



NEWS ROUNDUP

16 DECEMBER 2024 [08:30 am]

- Filipino netizens' most searched terms this 2024 include 'heat wave,' 'AI detector' and 'climate change' according to Google
- Climate change puts Philippines at double risk of typhoons —scientists
- Back-to-back cyclones in the Philippines 'supercharged' by climate change — int'l study
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GMA NEWS

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Businesses face the prospect of losing up to 7 percent of their annual earnings by 2035 due to escalating climate hazards, according to reports released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

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Artificial intelligence (AI) offers promising tools to address the climate crisis, but its potential must be tempered with strong ethical safeguards and global cooperation, says Mark Coeckelbergh, professor of philosophy at the University of Vienna.

UN loss, damage fund hopes to learn from PH resilience building

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The United Nations-led Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) is hoping to learn from the Philippines' resilience building, said its executive director Ibrahima Cheikh Diong.

THE MANILA TIMES

PH agri faces issues from climate, agrarian reform

By: Conrad M. Cariño

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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New Zealand and the Philippines have made a Joint Declaration to develop a climate cooperation framework.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ONE NEWS PH

Private Sector Key To Philippines' Low-Carbon Economy Transition

Implementing the country's National Determined Contribution to the global mission of attaining net zero by 2050 will require the critical participation and support of the private sector, with an estimated total investment requirement of around USD 72.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ADOBO MAGAZINE

[Filipino netizens' most searched terms this 2024 include 'heat wave,' 'AI detector' and 'climate change' according to Google](#)

As 2024 comes to a close, Google releases its annual “Year in Search” in celebration of the people, events, contributions, and trending topics that defined that year in the Philippines.

With six of the top 10 overall search terms being news, the results show that Filipinos continue to rely on Google Search to learn more about the latest news. From current events to breaking developments, people trust Google Search to show them deeper information and insights about anything that grips the population’s attention at any given time. Three of the top 10 searches relating to AI also proves that the Philippines is a tech-savvy country willing to learn more about the latest innovations, as found in this year’s “e-Conomy SEA Report.”

As an example of Filipinos looking up current events, “heat wave” comes out as the #1 overall and news search term (with “climate change” itself at #6 overall and #5 in news). This also goes for larger world events, such as the 2024 Paris Olympics that were #3 overall and in news, while newly minted Filipino Olympic gold medalist Carlos Yulo made four lists — overall top trending, news, sports, and male personalities. These stories all made up a significant part of local pop culture this year, which Filipinos are keen to look up further on Google Search.

Celebrities are once again consistent searches for Filipinos. These include those who unfortunately passed this year, with veteran Filipina actress Jaclyn Jose and former One Direction member Liam Payne at #2 and #8 overall, respectively.

Meanwhile, the Nation’s Girl Group BINI is the top search among female personalities after the big breakthrough in 2024, and member Mikha Lim is separately #10 on the same list. Their two breakout hits “Salamin, Salamin” and “Pantropiko” also made the top 10 list of music and lyrics searched, which was topped by R&B singer Dionela’s viral song “Sining.”

As for online media, K-drama Queen of Tears, which trended in the middle of the year, was the #1 search for both series and Korean titles. The show, which simultaneously broadcasted on Netflix, is again a testament to the strength of online streaming, which saw a 12% increase in GMV this year, according to the “e-Conomy SEA report.”

Below is the full list of the top search trends in the Philippines:

Overall Top Trending:

heat wave
Jaclyn Jose
Olympics
Carlos Yulo
Inside Out 2
climate change
Character AI
Liam Payne
AI detector
Gemini
News
heat wave
Jaclyn Jose
Olympics
Carlos Yulo
climate change
National ID
Labubu
pertussis
Mpox
Demure

Sports:

Carlos Yulo
Celtics vs Mavericks
Nuggets vs Timberwolves
Lakers vs Nuggets
Timberwolves vs Mavericks
Premier Volleyball League
Dallas Mavericks
EJ Obiena
Knicks vs Pacers
Celtics vs Pacers

