



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### DAILY GUARDIAN

#### [Government acts to stabilize food prices amid climate challenges](#)

By: Francis Allan L. Angelo

In response to the alarming spike in food inflation and the ongoing global and environmental challenges, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) outlined its strategies to uphold food security, a top priority for the government.

## **DAILY TRIBUNE**

### **[Carbon capture machine fights global warming](#)**

With Mammoth's 72 industrial fans, Swiss start-up Climeworks intends to suck 36,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air annually to bury underground, vying to prove the technology has a place in the fight against global warming.

## **ECO BUSINESS**

### **[Four Asean countries among the world's top emitters at high risk of climate disaster](#)**

By: Samantha Ho

Out of the top 30 countries responsible for almost 90 per cent of the world's carbon emissions, four Southeast Asian countries are among those that will face the most severe impacts of climate change, new research revealed.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[Sinking island in Bohol affects livelihood, education of residents; declared 'inhabitable' by DENR](#)**

By: Carby Basina

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### **[La Niña is coming, raising the chances of a dangerous Atlantic hurricane season – an atmospheric scientist explains this climate phenomenon](#)**

By: Pedro DiNezio

One of the big contributors to the record-breaking global temperatures over the past year – El Niño – is nearly gone, and its opposite, La Niña, is on the way.

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### **[Combat climate change thru geoengineering](#)**

Climate studies are increasingly becoming politicized. Harvard University recently shut down a key geoengineering research project because of intense backlash, despite the college's aspiration to become "a global beacon on climate change."

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By: Nanette Guadalquiver

A PHP2 million Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Training Center will soon rise in Sagay City, Negros Occidental through the assistance of the Department of Agriculture (DA) 6 (Western Visayas).

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[LGUs laud sustainable dev't project](#)**

Several local government units (LGUs) nationwide are commending the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) flagship program, Project TRANSFORM (Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multistakeholder Engagement), a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to empower communities to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Taking the path to net zero carbon](#)**

By: Jonathan L. Mayuga

More and more companies are going green, implementing environmental programs beyond the usual tree-planting, and introducing innovative solutions to the problems as a result of climate change.

## **DAILY TRIBUNE**

### **[Borje urges closing adaptation finance gaps](#)**

Recognizing that finance and investments are crucial for implementing transformative climate actions, the Philippines called for the immediate delivery of climate finance commitments and underscored the need to close adaptation finance gaps, including through exploring innovative sources, to support developing nations' adaptation measures.

### **[CCC explores climate strategy from carbon-free Bhutan](#)**

Sharing insights and experiences, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Bhutan's Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) engaged in a discussion, exchanging best practices, victories, and challenges in addressing the impacts of climate change and examining potential areas of collaboration.

### **[CCC head stresses partnership with private sector](#)**

The head of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) visited the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in Punta Dumalag, Davao City for the third time and planted a tree in the mangrove to strengthen public and private sector partnership in mitigating climate change.

### **[Climate change action and planetary protection: A post-Mother's Day reflection](#)**

By: Robert E.A. Borje

A mother's love mirrors God's immeasurable and unconditional affection. Despite a child's flaws, a mother's heart remains open, accepting and forgiving. Similarly, Mother Earth, our nurturing parent, provides for us unconditionally.

### **['Filipina Changemakers' forum empowers women eco-warriors](#)**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), in partnership with the Office of Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda and The Climate Reality Project Philippines, convened "Filipina Changemakers: Champions for Climate Resilience," a forum and panel discussion highlighting the roles and challenges of women in climate action.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[\[Opinion\] Ocean Month: Think blue, keep marine ecosystems healthy](#)**

“The month of May is the peak fishing season in the Philippines, an appropriate occasion for direct beneficiaries to show their support for management initiatives pertaining to the oceans.” This was among the rationale for Presidential Proclamation 57, signed in 1998, declaring May as the month of the ocean in the Philippines.

## **PAGEONE**

### **[Close Adaptation Finance Gaps For Transformative Climate Action](#)**

The Philippines has called for the immediate delivery of climate finance commitments and underscored the need to close adaptation finance gaps, including through exploring innovative sources, to support developing nations’ adaptation measures.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[Mindoro 'calamansi' industry gets major funding from Korean agency](#)**

By: Miguel Gil

This province may be on its way to attaining its goal of becoming the country’s “calamansi capital,” thanks to local ingenuity and foreign financing support.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## DAILY GUARDIAN

### Government acts to stabilize food prices amid climate challenges

By: Francis Allan L. Angelo

In response to the alarming spike in food inflation and the ongoing global and environmental challenges, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) outlined its strategies to uphold food security, a top priority for the government.

NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan addressed concerns following the Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) recent report which noted an increase in the country's inflation rate to 3.8 percent in April 2024 from 3.7 percent in March 2024.

Although within the target range, this slight increase signals the need for careful economic management.

Significantly, food inflation jumped to 6.3 percent in April from 5.7 percent the previous month. Vegetables, fish, and ready-made products saw considerable price increases of 4.3 percent, 0.4 percent, and 4.8 percent, respectively.

Conversely, rice, a staple in Filipino diets, showed a slight decrease in inflation to 23.9 percent in April from 24.4 percent in March, yet it continues to be a major inflation driver.

Amid these challenges, Secretary Balisacan emphasized the government's comprehensive approach.

"We are taking comprehensive measures to ensure food security amid geopolitical concerns and weather patterns worsened by climate change," he stated. "The government's major strategies aim to increase productivity, build the resilience of the agriculture sector, and improve the efficiency of food systems."

These efforts are part of the broader Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, which focuses on modernizing the agricultural and agribusiness sectors.

In a significant move on April 30, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed Executive Order (EO) No. 59, expediting the implementation of the country's Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs).

These projects are designed to enhance the agricultural sector's connectivity to markets, thereby reducing transport costs.

Furthering these measures, Administrative Order No. 20 reconstitutes a surveillance team to oversee the importation and distribution of agricultural products. This team, involving multiple government agencies, aims to curb price manipulation and unfair trading practices, ensuring fair prices for Filipino consumers.

Secretary Balisacan concluded with a firm reassurance of the Marcos Administration's commitment to not just addressing immediate price spikes but also ensuring long-term food security and economic stability.

"We prioritize food security, economic growth, and the welfare of our producers and consumers," he affirmed. "Our actions aim to boost local production and prepare for any challenges in food supply and price upticks."

Through these strategic initiatives, the government hopes to mitigate the impact of both El Niño and La Niña on the nation's food supply and stabilize prices in the face of global economic disruptions.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Carbon capture machine fights global warming](#)

With Mammoth's 72 industrial fans, Swiss start-up Climeworks intends to suck 36,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air annually to bury underground, vying to prove the technology has a place in the fight against global warming.

Mammoth, the largest carbon dioxide capture and storage facility of its kind, launched operations this week situated on a dormant volcano in Iceland.

It adds significant capacity to the Climeworks's first project Orca, which also sucks the primary greenhouse gas fueling climate change from the atmosphere.

Just 50 kilometers from an active volcano, the seemingly risky site was chosen for its proximity to the Hellisheidi geothermal energy plant necessary to power the facility's fans and heat chemical filters to extract CO<sub>2</sub> with water vapor.

