



NEWS ROUNDUP

03 MAY 2024 [08:00 am]

- PH, Canada unveil new climate change adaptation program
- How can workers be protected from extreme heat?
- Heat index in PH continues to peak at dangerous levels, warns Pagasa
- DOF, JICA to execute \$1.5-B projects for 2024-2025
- PH, Canada push nature-based solutions for climate adaptation program
- 'Climate change inaction cost to reach P1.4 trillion by 2030'
- Japan commits P84 billion projects for Philippines

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- DENR backs Canada-PHL nature-based solutions deal
- CCC highlights importance of cross-sectoral collaboration in achieving SDGs

ABS CBN

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By: Jekki Pascual

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BUSINESS MIRROR

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Anna Leah Gonzales

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[‘Climate change inaction cost to reach P1.4 trillion by 2030’](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The cost of inaction against climate change could reach P1.4 trillion by 2030, or about eight percent of the 2020 gross domestic product, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

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By: Louise Maureen Simeon

The Japanese government has committed P84 billion worth of projects for the Philippines until early next year, according to the Department of Finance.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

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By: Roderick Abad

The Philippine government has partnered with its Canadian counterpart to push for natural ways to adapt to the changing climate patterns, whose adverse impact has been felt with constant high temperatures and extreme heat index records in many parts of the country for several weeks now.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the importance of solid and tangible working relationships with the public, private, and social sectors in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Global Good Governance (3G) Summit held recently.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[PH, Canada unveil new climate change adaptation program](#)

By: Jekki Pascual

Canada is allotting P332 million for a new climate change adaptation program in the Philippines.

The Forest Foundation Philippines will be implementing the project called Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation (PCP4Nbs).

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga on Thursday joined the launch of the new project which is aimed to enhance the climate resiliency of communities, empower women, and ensure that the programs will benefit the natural resources.

“Adaptation, in order to make sure our development is risk-informed and therefore resilience actually is achieved by bringing the science into decision-making in different levels,” said Yulo-Loyzaga.

The project will also push for evidence-based decision making, as well as develop learning modules and implement gender-responsive and community based solutions.

It will be a collaborative effort with communities, civil society groups, government agencies, and private sector to identify issues and implement initiatives that are tailored to the local community.

“There’s a specific emphasis on the role of gender in vulnerability management, i risk management and in development. And this is a real opportunity for us to focus on the value of the contributions of women especially those in indigenous communities who actually live this truth everyday first hand,” Yulo-Loyzaga added.

Edwina Garchitorea, chairperson of the Forest Foundation Philippines, also said that their approach is to collaborate with the communities and various stakeholders to make sure that protecting the environment is sustainable.

“It really brings together the community, the individuals, the climate, and biodiversity conservation together. We are articulating that relationship better through ‘NBS’... Developing baskets of blended finance that will make these initiatives, these nature-based solutions more sustainable,” Garchitorea said.

This is a 4-year program with pilot areas in Batanes, Camarines Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, and the Calamianes group of islands in Palawan.

“We’re very keen to work in a priority area for Canada, the Philippines, and indeed for all humanity to help address the most significant impacts of climate change by utilizing nature,” said Canada’s Ambassador to the Philippines David Hartman.

Yulo-Loyzaga thanked the government of Canada and the Forest Foundation Philippines as she asserts that economic development depends on the environment and that the economy belongs to the environment and not the other way around.

The project will begin this year and organizers plan to reach more areas in the coming years.

BUSINESS MIRROR

How can workers be protected from extreme heat?

More than two-thirds of workers have been exposed to excessive heat while doing their jobs, according to a new UN report, but few countries have taken steps to protect them as climate change makes heatwaves more frequent and intense

Nearly 19,000 people die every year due to workplace injuries attributed to excessive heat, and an estimated 26.2 million people are living with chronic kidney diseases linked to workplace heat stress, according to this month's report by the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO).

What are the health risks of extreme heat?

Heat exhaustion, which can include dizziness, headaches, shaking and thirst, can affect anyone, and is not usually serious, providing the person cools down within 30 minutes.

The more serious version is heatstroke, when the body's core temperature goes above 40.6 degrees Celsius (105 degrees Fahrenheit). It is a medical emergency and can lead to long-term organ damage and death. Symptoms include rapid breathing, confusion or seizures, and nausea.

Existing conditions, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, as well as diabetes, can also heighten risk - and be exacerbated by heat.

When temperatures exceed 38°C, the risk of workplace accidents and injuries rises by 10 per cent-15 per cent, research has found.

Which workers are most at risk?

People working outside are among those most at risk from extreme heat - from farm labourers to construction workers and gig workers, who often lack regular breaks or access to drinking water while out delivering orders.

