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DAILY TRIBUNE

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GREENPEACE

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Marita Moaje

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THE MANILA TIMES

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

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[Opinion] Aligning climate funds and good governance
By: Jess Varela

The Philippines stands at a critical juncture in its fight against climate change. As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, it receives billions in climate finance pledges from international institutions, development partners, and domestic public–private partnerships (PPPs). Yet, despite the flow of funds, the country's resilience remains fragile. The challenge is no longer access to financing, but how to govern it transparently, distribute it equitably, and deploy it effectively.

NEWSLINE PH

CCC urges stronger role for young women in climate action, with Mindanao girls facing heightened risks
By: Daisy Canarias

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is calling for stronger empowerment of girls and young women in climate leadership — a push that resonates strongly in Mindanao, where climate-driven disasters continue to hit some of the country's most vulnerable communities.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

DAILY TRIBUNE

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UN climate chief Simon Stiell urged ministers on Monday to speed up negotiations at COP30 talks in Brazil, with nations divided on key issues with five days left in the major conference.

"There is a huge amount of work ahead for ministers and negotiators. I urge you to get to the hardest issues fast," Stiell told the gathering.

"We absolutely cannot afford to waste time on tactical delays or stonewalling," he said.

Government ministers from around the world have started to arrive in Belem to take over negotiations and try to break the deadlock as the second and final week of talks begins.

Three issues were blocking progress after a week of talks in the Amazonian city:

China, India and other allied countries want COP30 to adopt a decision against unilateral trade barriers -- a dig at the European Union's "carbon tax" on imports of carbon-intensive goods such as steel, aluminum and fertilizers.

Meanwhile, island states vulnerable to rising seas -- backed by Latin American countries and the EU -- believe it is crucial for COP30 to respond to the latest projections showing the world will fail to limit warming to 1.5C and step up their climate commitments.

But major emerging countries, from China to Saudi Arabia, do not want a text that implies they are not doing enough to curb climate change.

The third point of contention is a bid by developing countries, especially from Africa, to point the finger at developed nations for falling short on providing financing to help adapt to climate change and cut emissions.

GREENPEACE

Uwan damages surged 30% due to climate change—report

Greenpeace Philippines urged world leaders at the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil to act decisively and make climate polluters pay, following new research showing that climate change—driven largely by fossil fuels—intensified the recent Typhoon Tino (international name: Kalmaegi) and Super Typhoon Uwan (Fung-wong). The study found that Uwan's increased strength raised economic damages in affected communities by as much as 30%.

"Fossil fuel greed is not only driving the climate crisis but is also pushing Filipinos deeper into totally preventable debt, hunger, and poverty," said Jefferson Chua, climate campaigner at Greenpeace Philippines. "Every stronger typhoon, every flooded home, every life lost is a direct result of decades of corporate negligence and government inaction. How many more Uwans and Tinos must we endure before the world finally makes polluters pay?"

Rapid attribution studies released today show that climate change increased Uwan's wind speed in the Philippines by 5.5% and rainfall by 10.5%,[1] while Tino's wind speed rose by 3% and rainfall by 8.6% as it hit Vietnam.[2] The estimates were generated using the Imperial College Storm Model (IRIS) model. The two storms triggered massive flooding and storm surges across the islands of Luzon and Visayas, leaving nearly 240 people dead, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

"Every increase in intensity translates to suffering and death for those living in the frontlines," Chua added. "Let us be perfectly clear: these are not one-off events but part of a disturbing pattern of rapidly intensifying, wetter, and more unpredictable extreme weather, bearing the fingerprints of fossil fuel companies who continue to drive the climate crisis to unimaginable proportions. Allowing them to continue business as usual is condemning millions of Filipinos to a lifetime of rebuilding from ruins. At COP30, we expect world leaders to strengthen adaptation commitments and finally fill the Loss and Damage Fund."

Combined infrastructure damages from Tino[3] and Uwan[4] have reached PHP 2.18 billion, while agricultural losses soared to PHP 502.18 million, according to the latest NDRRMC figures. These exclude the non-economic impacts such as emotional, psychological, and physical suffering—burdens that communities repeatedly exposed to climate disasters are forced to carry.

"Marami na kaming nakitang bagyo, pero [Uwan] was the worst that we have experienced," recalled a teary-eyed Glynis Balagot, owner of a hostel in San Juan, La Union. "Dagdagan mo pa ng corrupt politicians na supposedly should be taking care of us… Akala niyo hindi totoo 'yung climate change? It's real. Akala niyo hindi nakakamatay 'yung corruption niyo? It's real. Pahirap kayo, sa totoo lang. These companies have to pay. This government has to pay. Wala kayong awa," she said.

(We've weathered so many storms, but Uwan was the worst that we have experienced. On top of this, we have corrupt politicians who supposedly should be taking care of us. You think climate change is not real? It's real. You think your corruption isn't causing death? Frankly speaking, it's a burden to us all. These companies have to pay. This government has to pay. These people are ruthless.)