CO<sub>2</sub> is then separated from the steam and compressed in a hangar where huge pipes crisscross.

Finally, the gas is dissolved in water and pumped underground with a "sort of giant SodaStream," said Bergur Sigfusson, chief system development officer for Carbfix which developed the process.

A well, drilled under a futuristic-looking dome, injects the water 700 meters down into volcanic basalt that makes up 90 percent of Iceland's subsoil where it reacts with the magnesium, calcium and iron in the rock to form crystals — solid reservoirs of CO<sub>2</sub>.



## ECO BUSINESS

### Four Asean countries among the world's top emitters at high risk of climate disaster

By: Samantha Ho

Out of the top 30 countries responsible for almost 90 per cent of the world's carbon emissions, four Southeast Asian countries are among those that will face the most severe impacts of climate change, new research revealed.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are among the 13 countries identified as major emitters which will also be the most exposed to climate hazards if current emissions trajectories continue, said Verisk Maplecroft, a global risk advisory firm in a statement published on Thursday. Other countries on the list include Brazil, India, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Verisk Maplecroft's Climate Hazard Index, which measures countries' exposure to 16 chronic and acute climate risks, showed that there is a "clear overlap" between the countries perpetuating global warming and those set to face the harshest consequences. The risks measured include extreme temperatures, drought and severe storms.

"The United Nations' Conference of Parties (COP) process might give the impression that countries are either drivers or sufferers of climate change. But our analysis reveals a clear overlap between those perpetuating global warming and the societies and economies set to face the harshest consequences," said James Lockhart Smith, Verisk Maplecroft's head of sustainable finance and research lead for the study.

The world's two largest emitters, the United States and China however, "should, for the most part, escape the very worst of outcomes," Verisk Maplecroft said. Its data identifies "carbon-heavy markets that will need to undertake extreme adaptation to protect their populations, societies and economies", especially if average surface temperatures breach the 2-degree Celsius threshold for global warming.

Researchers also considered outcomes based on lower levels of global warming leading up to 2080, using the latest data from sources including the International Panel on Climate Change's sixth assessment report. However, even in the most optimistic climate scenario, Malaysia, Iraq, Mexico and Australia face critically high physical risks. All four suffer much poorer outcomes under either middle-of-the-road or worst-case scenarios.

The researchers also paired its physical risk scenarios with three transition risk scenarios from a global network of central banks and supervisors, the Network for

Greening Financial System (NGFS). The data showed that for 10 countries including India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, policy decisions would lock in physical risks later this century, with these countries likely to experience the most significant effects of climate change under all three scenarios.

Ideally, acknowledgement of this “overlap” between countries that are both high carbon emitters and at high risk of climate impact would “reinvigorate stalled global progress” on climate action via the COP process, said Smith and Verisk Maplecroft’s head of climate resilience, Will Nichols.

“Alternatively – and more realistically – self-interest could become even more entrenched,” they warned. “With a host of key elections on the road to COP30, the end of next year could present an even more complicated path towards global carbon reductions.”

### Hotter days ahead

Verisk Maplecroft’s data suggests that extreme heat is the standout physical risk for most of these countries. Malaysia, Mexico and Brazil are expected to experience ‘hot days’ of more than 35 degrees Celsius in a worst-case scenario.

Southeast Asia has already suffered multiple casualties due to extreme heat over the past few weeks, with temperatures nearing record highs. Thirty people have died in Thailand, where the country’s heat index, a measure that considers humidity levels, rose to an “extremely dangerous” 52 degrees Celsius in April. More than 100 new temperature highs were recorded across Vietnam in the same month.

In Malaysia, minister of natural resources and environmental sustainability Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad advised the public on Tuesday to exercise caution amid a Level 2 heatwave in some parts of the country, which occurs when the maximum temperature exceeds 37 degrees Celsius for more than three consecutive days.

“More frequent and intense extreme weather events will be damaging, but heat itself is likely to be the single biggest threat to economic activity, and indeed human life in these countries,” said Smith and Nichols.

These findings should provide a clear incentive for these countries to cut emissions as soon as possible, they added. “A swift and managed energy transition could provide significant physical risk gains compared to a delayed or disorderly transition – where emissions-cutting policy measures could be imposed with little warning.”

However, Nichols acknowledged that financing climate solutions in developing countries has been “notoriously tricky”, given long return periods, typically low credit ratings, and concerns over governance.

“Global instability kicking off an energy crisis and inflationary pressures compound these issues for international climate finance,” he told Eco-Business.

The updated Asean Taxonomy, however, which defines sustainable activities for potential investors, is a positive step towards lowering green investment barriers in the region, Nichols added. Complementary policies could include shifting policy support from fossil fuels to renewable alternatives, mandating climate disclosures and improving governance.

## GMA NEWS

### [Sinking island in Bohol affects livelihood, education of residents; declared 'inhabitable' by DENR](#)

By: Carby Basina

There are 7,641 islands in the Philippines, but recently, there has been a growing concern that this number might decrease as some of the country's smaller islands begin sinking into the waters.

According to the recent episode of "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho," this is observed in Batasan Island on Tubigon, Bohol.

To investigate the current situation, Jessica Soho traveled all the way to Bohol.

When an earthquake struck the island in 2013, its land started sinking until it reached below sea level waters, affecting residents' livelihoods and education.

Out of Tubigon's 34 barangays, six of them are islands, and four of them are in great danger of sinking underwater.

Residents said that they are already used to the constant increase in the level of water. They keep track of the high and low tides using their calendars, which every house has.

Houses also have an extra barrier made with piles of coral so water won't get inside. They also installed fishing nets so garbage wouldn't pass through.

Mirasol Salomon, a resident born on the island, admitted that it has been a struggle for them dealing with the water.

"Makakatulog naman pero minsan, 'pag gabi 'yung dagat po, hindi kami makakatulog," she said. "Kunwari mataas ang higaan namin, maabot sa dagat hindi kami muna matutulog."

["We can't sleep properly because we're afraid the water level will rise."]

She said that they would just carry the children whenever the water reached their beds.

Aside from Batayan Island, its neighboring islands, Ubay, Inanuran, and Bilang-bilangan, have also started sinking.

"Yung geological setting talaga ng Bohol ay mostly limestone 'yung lupa. So nu'ng nagkaroon ng earthquake, umangat 'yung ibang parts ng Bohol. Pero dahil umangat 'yung ibang parts ng Bohol, ibig sabihin may lulubog na ibang parts ng Bohol. So unfortunately, isa ang Batasan doon sa mga areas na lumubog," Greenpeace Campaigner Jefferson Chua from Greenpeace Philippines said.

["The land in Bohol is mostly composed of limestone. So when the earthquake hit, many parts of Bohol rose, which meant that some parts sank. Unfortunately, Batasan was one of the areas that sank."]

Affected areas outside of Bohol

Aside from the islands in Bohol, this is also experienced in other parts of the Philippines, including some areas in Bulacan, Mindoro, Roxas City in Capiz, and Cotabato City.