"Food delivery drivers have heart attacks when it's hot outside ... We need to think of that in the context of climate change," said Oğuz Alyanak, a researcher at Fairwork, a gig research project at Britain's Oxford Internet Institute.

Inadequate cooling in the workplace can also pose problems for indoor workers such as domestic workers, teachers or garment factory employees.

Within those groups, pregnant women and older workers can be at particular risk of heat-related illness, while those with no sick leave benefits often feel unable to take time off if they feel unwell.

Migrant workers hired to work outdoors in hot countries are another high-risk group, especially when they are not given time to acclimatise, said Manal Azzi, an occupational safety and health safety expert at the ILO and the study's lead author.

"They just throw them on construction sites where they're daily facing excessive heat, and their bodies will react much worse than others," Azzi told Context.

They are also less likely to speak up because they do not know their rights and are scared of losing their jobs.

What is being done to protect workers from heat?

Countries including Spain have set heat exposure and maximum temperature limits for outdoor workers, and many in the Middle East enforce midday work bans and rest breaks when temperatures soar to dangerous levels in the summer months.

In the United Arab Emirates, for example, when labourers have to work during these hours, employers must provide cold drinking water, first-aid kits, cooling facilities and shaded rest areas.

Several Indian states have adopted heat action plans that recommend minimal outdoor activity during the hottest hours of the day, though that is not possible for many workers - including the country's roughly 7.5 million gig workers.

And as record heat hit the United States in mid-2023, the Biden administration issued its first heatwave hazard alert to affirm workers' rights to heat protections.

In the Philippines, record temperatures in recent weeks led thousands of public schools to switch to online classes as the heatwaves took a toll on the health of both teachers and students. They were also allowed to wear cooler clothing, instead of uniforms.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Heat index in PH continues to peak at dangerous levels, warns Pagasa](#)

By: Luisa Cabato

The heat index in the country peaked at a scorching 42 to 48 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Based on the state weather bureau's computed heat index as of 5 p.m. on May 2, heat indices under the "danger" category were recorded in the following areas:

48 degree Celsius

- Dagupan City, Pangasinan
- Appari, Cagayan

46 degree Celsius

- Roxas City, Capiz
- 45 degree Celsius
- Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
- Cuyo, Palawan

44 degree Celsius

- Iba, Zambales
- Dumangas, Iloilo
- Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur

43 degree Celsius

- Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
- San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
- Virac (Synop), Catanduanes

42 degree Celsius

- MMSU in Batac, Ilocos Norte
- Casiguran, Aurora
- Cubi Point in Subic Bay, Olongapo City
- Infanta, Quezon
- Coron, Palawan

- Aborlan, Palawan
- Masbate City, Masbate
- Catbalogan, Samar
- Borongan, Eastern Samar
- Davao City, Davao del Sur
- Cotabato City, Maguindanao

Pagasa defines heat index as “a measure of the contribution that high humidity makes with abnormally high temperatures in reducing the body’s ability to cool itself.”

Heat indices ranging from 42 to 51 degrees Celsius fall under the “danger” category.

People exposed to these heat indices are prone to heat cramps, exhaustion, and even heat stroke with drawn-out exposure.

To prevent the effects of roasting weather, Pagasa said the public must limit time spent outdoors; drink plenty of water; avoid tea, coffee, soda, and liquor; use umbrellas, wear hats, and wear sleeved clothing outdoors; and schedule heavy-duty activities on the cooler periods of the day.

Pagasa noted that symptoms of heat-related illnesses include heavy sweating, exhaustion or fatigue, dizziness or lightheadedness, blacking out or feeling dizzy when standing, a weak but fast pulse, nausea, and vomiting.

In cases of emergency, Pagasa advised the public to do the following:

- Move the person to a shady spot and lie him or her down with legs elevated
- If conscious, have them sip cool water
- Remove clothing, apply cool water to the skin and provide ventilation
- Apply ice packs to the armpits, wrists, ankles, and groin
- Bring to a hospital immediately

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[DOF, JICA to execute \\$1.5-B projects for 2024-2025](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The Department of Finance (DOF) said on Thursday it is set to execute around USD1.5 billion worth of pipeline projects with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 2024 to 2025.

The DOF and JICA are also working toward executing four major loan agreements within the year.

In a statement, the DOF said the development was discussed during a meeting between DOF Undersecretary for the International Finance Group (IFG) Joven Balbosa and JICA's Director General of Southeast-Asia and Pacific Department Hayakawa Yuho on April 18, 2024 at the JICA Office in Washington, D.C.