Earlier research[5] also linked climate change to the intensification of typhoons closer to shore, leaving communities with little time to prepare and worsening impacts on agriculture, fisheries, and local tourism.

"Kapag may bagyo, nasisira ang aming mga bangka. Matagal pang [maipaayos] dahil wala kaming pambili," said Roger Fabillar, president of the Seguinon Fisherfolks Association and a fisherfolk for more than 30 years in Eastern Samar, a province frequently battered by typhoons. "Madalas, 'di [kami] makapalaot dahil masama ang panahon."

(Our boats get damaged whenever storms hit. It takes a lot of time to get them fixed as our finances run dry. Most of the time, we can't go out fishing due to extreme weather conditions.)

Greenpeace believes these realities demonstrate why urgent action at home, alongside the COP30 negotiations, is essential. "President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. must also take strong domestic action, such as certifying the Climate Accountability (CLIMA) Bill as urgent. This would direct climate finance to frontline communities and hold major polluters financially accountable for the harm they have caused," Chua added.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PH sets ASEAN chairship agenda: Security, digital, climate, people

By: Marita Moaje

Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro, who also serves as the Philippines' Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, announced Monday that the Philippines has refined its priority agenda for its 2026 ASEAN Chairship.

In a press briefing in Pasay City, Lazaro said the country aims to lead ASEAN in strengthening regional security, accelerating digital transformation, climate action, and promoting people-centered development.

"For the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the goal is to maintain a rules-based, outward-looking region, enjoying lasting peace, security, and stability," she said, noting current tensions and conflicts in the region.

"This is not just an aspiration, and we hope to achieve this."

Lazaro said the Philippines will push for deeper regional cooperation to maintain peace, manage tensions, and bolster ASEAN's capacity to respond to security challenges. This includes maritime security, cybersecurity, counterterrorism, adherence to international law, and leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

On Friday, as President Ferdinand R. Marcos announced the appointment of Lazaro during the launch of the Philippines' ASEAN 2026 chairship in Manila.

He underscored the need to champion peace and stability in Southeast Asia through dialogue, adherence to international law, and enhanced cooperation on traditional and non-traditional security issues.

Marcos also expressed confidence that through cooperation and understanding, ASEAN can further strengthen its role as "a force for peace and progress in the global community."

Lazaro added the Philippines will also push for fostering regional stability and resilience against emerging threats, adding that a dynamic ASEAN must prevail within a fast-changing environment through practical and policy frameworks to address emerging threats and harness AI technologies.

The official also said a "future-ready ASEAN" is the second major priority, with the Philippines focusing on cross-border digital trade, interoperable digital systems, strengthened supply chains, support for micro, small medium enterprises (MSMEs), and enhanced economic security.

Achieving this, she said, will help ASEAN remain competitive amid global uncertainty.

Climate action will be another defining pillar, she said, adding that the Philippines aims to champion regional efforts on disaster risk reduction, climate finance, and renewable energy, underscoring shared vulnerabilities across Southeast Asia.

Lazaro added ASEAN cooperation must deliver direct benefits to its people, with priorities in social protection, mobility, opportunities for women and youth, and support for migrant workers.

“You’ll often hear the words people-oriented, people-centered, future-proof, and future-ready. These will guide our ASEAN chairship,” she said.

Lazaro said interagency preparations are underway as the Philippines gears up to host hundreds of meetings and the ASEAN Summit in 2026.
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THE MANILA TIMES

Australia rejects offer to co-host UN climate summit with Turkey

Australia rejected on Monday Turkey's offer to co-host next year's UN climate summit, as their rival bids for COP31 distract from this year's ongoing negotiations in Brazil.

Canberra and Ankara are under pressure to break the impasse and avoid a scene in Belem, where Brazil is desperate to show that climate diplomacy still works.

The host must be chosen by consensus, so unless Australia or Turkey withdraws its bid for the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), or they come to an agreement about sharing the duty, both countries will miss out.

That would be unprecedented and would see COP31 hosting rights default to Germany.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday was firmly opposed to the suggestion of co-hosting with Turkey.

"That's not an option, and people are aware that it is not an option, which is why it has been ruled out," he said.

A Turkish diplomatic source told AFP over the weekend that Ankara "continues to advocate a co-presidency model" but was willing to go it alone should consensus not be reached.

Australia is bidding to host the summit in the southern city of Adelaide alongside its Pacific Island neighbors, hoping to cast a spotlight on a part of the world being hammered by the effects of climate change.

Pacific Island leaders have long criticized COP summits for marginalizing their voices or offering limited practical solutions.

Australia, with its vast flora and fauna, is also highly vulnerable.

Hosting duties would also draw scrutiny of Australia's green record.

The world's second-largest coal exporter has long profited from fossil fuel exports and treated climate action as a political and economic liability.

Australia's "climate wars" — a years-long domestic fight over emissions policy — stalled progress and the country remains dependent on its fossil fuel economy for growth.

If the country were to win the COP bid, it would be the first time the Pacific region has hosted the annual meeting.
Turkey wants COP31 to focus on the world's most vulnerable regions, with potential special sessions addressing Pacific issues, the diplomatic source added.