According to data gathered by Greenpeace East Asia, because of the 13.24 mm water level rise in Manila Bay, it is not noticeable that Metro Manila is also sinking by 10 centimeters per year.

"May report kami that showed na by 2030 napakataas ng chance na mas madali nang mapasukan ng tubig ang Manila dahil sa sea level rise na 'yan," Chua said.

["One of our reports showed that by 2030, there's a much higher chance that Manila will be flooded by water because of the rise in sea level."]

Since the year 1880, it is estimated that the sea level has risen by 21 to 24 centimeters around the world.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of America, the global sea level is rising by 3.4 millimeters per year.

Our neighboring country, Indonesia, which is also an archipelago like the Philippines, is set to move its capital from Jakarta to Nusantara in Borneo due to the gradual sinking of the capital.

'Inhabitable'

While residents of Batasan Island have already been advised to flee the island, they said that things are easier said than done, especially since it is the place where they were born and spent their lives.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has also already declared the island inhabitable.

When asked if there's still a chance to save the island, Romeo Geronimo MENRO, Tubigon, Bohol said, "As of now, wala pa ma'am. Nag-submerge na talaga siya."

["At present, there is no chance; the area is completely submerged."]

"Dine-declare na 'yung mga islands na no-build zone. In-encourage talaga namin sila na mag-relocate. Kasi kung LGU lang hindi kaya 'pag funds ng LGU. And fortunately, mayroon kaming grant from the National Housing Authority worth 50 million. And it's going to be 60 units for each family, pero 'yung affected is like 300." Froilan Cosgasa, Tubigon MDRRMO said.

["The islands have been declared as no-build zones. We strongly encourage the residents to relocate because the local government unit doesn't have enough funds. We have a grant from the National Housing Authority that's worth 50 million. But that is not enough for the 300 families that are affected."]

What is causing this?

Climate change is the reason why this is happening, according to Greenpeace Campaigner Jefferson Chua.

"Normal ang proseso ng pagbago ng klima pero nakikita natin na dahil sa mga ginagawa ng mga tao, na-accelerate nito ang climate change in historical levels," he said.

["The change in climate is normal, but due to human activities, the pace of climate change has accelerated to unprecedented historical levels."]

According to experts, global warming, which is one of the manifestations of climate change, can now be considered "global boiling," or the rapid increase in global temperature.

"Trailer lang 'to. Ang mga impacts ng climate change is two-fold, three-fold, four-fold even sa naramdaman natin ngayon. Medyo sumusuko na tayo sa 40 degree weather," Chua said.

["What we're experiencing right now is only a glimpse of what could happen because of global warming. Right now, we're already struggling with the 40-degree weather."]

Because of this, rain in the Philippines will become unpredictable.

"Pero 'yung pinaka-glaring talaga doon, kapag nag-continue tayo sa kung paano natin pinapatakbo ang mga business natin on fossil fuels ngayon at hindi bumaba 'yung carbon emissions natin, we're looking at 365 days of extreme heat buong taon. Ganoon kalala. So 'di 'ba nakakatakot siya," Chua said.

["If we continue doing what we're doing and our carbon emissions don't decrease, we're looking at 365 days of extreme heat. It's that serious. Isn't that scary?"]

"Kaya kailangan maging mas urgent po talaga ang panawagan para maging accountable ang mga carbon majors natin sa ginagawa nila sa mundo ngayon," he added.

["That's why we have this more urgent call for carbon majors to be accountable for what they're doing."]

## INTERAKSYON

### [La Niña is coming, raising the chances of a dangerous Atlantic hurricane season – an atmospheric scientist explains this climate phenomenon](#)

By: Pedro DiNezio

One of the big contributors to the record-breaking global temperatures over the past year – El Niño – is nearly gone, and its opposite, La Niña, is on the way.

Whether that's a relief or not depends in part on where you live. Above-normal temperatures are still forecast across the U.S. in summer 2024. And if you live along the U.S. Atlantic or Gulf coasts, La Niña can contribute to the worst possible combination of climate conditions for fueling hurricanes.

Pedro DiNezio, an atmosphere and ocean scientist at the University of Colorado who studies El Niño and La Niña, explains why and what's ahead.

What is La Niña?

La Niña and El Niño are the two extremes of a recurring climate pattern that can affect weather around the world.

Forecasters know La Niña has arrived when temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean along the equator west of South America cool by at least half a degree Celsius (0.9 Fahrenheit) below normal. During El Niño, the same region warms instead.

Those temperature fluctuations might seem small, but they can affect the atmosphere in ways that ripple across the planet.

How La Nina and El Nino form. NOAA.

The tropics have an atmospheric circulation pattern called the Walker Circulation, named after Sir Gilbert Walker, an English physicist in the early 20th century. The Walker Circulation is basically giant loops of air rising and descending in different parts of the tropics.

Normally, air rises over the Amazon and Indonesia because moisture from the tropical forests makes the air more buoyant there, and it comes down in East Africa and the eastern Pacific. During La Niña, those loops intensify, generating stormier conditions where they rise and drier conditions where they descend. During El Niño, ocean heat in the eastern Pacific instead shifts those loops, so the eastern Pacific gets stormier.



During La Niña, the Walker Circulation intensifies, triggering stronger storms where the air rises.

Fiona Martin, NOAA Climate.gov

During El Niño, the Walker Circulation shifts eastward, so more storms form off California as warm air rises over the warmer waters of the eastern Pacific.

Fiona Martin, NOAA Climate.gov

EL Niño and La Niña also affect the jet stream, a strong current of air that blows from west to east across the U.S. and other mid-latitude regions.

During El Niño, the jet stream tends to push storms toward the subtropics, making these typically dry areas wetter. Conversely, mid-latitude regions that normally would get the storms become drier because storms shift away.

This year, forecasters expect a fast transition to La Niña – likely by late summer. After a strong El Niño, like the world saw in late 2023 and early 2024, conditions tend to swing fairly quickly to La Niña. How long it will stick around is an open question. This cycle tends to swing from extreme to extreme every three to seven years on average, but while El Niños tend to be short-lived, La Niñas can last two years or longer.

La Niña and its opposite, El Niño

La Niña forms when surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean are about 0.5°C (0.9°F) below normal for three months. El Niño is the reverse, with temperatures warmer than normal. The chart shows the three-month rolling average temperature anomaly.

How does La Niña affect hurricanes?

Temperatures in the tropical Pacific also control wind shear over large parts of the Atlantic Ocean.

Wind shear is a difference in wind speeds at different heights or direction. Hurricanes have a harder time holding their column structure during strong wind shear because stronger winds higher up push the column apart.

La Niña produces less wind shear, removing a brake on hurricanes. That's not good news for people living in hurricane-prone regions like Florida. In 2020, during the last La

Niña, the Atlantic saw a record 30 tropical storms and 14 hurricanes, and 2021 had 21 tropical storms and seven hurricanes.

Forecasters are already warning that this year's Atlantic storm season could rival 2021, due in large part to La Niña. The tropical Atlantic has also been exceptionally warm, with sea surface temperature-breaking records for over a year. That warmth affects the atmosphere, causing more atmospheric motion over the Atlantic, fueling hurricanes.