Shows or Series:

Queen of Tears

Marry My Husband
Lovely Runner
Hierarchy
Young Sheldon
Love Next Door
Gyeongseong Creature
My Demon
Avatar: The Last Airbender
A Shop for Killers

Songs or Lyrics:

Sining
APT.
Maybe This Time
Die With A Smile
Palagi
Mamma Mia
Salamin, Salamin
Sa Susunod na Habang Buhay
Pantropiko
Dilaw

Games:

Sprunki Horror Music Game
Delta Executor
Anime Defenders codes
Hamster Kombat
Wuthering Waves
Snake Aim tool
Granny Horror Multiplayer
Block Blast solver
Anime Last Stand codes
NIGHT CROWS

Male Personalities:

Carlos Yulo
Nash Aguas

EJ Obiena
Donald Trump
Rico Blanco
Ben Wang
One Direction
Byeon Woo-seok
Kim Soo-hyun
Kobe Paras

Female Personalities:

BINI
Charlie Dizon
Alice Guo
Ennui
Mika Dela Cruz
Claudine Barretto
Beyoncé
Kamala Harris
Imane Khelif
Mikha Lim

Movies:

Inside Out 2
How To Make Millions Before Grandma Dies
Rewind
Deadpool
Damsel
GomBurZa
Un/Happy for You
Saltburn
Hello, Love, Again
Lolo and the Kid

Farewells:

Jaclyn Jose
Liam Payne
Keith Martin

Rico Yan
Akira Toriyama
Park Bo-ram
Song Jae-rim
Chino Trinidad
Shannen Doherty
Maggie Smith

Korean Series:

Queen of Tears
Marry My Husband
Lovely Runner
Hierarchy
Love Next Door
Gyeongseong Creature
My Demon
A Shop for Killers
Queen Woo
Pyramid Game

AI-related Searches

AI detector:

Gemini
ChatGPT
Humanize AI
AI Chat
Gizmo
Viggle AI
Runway AI
PixVerse
Perplexity

GMA NEWS

[Climate change puts Philippines at double risk of typhoons —scientists](#)

Climate change is making the Philippines more vulnerable to tropical storms, with rising temperatures already putting the country at nearly double the risk of deadly typhoons, scientists said in a report published on Thursday.

The unprecedented formation of four typhoons around the Philippines last month was made 70% more likely as a result of global temperature rises of 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit), researchers with the World Weather Attribution group said in a report published on Thursday.

Though scientists are cautious when it comes to attributing individual weather events to climate change, the consensus is that warmer oceans are intensifying rainfall and wind speeds across the globe.

"Climate change made the conditions that formed and fueled the typhoons nearly twice as likely," the group said.

Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated and more than 170 people killed during an unprecedented sequence of six tropical cyclones that landed in the country in October and November, raising concerns that storm activity was being turbocharged by higher sea surface temperatures.

"The storms were more likely to develop more strongly and reach the Philippines at a higher intensity than they otherwise would have," said Ben Clarke, a weather researcher at Imperial College London, one of the report's authors.

If temperatures rise to 2.6 Celsius above pre-industrial levels, those same storm conditions would be 40% more likely compared to now, he added.

An analysis published last month by US weather researchers Climate Central said that hurricanes had intensified significantly as a result of record-breaking ocean warming, with wind speeds up by 18 miles per hour (29 kph).

Scientists believe warmer ocean temperatures are intensifying tropical storms by increasing the rate of evaporation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said in its latest assessment that there was "high confidence" that global warming would make storms more intense.

It is still unclear whether or not rising temperatures would extend the normal typhoon season or make tropical storms more frequent, but climate activists are concerned.

"We used to have what we called a hazard calendar—now it is just basically the whole year around," said Afrhill Rances, the Philippines' representative with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Back-to-back cyclones in the Philippines ‘supercharged’ by climate change — int’l study](#)

By: Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

An international study has confirmed that climate change “supercharged” the record-breaking typhoon season in the Philippines, which saw six consecutive tropical cyclones in less than a month.