During the meeting, the DOF and JICA discussed the timeline and preparations required to facilitate the signing of the loan agreements for projects on maritime safety, roads and flood risk management, which are targeted before the end of the year.

JICA, meanwhile, expressed its plan to expand its funding into other sectors that are in line with the Marcos administration's development objectives, such as agriculture, education and health.

JICA also expressed its openness to scale up its policy-based lending, with an intent to co-finance the Climate Change Action Program (CCAP) Subprogram 2 with the Asian Development Bank and Agence Française de Développement.

The CCAP will support the Philippines in implementing its national climate policies, including its Nationally Determined Contribution.

The program will intensify efforts to transform key sectors toward a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy.

The DOF also sought JICA's assistance in bringing in more private sector financing to support the administration's development goals as the Philippines transitions to an upper-middle income country status.

Last year, Japan was the country's largest official development assistance (ODA) partner with total loans and grants amounting to USD12.30 billion.

The amount accounted for about 32.82 percent of the total ODA as of December 2023.

[PH, Canada push nature-based solutions for climate adaptation program](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Philippines, through the Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP), has partnered with the government of Canada to find nature-based solutions for adapting to climate change.

During the program launch of the Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS) in Makati City on Thursday, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga cited the critical and urgent need to build capacity for adaptation.

She said the partnership will help strengthen the resilience of Filipinos, especially rural and indigenous women, against the impacts of the interconnected crisis due to the impact of climate change, loss of biodiversity, degradation and diminishing of the green and blue forests, and pollution, on the resilience and sustainability of the country.

It will also includes the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and resources in assessing protected areas and in applying science and new tools to ensure ecological integrity.

“What decades of use, misuse, neglect, and disruption have done cannot be recovered in months. But with honest, respectful, and evidence-informed partnerships like these, we remain undaunted at the DENR,” Loyzaga said.

“These allow the DENR in this administration to know where to start and what must be done to protect our vast office --that is – 30 million hectares of land, 15 million hectares of classified forests, over 7 million hectares of protected areas, 36,000 kilometers of coastline and 2.2 (million) square kilometers of territorial seas,” she added.

Loyzaga said that while mitigation has been strategic for climate-vulnerable countries like the Philippines, there is still an urgent need to build capacity for adaptation.

Loyzaga said the Philippine government has presented the completion of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) at the 28th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC).

She explained that based on the NAP, inaction on adaptation within the 2030 decade is estimated to cost around PHP1.4 trillion, or about 8 percent of 2020 gross domestic product.

“Nature-based solutions are critical to our arsenal and must be rooted in the best available science as well as indigenous and local knowledge. Scaling up is part of the thematic areas that we address in the NAP, and this particular project is well within those areas,” Loyzaga added.

With these initiatives, she expressed optimism toward the protection and rehabilitation of biodiversity, critical habitats, and ecosystems amidst the impending climate hazards and the climate vulnerability of communities.

Meanwhile, the DENR has taken a whole-of-government approach in crafting new evidence-informed plans on adaptation and has shifted towards building new non-traditional whole-of-society approaches to solutions.

Loyzaga said that with the partnership, she looks forward to targeting three wins: biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, gender equality, and the resilience of communities in the context of natural resource management.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

'Climate change inaction cost to reach P1.4 trillion by 2030'

By: Bella Cariaso

The cost of inaction against climate change could reach P1.4 trillion by 2030, or about eight percent of the 2020 gross domestic product, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

During the launch of the Philippine-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation in Makati, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said that building capacity for adaptation and mitigation is both critical and urgent for a climate vulnerable country like the Philippines.

“This is especially important when we consider our ecosystems and the services they deliver as the lifeblood of our communities, and the support they give to different sectors in our economy. We know that gender-based vulnerability is compounded by intersectionality,” Loyzaga said.

She said marginalization and multiple social and physical burdens compound climate risk. “When gender intersects, conflict, ethnicity, age, literacy, poverty, disability and vulnerability to the impacts of extreme weather and other hazards deepens, thus the importance of this particular initiative,” Loyzaga said.

She said the Philippines presented the completion of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) during the 28th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

“This was deemed very important in terms of defining the scope and magnitude of our needs. Nature-based solutions are critical to our arsenal and must be rooted in the best available science as well as indigenous and local knowledge. Scaling up is part of the thematic areas that we address in the NAP and this particular project is well within those areas,” Loyzaga added.

She said there is a need to protect and rehabilitate biodiversity, critical habitats and ecosystems amid climate hazards and the vulnerability of communities.

The DENR has taken a whole-of-government approach in crafting a new evidence-informed plan on adaptation, which falls within that whole-of-government approach.