Does La Niña mean drought returns to the US Southwest?

The U.S. Southwest's water supplies will probably be OK for the first year of La Niña because of all the rain over the past winter. But the second year tends to become problematic. A third year, as the region saw in 2022, can lead to severe water shortages.

Drier conditions also fuel more extreme fire seasons in the West, particularly in the fall, when the winds pick up.

What happens in the Southern Hemisphere during La Niña?

The impacts of El Niño and La Niña are almost a mirror image in the Southern Hemisphere.

Chile and Argentina tend to get drought during La Niña, while the same phase leads to more rain in the Amazon. Australia had severe flooding during the last La Niña. La Niña also favors the Indian monsoon, meaning above-average rainfall. The effects aren't immediate, however. In South Asia, for example, the changes tend to show up a few months after La Niña has officially appeared.

La Niña is quite bad for eastern Africa, where vulnerable communities are already in a long-term drought.

Is climate change affecting La Niña's impact?

El Niño and La Niña are now happening on top of the effects of global warming. That can exacerbate temperatures, as the world saw in 2023, and precipitation can go off the charts.

Since summer 2023, the world has had 10 straight months of record-breaking global temperatures. A lot of that warmth is coming from the oceans, which are still at record-high temperatures.

La Niña should cool things a bit, but greenhouse gas emissions that drive global warming are still rising in the background. So while fluctuations between El Niño and La Niña can cause short-term temperature swings, the overall trend is toward a warming world.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Combat climate change thru geoengineering

Climate studies are increasingly becoming politicized. Harvard University recently shut down a key geoengineering research project because of intense backlash, despite the college's aspiration to become "a global beacon on climate change."

Geoengineering is one way humanity could deal with the real problem of climate change. The standard approach—which most of the rich world is focused on—is to try to cut carbon emissions and divert investment to solar and wind energy.

However, this approach is incredibly hard and expensive because fossil fuels still effectively power most of the world. Despite decades of political support for fossil fuel reductions, emissions are still increasing, with last year seeing the highest ever.

In contrast, geoengineering tries to directly reduce the planet's temperature. One approach is to emit sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere, which would cool the planet. There is ample evidence this works: Erupting volcanoes typically pump particles into the stratosphere, with each particle reflecting a little sunlight back into space. In 1991, the Mount Pinatubo eruption cooled Earth by about 0.6 degrees Celsius for 18 months.

Harvard's researchers weren't attempting anything so grand. They simply wanted to launch a single high-altitude balloon that would release a tiny amount of particulates high above Earth. Their experiment would have gathered data showing how particles dispersed and how much sunlight they reflected.

Because the world has so far mostly failed to tackle climate change through cutting fossil fuel reliance, it seems prudent to also investigate other policies that could address parts of the problem. Even the United Nations admitted in 2019 that "there has been no real change in the global emissions pathway in the last decade," despite the 2015 Paris Agreement. Since then, greenhouse gas emissions have continued to reach new record highs with "no end in sight to the rising trend," according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organization. We're just not in a position where we can afford to ignore any pathway to solving climate change.

Unfortunately, as The Harvard Crimson found, pressure from climate activists made this impossible for the scientists. Even high-profile campaigner Greta Thunberg criticized the first planned tests in northern Sweden. Then the Indigenous Saami Council—whose land the tests would be above—suggested firing a single balloon into the sky bore "risks of catastrophic consequences." Politicians jumped aboard the bandwagon, including

Sweden's former foreign minister, who declared geoengineering was "crazy," while young activists pushed academic funders to cut off such research.

That isn't science, it's dogma. The idea that there is only one correct policy—cutting carbon emissions to zero in a short time frame—is absurd, especially so when this sole policy is failing globally. The truth is that geoengineering could be an incredibly useful innovation, even if it harbors risks.

Geoengineering is the only feasible way that humanity has ever identified to cut temperatures quickly. If we were to see the West Antarctic ice sheet starting to slip into the ocean—which would be a global disaster—no standard fossil fuel policy could make any significant change. Even if all nations impossibly were to cut their emissions to zero in a matter of months, temperatures would not come down but would only stop going up.

In contrast, geoengineering could, in principle, end the global temperature rise—and even reverse it—at a low cost. Geoengineering offers a price tag in the tens to low hundreds of billions of dollars over the 21st century, compared to standard policy costing tens of thousands of times more.

Of course, the world shouldn't start pumping particulates into the atmosphere anytime soon. But we need to know if this technology works and we also need to know about any potential negative impacts from its use. Partly because it is likely that countries and even the world will want to consider using this approach later but also because the cost of geoengineering is so cheap that there is a risk that a single nation, a rogue billionaire, or even a highly energized nongovernmental organization could deploy the technology alone. We need to make sure the world knows the ramifications. That requires research.

These considerations are why both the scientific journal *Nature* and the Obama administration have endorsed research into geoengineering—even the Biden administration has offered measured support.

Just like with any other research, humanity needs to know what works and what problems might arise in the future. The politicization of climate research out of fear it might lead to politically unfavored outcomes is bad for the world.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### Climate-resilient farming training center to rise in Negros village

By: Nanette Guadalquiver

A PHP2 million Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Training Center will soon rise in Sagay City, Negros Occidental through the assistance of the Department of Agriculture (DA) 6 (Western Visayas).

The principal recipients are 62 members of the Menakalaw Farmer Beneficiaries Association (MEFABA) based in Barangay Rizal, which serves as the AMIA Village Sagay.

City Agriculturist Julie Delima said in an interview on Thursday that the facility would become an income-generating project of MEFABA and open for use by farmers from other associations and interested individuals for a minimal fee.

“The center will showcase the farmers’ innovative and climate-resilient farming technologies,” she added.

The association put up a temporary facility made of bamboo and nipa, and this August, they will have a building for the AMIA Training Center with a storage room and training equipment funded under the Mainstreaming Climate Resilient Agriculture in Regional Programs of the DA.

MEFABA is seeking accreditation as a learning site from the Agricultural Training Institute.

DA-6 turned over a PHP450,000 financial assistance to MEFABA simultaneous with the project's groundbreaking last month.

In a statement, DA-6 Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extensions Jose Albert Barrogo said the AMIA Training Center would help increase the production and income of farmers and ensure food security in the community.

He also committed to installing a solar-powered irrigation system to address the lack of water supply in the area.

MEFABA chairperson Jose Constantino thanked the DA-6 and the Sagay city government for their continued support through the DA-AMIA Program.

The AMIA is the flagship program of the DA dedicated to addressing the dual challenges of climate change – adaptation and mitigation.

According to the DA, an AMIA Village is a testing ground for adaptation and mitigation initiatives and a breeding ground for institutional linkages.

It also serves as a go-to place for other communities to learn from and emulate and where technological and institutional innovations are introduced for access to climate-relevant support services.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### LGUs laud sustainable dev't project

Several local government units (LGUs) nationwide are commending the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) flagship program, Project TRANSFORM (Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multistakeholder Engagement), a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to empower communities to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development.