The Philippines, already no stranger to powerful tropical cyclones, faced an unprecedented barrage of cyclones that included Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami, Oct. 21-25), Super Typhoon Leon (Kong-rey, Oct. 27-Nov. 1), Typhoon Marce (Yinxing, Nov. 4-Nov. 8), Typhoon Nika (Toraji, Nov. 9-12), Super Typhoon Ofel (Usagi, Nov. 12-15), and Super Typhoon Pepito (Man-yi, Nov. 14-18).

In the World Weather Attribution (WWA) study released on Dec. 12, scientists analyzed the rare occurrence of these back-to-back cyclones that devastated the Philippines.

“The 2024 typhoon season in the Philippines was extraordinary, with six typhoons affecting the country within just 30 days, several of them simultaneously active in the region. This clustering of storms in November, never before witnessed in the basin, affected more than 13 million people, destroying lives and livelihoods and putting enormous strain on resources and infrastructure,” the report read.

November saw an exceptional overlap of typhoons in the region, with as many as four named storms simultaneously active in the Pacific, a record since tracking began in 1951.

READ MORE: <https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/19/a-record-breaking-event>

The devastation was particularly severe in northern Luzon, where several areas were struck multiple times within a matter of weeks.

The WWA’s study focused on understanding whether climate change influenced the environmental conditions leading to such an unusually high number of typhoons.

Researchers found that the potential intensity of storms in the region has become about seven times more likely, with the maximum intensity of a typhoon increasing by approximately 14.5 kilometers per hour.

The study suggests that global warming, largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels, is responsible for this trend.

While climate models indicated a smaller change in potential intensity, combining observational data with these models revealed that the observed intensity in 2024 is about 1.7 times more likely due to climate change.

The study also predicts that, under current emission scenarios, the intensity of future storms could increase by another 7.2 kilometers per hour by the end of the century, contributing to more frequent and severe storms.

The study also assessed the likelihood of multiple major typhoons making landfall in the Philippines in a single year.

“Using a statistical model we find that in today’s climate, warmed by 1.3°C, such an event is expected once every 15 (6.5-45) years. That is 25 percent more frequent than it would have been had we not burned fossil fuels. In a 2°C warmer climate from pre-industrial times we expect at least three major typhoons hitting in a single year every 12 years (best estimate),” it pointed out.

“Overall, our results show that conditions conducive to the development of consecutive typhoons in this region have been enhanced by global warming, and the chance of multiple major typhoons making landfall will continue to increase as long as we continue to burn fossil fuels,” it said.

While acknowledging the Philippines' proactive disaster risk management framework, including proposed legislation to formalize anticipatory action through a State of Imminent Disaster for preemptive resource allocation, the study emphasizes the extraordinary challenge of maintaining continuity and resilience in the face of escalating climate risks.

MINDANAO TIMES

[Climate Reality PH, PBEST launch #BawalPlastikan map](#)

BUILT from the testimonies of Filipinos nationwide, the #BawalPlastikan Map was launched to showcase policies, initiatives, and best practices from local governments, private entities, and individuals committed to reducing the use of single-use plastics (SUPs).

The project was made possible through a partnership between The Climate Reality Project Philippines and Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST), highlighting the power of collaboration in addressing environmental challenges.

“The #BawalPlastikan Map serves as a testament to the power of collective action and innovative solutions in addressing the plastic crisis. As environmental stewards, PBEST is proud to support this initiative, which aligns with our advocacy for a circular economy that promotes sustainability, reduces waste, and empowers communities to drive impactful environmental change,” said Joey Perfecto, secretary-general of the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship.

The initiative also forms part of Climate Reality Philippines’ Plastic-Free Reality campaign, which aims to raise awareness about the escalating plastic crisis and its overlooked connection to climate change.