Japan commits P84 billion projects for Philippines

By: Louise Maureen Simeon

The Japanese government has committed P84 billion worth of projects for the Philippines until early next year, according to the Department of Finance.

The DOF said it would execute roughly 227.6 billion Japanese yen (P83.9 billion) worth of pipeline projects with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan's bilateral aid agency, this year until early 2025.

This came after the DOF's International Finance Group met with JICA director general of Southeast Asia and the Pacific department Hayakawa Yuho recently.

Japan also vowed to execute an annual average pipeline of about 249.2 billion Japanese yen or roughly P92.18 billion until 2027.

Four loan agreements are likewise scheduled to be signed before yearend. These will cover projects on maritime safety, roads and flood risk management.

Aside from the usual portfolio of infrastructure projects funded by JICA, the bilateral aid agency is also looking at expanding into other sectors.

These are in agriculture, education and health, which are all part of the administration's development objectives.

Finance Undersecretary Joven Balbosa said JICA expressed openness to scale up its policy-based lending with an intent to co-finance the Climate Change Action Program (CCAP) Subprogram 2 with the Asian Development Bank and Agence Française de Développement.

The CCAP will support the Philippines in implementing its national climate policies, including its nationally determined contribution (NDC).

The program will intensify efforts to transform key sectors toward a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy.

Further, the Philippines and JICA committed to maintain an open dialogue and address any delay to improve overall project management and minimize costs to the government.

The DOF also sought JICA's assistance in bringing in more private sector financing to support the administration's development goals as the Philippines transitions to an upper middle income country status.

Such a status would mean that the Philippines will gradually move away from concessional financing from partners such as JICA.

Japan is the country's largest official development assistance (ODA) partner, with \$12.3 billion in net commitments of loans and grants as of end-2023.

This is 33 percent of the total ODA of the Philippines.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[DENR backs Canada-PHL nature-based solutions deal](#)

By: Roderick Abad

The Philippine government has partnered with its Canadian counterpart to push for natural ways to adapt to the changing climate patterns, whose adverse impact has been felt with constant high temperatures and extreme heat index records in many parts of the country for several weeks now.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga keyed the Philippine Canadian Partnership on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS) Program launch at the Makati Diamond Residences on Thursday.

The event was led by Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines David Hartman and Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP) Chairperson Edwina Garchitorea, and the rest of the FFP Board of Trustees.

According to the DENR chief, this partnership beefs up the strength of the Filipino—especially rural and indigenous women—against the effects of the interconnected crisis due to impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, the degradation and diminishing of green and blue forests, pollution, conflict and the cascading repercussions these may have on the nation’s resilience and sustainability.

“We must recognize that for a climate-vulnerable country like the Philippines, while mitigation has been strategic, building capacity for adaptation has been and continues to be both critical and urgent. This is especially important when we consider our ecosystems and the services they deliver as the lifeblood of our communities and the support they give to different sectors in our economy,” she said.

Loyzaga noted that gender-based susceptibility is compounded by intersectionality, as marginalization and multiple social and physical problems exacerbate the climate risk. She explained: “When gender intersects, conflict, ethnicity, age, literacy, poverty and disability, vulnerability to the impacts of extreme weather and other hazards deepens thus the importance of this particular initiative.”

The National Adaptation Plan

SEEING the importance of defining the scope and magnitude of the country's climate action, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) had formulated and completed the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) aimed at mitigating vulnerability to the effects of climate change by building the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities.

The Philippine government presented the NAP during the 28th Conference of Parties of the UN FCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in late 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Citing the NAP, the DENR secretary bared that inaction on adaptation within the 2030 decade is estimated to cost around P1.4 trillion.

"Nature-based solutions are critical to our arsenal and must be rooted in the best available science as well as indigenous and local knowledge. Scaling up is part of the thematic areas that we address in the NAP, and this particular project is well within those areas," Loyzaga said.

"We look towards protecting and rehabilitating biodiversity, critical habitats and ecosystems amidst the climate hazards that they face and the climate vulnerability of communities," she added.

Facing this challenge, Loyzaga said they have taken a whole-of-government approach in crafting the new evidence-informed plans on adaptation while shifting towards building new non-traditional whole-of-society approaches to solutions that consider those who truly are willing to work with the Marcos Jr. administration.

"There is no natural constituency for climate resilience. We need to build it. And that building must be done out of trust and respect between all stakeholders across all sectors," she pointed out.

To institutionalize NbS, the DENR, she said, has started to craft the national policies for this in the hope that Filipinos will support this effort.