Project TRANSFORM has been launched in Ormoc City in Leyte; Malimono, San Francisco and Burgos in Surigao del Norte; and Limay, Mariveles; and Orion in Bataan, Rizal province and Quezon City.

Ormoc City Mayor Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez, whose city serves as a pilot site for the project, emphasized the program's effectiveness. Having personally experienced the devastation caused by typhoons and floods, Torres-Gomez has made climate change a top priority for her administration.

According to her, Project TRANSFORM expands on previous efforts and provides the city with useful resources like training on disaster management, greenhouse gas accounting and biodiversity profiling.

"The ultimate gratification," said Torres-Gomez, "is not only seeing the environmental, social and economic improvement in the lives of our constituents, but being recognized by the DENR as a successful case study for LGU-based climate action that can be replicated across the nation."

For her part, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte expresses a similar view, thanking the national government for recognizing their environmental initiatives.

"Through the implementation of Project TRANSFORM in QC, we look forward to developing and enacting more green, sustainable and inclusive climate initiatives for QCitizens," she said.

This sentiment of appreciation and commitment is further reinforced by Surigao del Norte Rep. Francisco Jose Matugas II, emphasizing the project's goal of improving disaster preparedness, achieving sustainable development, and mitigating the consequences of climate change through strong public-private cooperation.

Project TRANSFORM's pilot testing areas include towns like Del Carmen, Burgos, Malimono and San Francisco, which were severely damaged by super typhoon



"Odette," demonstrating how important the project is in helping communities who are at risk.

Meanwhile, Rep. Albert Garcia of Bataan emphasizes the importance of continuing to nurture communities and promote sustainable practices through initiatives such as Project TRANSFORM. He drew attention to how public-private partnerships have the ability to develop sustainable energy sources, promoting both economic expansion and environmental responsibility.

Garcia also urged stakeholders to continue on the path toward creating a sustainable community through programs such as Project TRANSFORM, which brings together national and local governments, the corporate sector, and communities to solve environmental issues.

For her part, Rizal Governor Nina Ynares underscored the transformative impact of Project TRANSFORM on communities, saying, "It would help us based on the transformation of our communities into a more resilient and sustainable home, where our children, our future, and our dreams can be nourished and nurtured."

Ynares sees the project as a paradigm for nationwide change, encouraging sustainable practices and community involvement.

She pointed out that the province's continuous recognition as the most competitive province in the country is proof of its dedication to sustainable development, and Rizal's involvement in the program is a reflection of that.

"Project TRANSFORM is one concrete application of how local governments may move together and continuous consultation with the DENR and all the stakeholders in government and in the private sector as well as academia," Environment Secretary Mari Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said.

This project exemplifies DENR's support for a comprehensive strategy that involves multiple sectors working together toward common objectives and is supported by data.

The project's scope is broad, including land, air and sea domains. The DENR chief highlighted the innovative inventory of public lands, which serves as a model for natural capital asset accounting systems.

The visions of DENR go beyond safeguarding the environment to include empowerment and inclusivity. Yulo-Loyzaga underlined the necessity of acknowledging different needs, viewpoints, and contributions in society. "By fostering a culture of inclusivity, we can

harness the untapped potential of marginalized communities, empower local enterprises, and build a more resilient and sustainable economy that benefits everyone," she said.

The importance of LGUs in building climate and catastrophe resilience was also pointed out by the DENR chief. "Local leadership is critical in making the resilience agenda work on the ground," she explained, adding that the DENR is ready to assist LGUs with ridge-to-reef management, which includes forests, coastal areas, land use, solid waste and water management.

Barangays, the smallest administrative divisions, also play an important role in disaster risk reduction.

Yulo-Loyzaga noted their significance, saying, "As the first line of defense, barangays also serve as the primary platform for outcomes in the vision of securing community resilience as stated in the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan and the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change." Recognizing their contributions is critical to establishing resilient communities and accomplishing sustainable development objectives.

Sector-wide relationships are also essential to achieving DENR's objectives for sustainability and resilience. In light of this, Yulo-Loyzaga urged cooperation in the identification of high-priority areas, assess risks, and invest in effective environmental protection and disaster risk reduction initiatives.

With this, Yulo-Loyzaga called for collaborative efforts to identify high-priority areas, understand vulnerabilities, and invest in appropriate environmental protection and disaster risk reduction strategies. "This is only the beginning and by working together, we can truly make a lasting impact on our communities," she urged.

Project TRANSFORM directly aligns with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive on climate change and sustainable development. In his 2023 State of the Nation Address, Marcos highlighted the urgent need for climate action and collaboration in the country.

"The building blocks of progressive, livable and sustainable communities will never be complete without appropriate and responsible action to mitigate and to adapt to the effects of climate change," he said.

Marcos also stressed how economic agenda and climate change objectives may coexist, adding, "The economic agenda cannot and will not ever be incompatible with our climate change agenda."

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [Taking the path to net zero carbon](#)

By: Jonathan L. Mayuga

More and more companies are going green, implementing environmental programs beyond the usual tree-planting, and introducing innovative solutions to the problems as a result of climate change.

Some companies integrate disaster risk reduction into their business plans.

Others take on the challenge of substantially reducing carbon footprints through energy conservation, while others shift to a low-carbon, renewable energy path.

Today's buzzword, however, goes beyond mere greening or introducing energy conservation measures.

The mission and vision of every company are evolving, from leading to a linear, to circular economy and from resilience, to sustainability—net zero.

Demystifying net zero

But what is net zero, compared to carbon neutrality?

During her lecture, Ping Manongdo, country director Philippines and assistant director of Partnerships of Eco-Business, said carbon neutrality and net zero are often interchanged.

While both concepts aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing and removing emissions, she said they differ fundamentally in definition, strategy, and effect.

“Net zero means cutting carbon emissions to a small amount of residual emissions that can be absorbed and durably stored by nature and other carbon dioxide removal measures, leaving zero in the atmosphere,” she said.

On the other hand, carbon neutrality refers to a state where a person, organization, or country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are balanced by offsetting those emissions by purchasing carbon credits.

While the Philippines has already submitted an ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution wherein it commits to a projected GHG emissions reduction and avoidance of 75 percent, it does not yet have a hard net zero target, making it the only Asian nation that has not committed to such status.

“The Philippines has set a target to increase renewable energy in its energy mix by up to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040. With economic capacity growth projected at 6 percent per year, experts say the country is not set to meet this target,” she said.

## Media training

During the Net Zero 101 Media Training held at a Taguig mall on April 16 organized by the Net Zero Carbon Alliance, Lloyd Cameron, Economic and Climate counsellor of the British Embassy Manila, underscored the need to communicate the plight of the most vulnerable and report on the opportunities for those who choose to proactively lower their carbon emissions, highlighting the impacts of climate change.

“[This is] because people are never going to demand action unless they care, and people are never going to care unless they understand. That is your role—to make that connection, to build that understanding. We need accurate and impactful media coverage about these issues and why they matter to everyone,” he addressed the participants.

The event drew 80 journalists, corporate communicators, government agency representatives and industry leaders to share insights and knowledge on how to best communicate the challenge of the changing climate.