“Many Filipinos see plastics primarily as a pollution issue, but its impact on climate change is just as urgent,” said Aimee Oliveros, deputy branch manager of Climate Reality Philippines. “Beyond mapping out existing policies against plastics, #BawalPlastikan aims to provide concrete proof that living without SUPs is possible in the Philippines,” she added.

The #BawalPlastikan map is now live!

Legislative efforts and the push for an SUP ban

The #BawalPlastikan Map serves not only as a valuable resource for crafting evidence-based policies but also as a tool for advocates pushing for a nationwide ban on SUPs. By showcasing successful initiatives across the country, the map strengthens calls for systemic solutions to the plastic crisis.

In his 2023 State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Bongbong Marcos called for a tax on single-use plastics and urged Congress to back the initiative.

In 2022, the House passed House Bill No. 4102, also known as the Single-Use Plastic Bags Tax Act, on its third reading. The bill was forwarded to the Senate in November 2022, where it underwent its first reading and currently remains pending.

Meanwhile, two Senate Bills addressing the plastic crisis are also under committee review. Both propose an excise tax per kilogram of plastic produced or imported.

While these legislative efforts are indeed a welcome step in the right direction, Climate Reality Philippines emphasizes that taxation alone may not effectively curb plastic consumption.

“Taxing plastics only puts the financial burden on the common Filipinos who have no choice but to purchase SUPs because of how embedded these products are in their lives,” explained Oliveros

The organization advocates for a more stringent and equitable solution: a nationwide ban on single-use plastics. Banning SUPs ensures that Filipinos will have to utilize more sustainable products, effectively removing wasteful options from their reach. This also forces companies to innovate and transition to environmentally friendly alternatives, reducing overall SUP production.

“Our job is not done— the #BawalPlastikan Map is only step one. Our ultimate goal is for the whole Philippines to commit to a ban against plastic products, particularly single-use plastics,” said Oliveros.

“A Plastic-Free Reality is possible. What now seems like random scattered points of hope can grow into a national movement putting a stop to plastic use. The map shows us our way to a plastic-free country is clear— we only need to commit to the journey,” added Oliveros.

How you can participate

Climate Reality Philippines and PBEST invite everyone to share their stories and contribute to the map.

You can participate by answering the survey at http://bit.ly/bawal_plastikan, where you can upload photos, videos, and documents to showcase your experiences or local initiatives combating plastic use.

By joining, you’ll be part of a growing movement working toward a plastic-free future.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Climate change intensified rapid succession of PH storms – study](#)

Human-induced climate change fueled a rare string of back-to-back typhoons that battered the Philippines this year and boosted the chances of powerful storms making landfall, a new study said on Thursday.

Five typhoons and a tropical storm hit the Philippines in a 23-day period across October and November, killing more than 170 people and causing at least \$235 million in damage, according to local authorities.

About 20 big storms and typhoons hit the Southeast Asian nation or its surrounding waters each year, killing scores of people. However, it is rare for multiple major weather events to hit over such a short period.

To assess the role of climate change in the string of storms, scientists from the World Weather Attribution (WWA) network used modeling to compare weather patterns in today's world against a hypothetical world without human-induced warming.

“Our results show that conditions conducive to the development of consecutive typhoons in this region have been enhanced by global warming,” they said in a study published late Thursday. “The chance of multiple major typhoons making landfall will continue to increase as long as we continue to burn fossil fuels.”

The research, which uses a peer-reviewed methodology, found climate change made the conditions that formed and fueled the typhoons twice as likely. Globally, the number of tropical cyclones is not increasing significantly.

However, warmer seas are helping fuel an increasing number of strong storms and a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, which results in storms that drop more rain.

Category 3-5 landfalls

The study found that the warmer climate makes it 25 percent more likely that at least three Category 3-5 typhoons will make landfall in the Philippines in a year.

The unprecedented formation of four typhoons around the Philippines last month was made 70 percent more likely as a result of global temperature rise of 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit), it added.

“Such consecutive extreme events make it difficult for populations to recover,” the scientists warned.