Bilateral agreements

IN 2024, Canada and the Philippines will mark 75 years of their strong bilateral relations. Since 1986, the former has contributed over \$1 billion in official development assistance to the latter, averaging \$24 million annually in the last five years (all projects combined).

The PCP4NbS Program forms part of the \$28.15-million investment pledge of Canada in development programming for the Philippines, underscoring support for climate adaptation, resilience against natural disasters, and enhanced health care services, per a news release of Global Affairs Canada last February.

FFP will implement an \$8-million project in support of vulnerable communities as they reduce the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. This initiative will aid in funding and capacity building to support gender-responsive, nature-based solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss.

“Our development and bilateral partners have also played an important role in biodiversity conservation, climate action and the fight against plastic pollution. We wish to cite here that we are deeply grateful to the Government of Canada for its generous support through the projects funded by the GEF or the Global Environment Facility and for its development assistance to the Philippines which spans many decades,” Loyzaga said.

She said the DENR remains dauntless with “honest, respectful and evidence-informed partnerships like these,” thus allowing the agency to know where to begin and what must be done to protect its so-called vast office that is the 30 million hectares of land, 15 million hectares of classified forests, over 7 million hectares of Protected Areas, 36,000 kilometers of coastline and 2.2 (million) square kilometers of territorial seas.

“We therefore look forward to working with FFP, its partners and the Government of Canada on PCP4NbS. We are targeting three wins: biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, gender equality and the resilience of communities in the context of natural resource management,” Loyzaga said.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC highlights importance of cross-sectoral collaboration in achieving SDGs](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the importance of solid and tangible working relationships with the public, private, and social sectors in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Global Good Governance (3G) Summit held recently.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, the CCC's Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, joined the summit as a panelist in the discussion on Strategic Governance for Bridging the SDGs Gap in Public, Private, and Social Sectors.

He discussed several key points including the different frameworks, programs, and policies that institutionalize Philippine commitments to sustainable development. He also stressed the significance of involving and supporting both the local government units (LGUs) and the private sector in the climate and sustainability agenda, and government approaches to monitoring and evaluating governance in bridging SDGs gap.

"The LGUs are one of the most important actors in achieving our targets for climate resiliency and smartness. After all, they are at the frontlines of climate change, which is why it's critical that we provide them capacity and technical assistance through our different frameworks and programs," said Borje.

"Likewise, partnership with the private sector is essential if we want to successfully attain all the goals and plans that we have as part of our mission to bring sustainability and climate resiliency to the Philippines. We want to make sure that we set up the private sector to succeed in their sustainability and climate change formulation, and engagement with the government," he added.

Borje stressed the integration of all SDGs into the development plans and processes of the government in its framework documents, including the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NCCAP), draft National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP).

He also emphasized the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the national plans and frameworks such as Measurement Reporting and Evaluation (MRV), Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, and Learning (MEAL), and Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and Sustainability Reporting for the private sector.

Discussions at the event focused on the following: Inclusivity in decision-making at all levels of governance; Methodologies and metrics for assessing the impact of governance initiatives on sustainable development goals; How effective governance structures can contribute to crisis management, build resilience, and facilitate a swift recovery in the face of unexpected challenges; The role of governance in mitigating climate change and promoting environmental Sustainability; The importance of international collaboration, diplomatic efforts, and global partnerships in achieving shared sustainable development goals; Empowering the youth in governance processes, fostering a new generation of leaders; and Strategies to promote gender equality in governance structures, ensuring representation and opportunities for women in decision-making processes.

The Global Good Governance serves as a global hub for dialogue, deliberation, and engagement aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of key issues in governance, ethics, and sustainability.

It brought together policymakers, experts, decision-makers, practitioners, entrepreneurs, representatives from the government and non-government organizations, and academicians, to introduce new knowledge, advocate for world-class solutions, and hear a diverse range of voices on the theme “Aligning Good Governance with Sustainable Development Goals.”

Organized by Cambridge IFA — a financial services intelligence house based in the UK, and hosted by the Philippines’ Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), this year’s 3G Summit aimed to explore the crucial intersection between effective governance and the achievement of SDGs.

It also delved into multifaceted topics on transparency, accountability, ethical leadership, and innovative policy frameworks that can propel society toward the realization of SDGs while discussing the development of actionable strategies to foster alignment between governance practices and the broader goals of sustainable development.

The CCC remains steadfast in its commitment to capacitating and involving all Filipinos across sectors in the national decision-making process and efforts toward climate change mitigation and adaptation.

By pushing for inclusive and robust climate policies, initiatives, and programs, the CCC aims to bridge the gap in the SDGs in the context of cross-sectoral implementation.

For more information on the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit www.climate.gov.ph and www.facebook.com/CCCPhl.

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