Participants learned about and discussed numerous topics related to more effective net zero media reporting, including the crucial role of finance in driving the transition to a net zero economy, accountability among enterprises and policy-makers, and the complex nature of international climate negotiations.

The Net Zero 101 Media Training was in partnership with leading sustainability and environment, social and governance media and intelligence online platform Eco-Business, and the British Embassy Manila.

From neutrality to zero

Established by First Gen's renewable energy arm, Energy Development Corp. (EDC) on September 20, 2021, NZCA is a pioneering private sector consortium advancing progress on carbon neutrality toward net-zero emissions by 2050.

This aligns with the climate action goals of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

In establishing the NZCA, Federico R. Lopez, EDC chairman and CEO, said every single industry today will be affected by the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

He said taking the necessary actions that prepare companies and the country for these massive shifts in how the world works will be worthwhile investments with immeasurable returns.

NZCA aims to form strategic partnerships that encourage other companies to commit to taking immediate action to become carbon neutral and eventually net zero, said Frances Ariola, head of Corporate Communications of EDC and lead convenor, NZCA.

"The NZCA is anchored on EDC's mission to forge collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future," she said.

Currently, the NZCA has 22 member companies.

#### Private-sector role

Atty. Allan V. Barcena, EDC assistant vice president, head of Corporate Support Functions, and NZCA executive director, emphasized the important role of the private sector.

He said that in the face of climate change, the role of the private sector in contributing to the global net zero objectives despite the current absence of a formal government commitment cannot be overemphasized.

"NZCA as a private sector alliance is the start. We need to commit and align with the global pledge to reach net zero by 2050; we measure and we take action. It is a cycle that we need to be involved in," he explained.

During the event, best practices and case studies on net-zero initiatives and climate action were shared in panel discussions with corporate sustainability experts from

NZCA member companies, such as Unilever, Holcim, Mondelez, Cemex, Arthaland Corp. and Drink Sustainability Communications.

He said the NZCA is open to companies, big or small, that are willing and able to reduce carbon emissions and take the part towards Net Zero.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje of the Climate Change Commission said: “I am filled with a sense of optimism and determination as the discussions we have had today laid the path forward in our collective journey toward a climate resilient, sustainable and net-zero future.”

“I am particularly delighted with the commitment of the NZCA to championing private-sector action on net zero. Your leadership and dedication are essential in overcoming the challenges ahead and accelerating progress toward our shared agenda. It is only through continued collaboration, innovation, and determination that we will overcome the climate crisis,” he added.

#### Media network

During the event, participants came together to initiate the formation of the Net Zero Media Network.

This new network aims to foster collaboration, share resources, and enhance the quality of reporting on sustainability and net zero initiatives.

The collective effort underscores the commitment of media professionals to driving informed dialogue and action on climate change through impactful journalism.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Borje urges closing adaptation finance gaps](#)

Recognizing that finance and investments are crucial for implementing transformative climate actions, the Philippines called for the immediate delivery of climate finance commitments and underscored the need to close adaptation finance gaps, including through exploring innovative sources, to support developing nations' adaptation measures.

The importance of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for developing nations most at-risk to and affected by climate change was emphasized at the NAP Expo 2024. A high-level transformational dialogue was held to unlock diverse sources of adaptation finance.

Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Robert E.A. Borje joined the dialogue, together with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, and Bangladesh Minister for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Borje underscored the importance of holistic approach to close adaptation finance gaps, ensuring that support for developing countries' NAP formulation and implementation is available and easily accessible.

"To close the gaps, address our growing needs, and enhance adaptation action and support, we must work collectively to determine and unlock various sources, including the UNFCCC financial mechanism, and finance options with highest concessionality, least to no conditionalities, and no additional debt burden for developing nations," Borje said.

The UN Environment Program's Adaptation Gap Report 2023 estimated that support for adaptation falls short by up to \$366 billion per year. Public finance flows for climate change adaptation from developed to developing countries have declined by 15 percent from 2021 figures, signaling the need to explore other sources for timely implementation of adaptation measures.

"We need to go beyond the doubling of adaptation finance by 2025, and delivering on the overdue commitment of \$100 billion for developing countries' climate actions," Borje emphasized. "We need to be more creative and innovative to enable our timely implementation of action plans — so that we avoid further loss and damage, while building our adaptive capacities."

Guided by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the Philippines forges partnerships with various countries, partners and stakeholders to augment domestic resources, enabling implementation of climate actions in speed and scale.

In addition to the UNFCCC financial mechanism including the Green Climate Fund, Borje highlighted other innovative sources of support applicable to the Philippines, such as bilateral partnerships, private sector investments, foreign-assisted support from development partners and stakeholders, and mechanisms such as thematic bonds.

From formulation to implementation, Borje underscored the importance of climate finance throughout the iterative process of NAPs.

“NAPs should then be considered as investment plans. With sufficient finance and transparent and predictable support flows, developing nations can translate plans into concrete actions with results,” Borje added.

Discussions on closing adaptation finance gaps and determining the new collective quantified goal on climate finance are expected to progress at the 29th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP29).

Hosted by the UNFCCC through the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee and other constituted bodies, the NAP Expo 2024 was held from 22 to 25 April 2024 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Outcomes of the NAP Expo 2024 will be further discussed in the upcoming Climate Change Conference in June 2024 in Bonn, Germany, and COP29 in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.



## CCC explores climate strategy from carbon-free Bhutan

Sharing insights and experiences, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Bhutan's Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) engaged in a discussion, exchanging best practices, victories, and challenges in addressing the impacts of climate change and examining potential areas of collaboration.

During a meeting with RSPN, the CCC delegation, led by deputy executive director Rommel Antonio O. Cuenca, delved into several key aspects of the nation's climate change strategy. These include mainstreaming frameworks such as the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change, the National Climate Change Action Plan, and the development of the National Adaptation Plan.

He outlined the Philippine government's process for accessing the Green Climate Fund, establishing the People's Survival Fund, and building collaborative relationships with all stakeholders across all sectors.

Furthermore, Cuenca conveyed the country's ongoing challenges in promoting climate resilience, emphasizing the difficulties in laymanizing and communicating climate change to the general public and improving compliance with Local Climate Change Action Plans, particularly in remote areas of the Philippine archipelago.

"Climate change affects the lives, livelihoods, and future of many Filipinos. Despite contributing only a small percent to the global emissions, the Philippines suffers much devastation from climate change effects. Hence, there is a need for us to take comprehensive action to address climate change, with a focus on adaptation," stressed Cuenca.

Meanwhile, Dasho Phub Dorji, chairperson of the Board of Directors of the RSPN, shared practical insights and experiences in pushing for climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainable development, and ecological education in Bhutan.

The Kingdom of Bhutan is currently the only country in the world that is carbon negative — a distinction reserved for countries capable of removing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than they emit.

"Despite this achievement, we still face many challenges, especially in managing climate-induced disasters like flooding and in stopping illegal human activities that exacerbate climate change such as deforestation," Dorji said.