And the world’s current warming trajectory puts the Philippines on course for even worse effects, the study said.

Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine” (international name: Trami), considered by Philippines’ civil defense officials as the deadliest storm to hit the country this year, submerged hundreds of villages in the northern Philippines and displaced more than half a million residents.

Supertyphoon Man-yi (“Pepito), which brought havoc to Catanduanes province last month, also caused a province-wide power outage that authorities are still struggling to rectify.

“While it is unusual to see so many typhoons hit the Philippines in less than a month, the conditions that gave rise to these storms are increasing as the climate warms,” said Ben Clarke, a weather researcher at Imperial College London’s Centre for Environmental Policy, one of the report’s authors.

The study warned that the repeated storms created a “perpetual state of insecurity,” with about 13 million people affected by at least three of the extreme weather systems.

Though scientists are cautious when it comes to attributing individual weather events to climate change, the consensus is that warmer oceans are intensifying rainfall and wind speeds across the globe.

“The storms were more likely to develop more strongly and reach the Philippines at a higher intensity than they otherwise would have,” Clarke said.

Projected to increase

If temperatures rise to 2.6 Celsius above preindustrial levels, those same storm conditions would be 40 percent more likely compared to now, he added.

An analysis published last month by US weather researchers Climate Central said that hurricanes had intensified significantly as a result of record-breaking ocean warming, with wind speeds up by 29 kilometers per hour (18 miles per hour).

The report also noted that the potential intensity of typhoons as observed this year “has been made more likely by a factor of 1.7, or what amounts to an increase of 7.2 kph in intensity.”

“These changes are projected to increase with further warming,” the report said, noting that typhoons would further increase by an additional 7.2 kph in intensity should the world become warmer by 2.6 C.

The increase of 2.6 C “reflects projected conditions by the end of the century given currently implemented policies,” read the report.

The five typhoons and one tropical storm that hit the Philippines from October to November was “extremely unusual” that the WWA found the quick succession difficult to study “because it is so rare.”

Needed investment

The Philippines needs major investment to tackle the challenges it faces from climate change, the scientists said.

“The Asian Development Bank recently estimated that \$102 billion to \$431 billion per year needs to be invested in Asian and Pacific countries to help them cope with climate change. However, in 2022, just \$34 billion was invested for adaptation in the region,” the group added.

“But of course funding adaptation isn’t enough to protect the Philippines from climate change,” said Friederike Otto, the scientist who leads WWA. “Unless the world stops burning fossil fuels, typhoons will continue to intensify.”

The study was conducted by 12 researchers which included scientists from the Philippines, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Climate risks to cut corporate earnings by 7% by 2035

Businesses face the prospect of losing up to 7 percent of their annual earnings by 2035 due to escalating climate hazards, according to reports released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The reports, published on Wednesday, warn that delays in addressing climate risks could lead to disruptions similar to those caused by the Covid-19 pandemic every two years, with industries such as telecommunications, utilities, and energy particularly vulnerable.

Extreme heat and other climate-related disasters are projected to result in annual fixed asset losses of USD560 to USD610 billion for listed companies.

Firms in energy-intensive sectors are also facing increasing challenges from tightening global regulations, with carbon pricing alone potentially cutting earnings by half by 2030.

The report highlights that every dollar spent on climate adaptation could prevent up to USD19 in losses.

Green markets are expected to expand from USD5 trillion this year to USD14 trillion by 2030, with significant growth in alternative energy, sustainable transport, and eco-friendly products. Early movers in these sectors are positioned to gain competitive advantages, fostering innovation and profitability.

Gim Huay Neo, managing director of the World Economic Forum, said businesses can thrive while protecting ecosystems and supporting communities by systematically addressing climate-related risks.

The reports emphasize that urgent action is needed, with leading scientists warning of the imminent risk of tipping points in Earth systems, such as ice sheets and ocean currents.

