 member states, targeting the highest polluting products first.

If successfully implemented at this level, proponents of the measure said, the tariff scheme could eventually be extended to additional import products, as well as imports from outside the EU.

Under the CBAM scheme, an importer will have to declare the emissions linked to the production process of the goods being imported, and if these exceed the European standard, acquire an "emission certificate" at the price of CO₂ in the EU, or at the difference between the EU price and the price of the carbon market in the exporting country, if one exists.

The new tariff will initially target the sectors considered to be the most polluting as proposed by the European Commission, including steel, aluminum, cement, fertilizers and electricity. The tariff scheme will be implemented gradually, beginning with a test period starting in October 2023, during which importing companies will simply have to report their tariff obligations without actually having to pay them.

The timing of the actual start of the new scheme is yet to be decided, but is expected to be announced following talks scheduled this weekend on reforms to the European carbon market.

Currently, European manufacturers are allocated free allowances covering part of their emissions, to support their competitiveness against foreign competitors, but these will be phased out once the carbon tariff is implemented, since some of the carbon cost burden will be shifted to importers.

To be clear, the EU carbon tariff in its current proposed form will have absolutely no impact on Philippine trade, as it only applies to EU countries. Our interest in the proposal is as a model for a similar type of scheme that could be implemented here.

One of the biggest sticking points in our continuing efforts to manage climate change effects is the lack of promised funding from developed nations, something that was agreed in the 2015 Paris Agreement but has not yet materialized in any substantial way. Thus, what initiatives the Philippines is able to pursue in terms of emissions reductions, environmental sustainability, adaptation and recovering losses from climate-related calamities are largely self-funded, either from the nation's own resources or through

debt instruments. Imposing a carbon tariff, from which climate response programs could be financed, could help to offset our costs.

There are, of course, many issues that would have to be resolved. Such a scheme obviously has implications for existing trade and tariff agreements, and would almost certainly result in higher prices for imported goods. These issues could be avoided by earmarking a certain percentage of existing tariffs as a "carbon tax," but the government might be unwilling to sequester some of its revenue in that fashion, even if it means budgets elsewhere could be reduced by a corresponding amount. The country also currently lacks a carbon market, which would be crucial to providing importers an alternative to paying the tariff, or at least an opportunity for them to offset its costs.

However, those kinds of issues are merely complicated, and not impossible to resolve. The government is certainly capable of tackling untried, complex ideas when it wants to, as it is currently demonstrating with its enthusiastic push to create a sovereign wealth fund; there is no reason why it cannot or should not apply the same far outside the box thinking to an innovative initiative like a carbon tariff. We believe the developments in the EU bear careful observation and study, and could prove to be of great use to the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Budget hike urged to address climate change](#)

By: Louella Desiderio

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government is being urged to encourage green lending and investments to make funds available to fight climate change, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said.

In the latest blog of the multilateral lender, ADB infrastructure specialist Naeeda Crishna Morgado and ADB energy specialist Diana Connett said that as the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, being hit by an average of 20 typhoons per year and affected by extreme floods, it would need substantial financing to address the challenge.

With the Philippines setting one of the most ambitious targets among Southeast Asian countries by committing to cut 75 percent of its emissions by 2030 and to accelerate efforts to adapt to a changing climate, but only having 2.7 percent of the target to be financed through the public budget, the ADB specialists said achieving the goal would depend on financing the country's climate program.

"We need action on five fronts to unlock the financing needed," they said.

Among the recommendations by the ADB specialists include seeking a higher budget for climate action.

"Effective government budgeting is key to building institutions, as well as the teams of people needed to convert climate ambition into action...Maintaining and increasing budget allocations — from the 6.27 percent of the annual budget allocated for climate resilience in 2021 — will be critical," the ADB specialists said.

They also cited the need to mobilize international climate finance to support the country's climate ambitions.

"A pipeline of projects needs to be built, and project sponsors need more capacity to mobilize funds, design projects and engage investors," the ADB specialists said.

In addition, there should be efforts to encourage banks to finance green initiatives.

"The central bank, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and other financial regulators have put in place a suite of policies to integrate environmental, social and governance issues into banking practice; encourage green lending; and support banks considering how climate risks affect their lending. Banks and financial institutions need greater capacity to take on this agenda," the ADB specialists said.

The government is likewise being urged to attract private investors in clean energy projects.

“Investment in geothermal, solar and wind projects can be unlocked by updating regulations and putting in place the right incentives to help address investment risks,” the ADB said.

Lastly, the ADB specialists said local governments need to be mobilized to take action by increasing their awareness, know-how and capacity to implement climate change programs.

“There is a clear message coming out of the United Nations COP27 Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh: the world has until 2030 to take the necessary action to limit global warming or else it will be too late.

The clock is ticking for the Philippines, and the money needed for climate action cannot be mobilized fast enough,” the ADB said.

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