RSPN, a non-government organization, aims to raise awareness of climate change among Bhutanese people through education, advocacy and public participation in conservation efforts.

Through the continued dedication, both the CCC and RSPN seek to innovate strategies to mitigate climate change impacts through knowledge and practices sharing.

“Growing partnerships through cooperation continues to be needed to allow developing nations to learn and adapt to climate change and its impacts. We need to continue working together to ensure that we are empowered to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts and safeguard the precious balance in our planet,” said CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

The CCC remains resolute in its commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13 — Climate Action, and SDG 17 — Partnerships for Sustainable Development. The Commission continues to forge effective partnerships to advance the country’s progress toward achieving its climate goals and agendas.

## CCC head stresses partnership with private sector

The head of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) visited the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in Punta Dumalag, Davao City for the third time and planted a tree in the mangrove to strengthen public and private sector partnership in mitigating climate change.

“We expand our relationship with the private sector and we want to inform the private sector and our society that we need wider partnerships to have government’s climate actions make a difference and impact, and part of that is biodiversity protection,” CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje told PTV Mindanao News last 4 May.

Cleanergy Park is managed by both the Davao Light and Power Co. and the Aboitiz Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of the Aboitiz Group.

Borje said planting mangroves in the 8-hectare park, which is an important part of the ecosystem, is adaptation with mitigation to help solve the climate change problem.

Meanwhile, members of various socio-civic organizations from the University of Southeastern Philippines also toured the park and planted mangrove propagules as part of their community outreach activity last 4 May.

The participating organizations included Yanong Agila, Philippine Red Cross Youth, University Assessment and Guidance Center, Society of Peer Facilitators, Alliance of Agham Scholars-DoST, and the Science Major Society.

Davao Light and Aboitiz Foundation are grateful to the dedicated groups and individuals supporting the park’s mission of environmental conservation and protection.

## Climate change action and planetary protection: A post-Mother's Day reflection

By: Robert E.A. Borje

A mother's love mirrors God's immeasurable and unconditional affection. Despite a child's flaws, a mother's heart remains open, accepting and forgiving. Similarly, Mother Earth, our nurturing parent, provides for us unconditionally.

Like a new mother nurturing her child, the Earth has supplied us with everything necessary for our existence since our birth as humans. Through her ecological systems, she offers vital elements such as air, water, warmth, and food. Yet, like ungrateful children, we have demanded more.

Driven by the allure of technological progress and convenience, we have depleted Earth's resources over centuries — burning fossil fuels for energy, cutting trees and destroying forests for urban development, and producing plastics for ease. These actions have not only exhausted Mother Earth's resources but also directly influenced its natural processes. Consequently, we now face intensified climate change impacts, exacerbating a plethora of issues, including rising temperatures, droughts, ocean acidification, and rising sea levels — problems that threaten our lives, livelihoods, and future.

Beyond climate change, our harmful activities such as deforestation, urbanization, pollution, and resource degradation inflict deep wounds upon Mother Earth.

According to a May 2024 report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services under the United Nations, nature is diminishing globally at unprecedented rates, resulting in the rapid acceleration of species extinction across various ecosystems. The same report highlights that our actions have substantially altered Earth's land and marine health.

Crop and livestock production currently occupies about one-third of the world's land and consumes 75 percent of our freshwater resources. The intensive land use is contributing to degradation, posing a threat to global crop yields valued at \$577 billion or P28.85 trillion. Unsustainable fishing activities are impacting roughly 33 percent of the global fish market.

Meanwhile, urban development has doubled and plastic pollution has surged, laying waste in both our lands and waters. Industrial wastes and other toxic materials are being indiscriminately dumped into our oceans, creating over 400 ocean uninhabitable zones. Without tangible and equitable changes, these negative human-induced trends

will continue to worsen climate change and global warming, leading to even bigger damages and losses in the future.

While we continue to be thwarted by the many unwanted effects of human-induced climate change, we also see a rising number of people from diverse backgrounds standing up and fighting for Mother Earth. Among them are women, whose maternal instincts to protect and ensure their families' and children's survival kick in in the face of worsening climate change effects. These instincts, if anchored correctly, can serve as a springboard for a magnitude of advocacies promoting sustainability, conservation, and planetary stewardship.

Climate change is global, historic, and systemic — an encompassing issue that demands the participation of everyone to be addressed effectively. However, true climate action begins within our homes and communities. And action in the right direction can only happen if grounded in strong values and principles early on in life.

Mothers wield much influence over their families, especially their children, shaping their attitudes and behaviors, their beliefs and convictions. Beginning with the nuclear and extended families, mothers around the world can nurture and grow a generation of eco-conscious children, aware of the awesome gift of creation and the great responsibility of stewardship offering a beacon of hope in our ongoing struggle against climate change.

Mothers are critical in a family ecosystem that instills awareness on climate change, advocates proactive participation in the climate agenda, promotes environmental justice, and teaches sustainable lifestyle choices, can inspire collective action and foster climate resilience. This contribution extends beyond their homes to encompass their communities, and ultimately, their nations.

In our modern world, mothers with their multidimensional roles are rightly leaders for transformative action in the family and beyond.

Our responsibility of protecting and honoring our ecosystems for future generations can be our tribute and commitment to Mother Earth and all mothers around the globe. Just as mothers nurture and protect their young, and just as Mother Earth nurtures and protects us, we, too must do our part to protect our planet for the sake of all the generations to come. In doing so, we not only honor Mother Earth but also uphold the values of love, care, compassion, and stewardship — values that our mothers embody.

Let us all come together and be worthy stewards of our Mother Earth for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all future generations.

## [‘Filipina Changemakers’ forum empowers women eco-warriors](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), in partnership with the Office of Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda and The Climate Reality Project Philippines, convened “Filipina Changemakers: Champions for Climate Resilience,” a forum and panel discussion highlighting the roles and challenges of women in climate action.

The forum pushed for women’s empowerment across various aspects of climate stewardship and planetary protection, including policy, legislation, science and the arts, in recognition of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls, as well as their valuable role in influencing national governance and community-based action.

“Throughout history, women have been at the forefront of ecological protection and sustainability. From grassroots activists to policymakers, women have played pivotal roles in championing sustainable practices and policies that promote climate resilience,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda during her keynote speech. “The Philippines is blessed with a wealth of changemakers who are leading the way in climate action. From farmers implementing sustainable practices to activists advocating for clean energy, Filipino women are driving innovation and inspiring change.”

“But while we celebrate the achievements of these remarkable women, we must also acknowledge the challenges they face. The majority of women, particularly those in vulnerable communities, bear the brunt of climate change impacts, yet they are often marginalized in decision-making processes and excluded from leadership roles,” Legarda said.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director, emphasized the crucial role of women in climate action.

“Women are at the forefront of climate action, and their unique perspectives are crucial in our journey towards a more resilient and sustainable future. Their leadership and contribution in areas such as conservation, renewable energy, and community empowerment can lead to more inclusive and effective solutions to address the challenges we face. I thank our partners for helping us bring this initiative to life,” Borje said.