[Techno-solutionism not the answer to climate crisis, says scholar](#)

Artificial intelligence (AI) offers promising tools to address the climate crisis, but its potential must be tempered with strong ethical safeguards and global cooperation, says Mark Coeckelbergh, professor of philosophy at the University of Vienna.

Coeckelbergh cautions against relying solely on technology to address global challenges like climate change, warning of the political risks of removing human judgment from decision-making.

“Take away human decision-making and human judgment and say, ‘If AI can do all this, let it take over. Let it run our governments and administration.’ This is very dangerous,” he said in an interview with Anadolu.

“You destroy democracy, you destroy the idea that people have a say, and you also leave out human judgment.”

He said that while AI could be used as a tool in addressing climate change, it is critical that humans retain control over decisions, especially when it comes to political and social issues.

“The real problem is not that AI takes over by itself, but rather that people with a lot of power and interests use AI to take over power,” Coeckelbergh said, warning against the rise of “techno-solutionism” —where technology is viewed as a panacea for all complex global issues.

In his book, “Green Leviathan or the Poetics of Political Liberty,” Coeckelbergh critiques the concept of a “Green Leviathan,” an authoritarian state that enforces ecological sustainability through technology. While such a system might accelerate environmental solutions, it could erode political freedoms and undermine individual and collective liberties, he added.

Coeckelbergh stressed the need for international cooperation in regulating AI, particularly in climate-related projects, as technological development is increasingly in the hands of large corporations, which often lack sufficient ethical oversight.

He said global cooperation is essential to ensuring that AI technologies are developed ethically and that they address the needs of diverse populations.

“We need international agreements to create a more inclusive framework for AI development that benefits all societies, especially the vulnerable ones,” Coeckelbergh said.

Highlighting the disparities that climate change impacts will have on different parts of the globe, particularly in vulnerable regions, he said AI could help predict disasters and coordinate human efforts.

[UN loss, damage fund hopes to learn from PH resilience building](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The United Nations-led Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) is hoping to learn from the Philippines' resilience building, said its executive director Ibrahima Cheikh Diong.

In an interview with the Presidential Communications Office, Diong said Manila's selection as the fund's host is "very symbolic" and will showcase all the good work the government is doing toward climate change adaptation.

"We're very much interested in showcasing the success and great stories of countries that built resilience. What the Philippines is doing obviously is something that we're going to look at keenly as a fund and make sure that other countries can learn from the Philippine example," he said.

In the initial FRLD meeting, Diong said the board has decided to go on the ground and see what the Philippines is doing.

"Understanding what the country is trying to do is very important to all of us so that we can be educated, and as the board said, bottom-up approach is all about what the countries want and we're coming in to add value in supporting them," he said.

Meanwhile, he praised President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga for their vision and dedication to the climate fund's success.

Diong said the Fund would pursue a "holistic fundraising" as it recognizes that the need to fully support countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change's destructive impacts is in billions.

"In the meantime, we're moving slowly but surely on the pledges. When we left Dubai, we had about USD700 million, at COP29 we get more pledges that are coming in," he said.

"The priority of the board and the secretariat is to make sure we actually convert those pledges into active funding so we can make commitment," he added.

The UN established the Fund with donations from developed countries to assist vulnerable developing countries that have suffered losses and damage from climate change.

The Board, comprising 26 members from developed and developing countries, will manage and supervise the Fund.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH agri faces issues from climate, agrarian reform](#)

By: Conrad M. Cariño

The Philippine agriculture sector lags behind its peers in Southeast Asia, bugged by issues related to climate change and the agrarian reform program.

In his speech during the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representatives Global Working Conference in Bangkok on Tuesday, former agriculture secretary William Dar said that the country has a lot of catching up in farm output among countries comprising the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

FAO Director General Qu Dong Yu led the staging of the conference.

"With such lacklustre performance of the sector, the Philippines has a lot of catching up to do to keep pace with our Asean neighbors — in terms of increasing our rice output and overall farm productivity," he said.