Panelists Dr. Faye Abigail Cruz, head of the Regional Climate Systems Laboratory of Manila Observatory and lead author for IPCC Working Group I Report for AR6, along with Desiree Llanos Dee, creative artist and co-founder of Tofu Creatives, and Danica

Marie Supnet, director for Climate Policy of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, shared their personal climate stories and how they became champions for climate resilience in their respective fields. The discussion was moderated by Peachie Dioquino-Valera, climate reality leader and entrepreneur.

They emphasized the importance of fostering synergies across sectors, promoting knowledge sharing, and creating more opportunities for women and girls in climate action.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [\[Opinion\] Ocean Month: Think blue, keep marine ecosystems healthy](#)

“The month of May is the peak fishing season in the Philippines, an appropriate occasion for direct beneficiaries to show their support for management initiatives pertaining to the oceans.” This was among the rationale for Presidential Proclamation 57, signed in 1998, declaring May as the month of the ocean in the Philippines.

The direct beneficiaries of the sea are not only those who derive income from it – the fishermen, and a wide variety of coastal businesses – but all humans and animals who benefit from a healthy ocean.

The Philippines, being an archipelago, is blessed with vast coastal and ocean resources which provide economic and ecological benefits. It has one of the world’s most diverse marine biodiversity with an extensive system of coral reefs sprawling over more than 27,000 square kilometers. Coral reefs are known as the “rainforest of the sea” where 25 percent of the ocean’s fish rely on for shelter, food and reproduction. Any activity such as plastic pollution and rising ocean temperatures cause a ripple effect that will affect the health and growth of our food supply.

The importance of healthy oceans cannot be over-emphasized. This year, the Month of the Ocean campaign launched by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) focuses on the theme “Develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy.”

“The campaign aims to inform, educate, and inspire action among Filipinos and the global community to address ocean-related issues and to cultivate a deep appreciation for the ocean’s role in climate action,” CCC said.

“Oceans are the lifeblood of our planet, and also our frontline against climate change. Our actions today will determine the health of our oceans tomorrow. We all have a role to play in ensuring their protection and sustainability,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the agency mandated to lead the yearly celebration with the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), launched the campaign in San Fernando City, La Union last week. A forum and lectures on laws governing the use of the foreshore areas, salvage zones and coastal waters, ocean resources and its conservation were held by DENR-1 for stakeholders and students.



Government action is needed to implement laws to conserve our marine ecosystem, such as the Extended Producer Responsibility Act (Republic Act No 11898) which lapsed into law in July 2022. The law requires large enterprises to recover a specific portion of their waste from packaging, or face large fines.

The country's solid waste problem still persists. Reports have shown that many people do not have access to proper waste disposal facilities, and garbage collection still remains a problem in many areas. Waste eventually ends up in the ocean and affects the coral reefs, polluting the source of food and shelter of marine life. And the cycle continues.

The importance of the sea to the economy and the livelihood of Filipinos is recorded in the reports of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). In a report published in October 2023, the country's "ocean economy grew by 21.1 percent in 2022, posting a gross value added of ₱857.74 billion from ₱708.10 billion in 2021."

"The top three marine-based industries with highest growth were coastal accommodation and food and beverage services activities (248.3 percent), coastal recreation (161.7 percent), and offshore and coastal mining and quarrying (56.3 percent)."

For the rest of the month of May, think "blue." It is our responsibility to protect our oceans and marine resources.

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### **Close Adaptation Finance Gaps For Transformative Climate Action**

The Philippines has called for the immediate delivery of climate finance commitments and underscored the need to close adaptation finance gaps, including through exploring innovative sources, to support developing nations' adaptation measures.

In a news release on Thursday, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said the importance of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for developing nations most at risk to and affected by climate change was emphasized at the NAP Expo 2024 in Dhaka, Bangladesh on April 22-25.

During the dialogue with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, and Bangladesh Minister for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Saber Hossain Chowdhury, CCC Secretary Robert EA Borje underscored the importance of a holistic approach to close adaptation finance gaps.

Borje also called for a commitment to ensuring that support for developing countries' NAP formulation and implementation is available and easily accessible.

"To close the gaps, address our growing needs, and enhance adaptation action and support, we must work collectively to determine and unlock various sources, including the UNFCCC financial mechanism, and finance options with highest concessionality, least to no conditionalities, and no additional debt burden for developing nations," Borje said.

The UN Environment Programme's Adaptation Gap Report 2023 estimated that support for adaptation falls short by up to USD366 billion per year.

Public finance flows for climate change adaptation from developed to developing countries have declined by 15 percent from 2021 figures, signaling the need to explore other sources for the timely implementation of adaptation measures.

"We need to go beyond the doubling of adaptation finance by 2025, and delivering on the overdue commitment of USD100 billion for developing countries' climate actions," Borje said. "We need to be more creative and innovative to enable our timely implementation of action plans – so that we avoid further loss and damage while building our adaptive capacities."

Guided by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the Philippines forges partnerships with various countries, partners, and stakeholders to augment domestic resources, enabling the implementation of climate actions in speed and scale.

In addition to the UNFCCC financial mechanism, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Borje highlighted other innovative sources of support applicable to the Philippines, such as bilateral partnerships, private sector investments, foreign-assisted support from development partners and stakeholders, and mechanisms, such as thematic bonds.

From formulation to implementation, Borje underscored the importance of climate finance throughout the iterative process of NAPs.

“NAPs should then be considered as investment plans. With sufficient finance and transparent and predictable support flows, developing nations can translate plans into concrete actions with results,” he added.

Discussions on closing adaptation finance gaps and determining the new collective quantified goal on climate finance are expected to progress at the 29th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan on Nov. 11-22.

Hosted by the UNFCCC through the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Expert Group or LEG, in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee (AC) and other constituted bodies, the NAP Expo 2024 outcomes will be further discussed in the upcoming Climate Change Conference in June 2024 in Bonn, Germany, and at the COP29. (PNA)

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Mindoro 'calamansi' industry gets major funding from Korean agency](#)

By: Miguel Gil

This province may be on its way to attaining its goal of becoming the country's "calamansi capital," thanks to local ingenuity and foreign financing support.

In an online post on Friday, the Provincial Information Office (PIO) said a new facility in Barangay Pakyas, Victoria town will serve as the new home and operations center of a group of calamansi (Philippine lime) processors.

The Pakyas Association of Rural Improvement Club's (Paric) new building was inaugurated on Thursday.

Its construction was primarily backed by the Korea International Cooperation Agency and Global Green Growth Institute, with the support of the Climate Change Commission, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Business of Social Progress and the provincial government, the PIO said.

A financial grant of PHP10 million was extended to the Paric cooperative.

Korean ambassador to the Philippines Lee Sang-hwa graced the inauguration rites, according to the PIO.

Governor Humerlito Dolor acknowledged the support that the South Korean government has extended to multiple developmental projects in the province.

"We will continue to pursue these projects with the solid support of our close friend, the Korean government," he said.

Dolor earlier said he eyed making Oriental Mindoro the country's "Calamansi King" or a manufacturing hub of high-value products derived from Philippine lime.

Paric primarily manufactures fruit juice concentrates extracted from calamansi.

**=END=**