One of the major factors he cited was the lack of economies of scale of smallholder farms, caused by the agrarian reform program. This can be addressed by organizing farmers into cooperatives and clustering/consolidating their farmlands.

"Studies show that Philippine farm productivity declined by 17 percent since the agrarian reform program was implemented in 1988," he said.

"As we all know, the bigger the farm size, the more productive it would be versus smaller ones. Hence, during my term as Secretary of Agriculture, we started and promoted farm clustering and consolidation, which I am glad is being continued by the Marcos Administration," Dar added.

The former agriculture secretary, who also headed the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics for 15 years, also backs that the farm retention limit for farmers increased to 25 hectares from the current 5 hectares. This measure will pave the way for the emergence of middle-class farmers who can become entrepreneurs and have better access to financing and markets.

Also, smallholder farmers must be organized into cooperatives and their lands consolidated or clustered, and the functions of the Department of Agriculture (DA) that were devolved under the Local Government Code of 1991 to local government units be reverted back to the DA and its regional units.

"Related to this, we wish our government would seriously invest and level up in organizing farmers and fisherfolk into cooperatives. I also support the growing clamor to revert back to the national agriculture office the devolved local (city and municipal)

agriculture officers and extension workers so they vigorously and directly implement national farm production programs on the ground," Dar explained.

The other reasons cited by Dar for the lackluster performance of agriculture, particularly this year, are the typhoons and African swine fever that was detected months before the start of the pandemic.

"Secondly, our agriculture sector's performance during the three quarters of 2024, from January to September, has declined by 2.2 percent, at constant 2018 prices due to successive destructive typhoons and the lingering African swine fever, among others. This performance is causing higher food inflation in the country presently," he said.

In closing his speech, Dar also said that there should be a global effort to make food production systems resilient and sustainable, and utilize science and technology for countries to attain food security.

"In closing, we must be united in doubling our global efforts and investments in agriculture toward the attainment of sustainable, resilient, and smart food systems. We must seriously address the challenges of climate change, and other major impediments, and subsequently enable us to feed more generations to come," Dar said.

"We must level up and tap the power of science and digital technology in a big way to combat hunger, malnutrition, poverty thereby attaining global food security," he added.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Philippines, New Zealand ink climate cooperation pact](#)

New Zealand and the Philippines have made a Joint Declaration to develop a climate cooperation framework.

The declaration was signed on Nov. 19 by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga in Quezon City, and Simon Watts, New Zealand Minister of Climate Change, in Baku, Azerbaijan during the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Catherine McIntosh, New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines, was a witness to the signing of the Joint Declaration in Quezon City.

“It was a pleasure to be present at this important next step in the cooperative relationship between New Zealand and the Philippines as our countries look to work together on a vital global issue. Both of our countries are committed to the Paris Agreement and share ambitions to build climate-resilient communities while accelerating the transition to a low-emissions economy. Greater cooperation will be an opportunity to learn from each other’s experiences as we address the shared challenge of climate change,” McIntosh said.

The declaration sets an 18-month timetable to formalise the cooperation framework for enhancing the partnership on climate change, focusing on innovation, cooperation and sustainable development. New Zealand and the Philippines will pursue this in a cross-cutting way, including conducting information exchange, encouraging business-to-business contacts, fostering research, development and deployment of renewable energy and zero emissions transport technologies and sustainable agricultural practices.

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[Philippines, New Zealand ink climate cooperation pact](#)

New Zealand and the Philippines have made a Joint Declaration to develop a climate cooperation framework.

The declaration was signed on Nov. 19 by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga in Quezon City, and Simon Watts, New Zealand Minister of Climate Change, in Baku, Azerbaijan during the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Catherine McIntosh, New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines, was a witness to the signing of the Joint Declaration in Quezon City.

“It was a pleasure to be present at this important next step in the cooperative relationship between New Zealand and the Philippines as our countries look to work together on a vital global issue. Both of our countries are committed to the Paris Agreement and share ambitions to build climate-resilient communities while accelerating the transition to a low-emissions economy. Greater cooperation will be an opportunity to learn from each other’s experiences as we address the shared challenge of climate change,” McIntosh said.

The declaration sets an 18-month timetable to formalise the cooperation framework for enhancing the partnership on climate change, focusing on innovation, cooperation and sustainable development. New Zealand and the Philippines will pursue this in a cross-cutting way, including conducting information exchange, encouraging business-to-business contacts, fostering research, development and deployment of renewable energy and zero emissions transport technologies and sustainable agricultural practices.

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[Private Sector Key To Philippines' Low-Carbon Economy Transition](#)

Implementing the country's National Determined Contribution to the global mission of attaining net zero by 2050 will require the critical participation and support of the private sector, with an estimated total investment requirement of around USD 72.

"Our country is well-positioned to benefit from the transition to a low-carbon economy, and the private sector has a crucial role to play in driving this transformation," said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of the Climate Change Commission, at the Philippines' first-ever annual Net Zero Conference.

The landmark event was organized on the third year of the Net Zero Carbon Alliance (NZCA), the pioneering consortium of businesses and enterprises in the Philippines convened by Energy Development Corporation (EDC), the all-renewable energy arm of the Lopez Group's First Gen Corporation.

Borje further urged the private sector to recognize the opportunity to invest in a green economy. "The private sector possesses the capital, technology and innovation necessary to drive low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways," he said.

"The transition to net zero represents one of the largest economic shifts of our time," added Orkhan Mustafayev, Senior Advisor to the High-Level Champion on Business Engagement for COP29. He cited the International Energy Agency (IEA) in estimating that the global net zero journey will require clean energy investments to grow to USD 4 trillion annually by 2030.

Other special guests included Representative Jose Manuel F. Alba of the 1st District of Bukidnon, who is a member of the House Committee on Climate Change and co-author of House Bill 7705 or the Low-Carbon Economy Bill, which aims to engage the private sector toward decarbonization through viable and cost-competitive, low-carbon investments.

Amid the undeniable reality of climate change, "there is no other way to go but net zero," affirmed Federico Lopez, Chairman and Chief Executive of EDC parent First Philippine Holdings Corporation, in his keynote message opening the event.

"While addressing the climate crisis feels such a daunting task, we remain optimistic and encouraged as we see a myriad of sectors of society coming together and taking collective action," said Lopez.

"Our mission [at the Lopez Group] to forge collaborative pathways to a decarbonized and regenerative future continues to guide our path, and we reaffirm our commitment to

work together with all stakeholders, including the Net Zero Carbon Alliance to rally more businesses and organizations across all sectors to achieve our net zero ambition,” he added.

The event brought together an estimated 400 participants from businesses, policy-making bodies, financial institutions and other stakeholders. It also included activities in commemoration of NZCA’s third anniversary, such as signing the new partners’ pledge of commitment toward net zero, launching its Net Zero Stages of Progress, and the release of its current partners’ decarbonization accomplishments.

As of the conference, NZCA has counted 34 partner-members from various industries and enterprises such as manufacturing, real estate, hospitality, information technology, mobility, finance, and the academe, as well as five partner-enabler organizations.

Its new partners include Calibr8 Systems, Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc., Container Living PH, Control Union, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Inc., First Philec, Fluor Daniel Inc., GHD Pty. Ltd., Hocheng Philippines Corporation, InterCharge Corporation, OCS Philippines, SLB, and Weave Solutions Inc.

About the Net Zero Carbon Alliance

The Net Zero Carbon Alliance (NZCA) is a movement composed of organizations operating in the Philippines dedicated to achieving net-zero carbon emissions. NZCA brings together businesses and organizations from diverse sectors to foster innovation, share best practices, and accelerate the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy. Through collaboration and advocacy, the alliance promotes actionable strategies to reduce carbon emissions and support the global goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C. Our mission is to drive collective action toward a net-zero future by 2050, ensuring a sustainable and resilient planet for future generations.

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