Brazil has appointed a representative to help resolve the disagreement between Australia and Turkey.

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Diplomats said that no progress has been made yet toward reaching an agreement before COP30 wraps up on Nov. 21.

Baguio among Southeast Asia's local climate action leaders
By: Gaby B. Keith

The Summer Capital under the leadership of Mayor Benjamin Magalong has been recognized globally through the Iclei (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Southeast Asia – Paris to Belem campaign as one of Southeast Asia's inspiring success stories in local climate action.

City Planning, Development and Sustainability Office (CPDSO) head Ar. Donna Tabangin said that as part of the city's growing innovation and sustainable community, Baguio continues to take bold and practical steps toward building a more climate-resilient future.

"From constructing 14 km of bike lanes across 11 routes to promote cycling and ease traffic congestion, to launching an ambitious zero-waste strategy that targets 80-percent waste reduction by 2032, Baguio is showing that local action truly drives global impact," she said.

Tabangin said that following a 2022 Waste Analysis and Characterization Study that revealed 593 tons of waste generated daily, the city embraced a circular economy approach by empowering communities to compost, strengthening materials recovery facilities in 128 barangay and enforcing waste segregation at source.

"Through these collective efforts, we're transforming Baguio from a 'take-make-waste' city into a regenerative and sustainable model — one that nurtures both the environment and local livelihoods," she said and added that Baguio is more than just the "Summer Capital of the Philippines."

"We're proud to be part of a city that's championing urban environmental resilience and proving that even mountain cities can lead the way in climate innovation," Tabangin stressed.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Opinion] Aligning climate funds and good governance

By: Jess Varela

The Philippines stands at a critical juncture in its fight against climate change. As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, it receives billions in climate finance pledges from international institutions, development partners, and domestic public–private partnerships (PPPs). Yet, despite the flow of funds, the country's resilience remains fragile. The challenge is no longer access to financing, but how to govern it transparently, distribute it equitably, and deploy it effectively.

Climate finance must be a centerpiece of the Philippines' national development strategy. From the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) green infrastructure loans and domestic efforts through the People's Survival Fund, resources are expanding. The Marcos administration has also announced its intent to mobilize green bonds and foreign grants for flood control, renewable energy, and disaster resilience.

However, the credibility of these efforts hinges on governance. Too often, climate funds are trapped in bureaucratic layers or diverted by inefficiency and corruption. The flood control controversies that have dominated national headlines underscore this danger. When adaptation projects become procurement opportunities rather than resilience investments, the very purpose of climate finance collapses.

What the Philippines needs is a governance framework that matches ambition with accountability — where transparency is built into every peso of green funding, from donor negotiation to barangay level.

Green infrastructure — projects that integrate environmental sustainability into public works — has become the preferred vehicle for climate mitigation and adaptation. Metro Manila's flood management systems, renewable energy corridors in Northern Luzon, and the coastal defense initiatives in the Visayas are all examples of this emerging agenda.

Yet governance gaps persist. Many infrastructure programs are still designed under old models of public procurement, where environmental safeguards are secondary and project monitoring is opaque. Local communities rarely have access to project impact assessments, and audit results often arrive years after funds have been spent.

Green infrastructure must therefore evolve beyond the "project-based" mindset toward a systemic approach that integrates data transparency, citizen participation, and digital monitoring. If climate resilience is to be credible, people must see — not just be told — where their taxes and international funds are going.

The private sector plays an increasingly central role in climate finance. Major conglomerates are now investing in renewable energy, waste-to-value industries, and low-carbon transportation.

However, while these projects are marketed as sustainable, the transparency of PPP agreements remains limited.

Many climate-related PPPs, such as flood control and reclamation projects, operate under confidential financial arrangements. This lack of disclosure invites suspicion and undermines public trust. If the private sector wishes to be recognized as a true partner in climate governance, it must embrace climate transparency as a competitive advantage.

For starters, conglomerates should adhere to the globally accepted framework of environmental marketing espoused by the International Chamber of Commerce where their environmental claims are honest, truthful, clear, substantiated, and well disseminated to conform to international standards.

Government, for its part, must institutionalize disclosure standards for PPPs that involve climate-related infrastructure. Contracts, feasibility studies, and environmental assessments should be made publicly available. Credibility should be established by requiring third-party sustainability audits and integrating environmental performance indicators into project evaluations.

Profit and planet can coexist, but only when accountability ensures that private gain does not come at public expense.

No national climate strategy can succeed without the active participation of local government units (LGUs). Mayors, governors, and down to barangay officials are often the first responders to climate-related disasters, yet they remain the last in line for funding access.

Programs like the People's Survival Fund are designed to correct this imbalance, but the process remains slow and technically demanding. LGUs that lack climate expertise or data struggle to prepare viable project proposals, effectively sidelining smaller and poorer municipalities from green financing.

To correct this, the Department of Finance, the Climate Change Commission, and the Development Bank of the Philippines can jointly establish a Climate Resilience Financing Facility that streamlines access for LGUs. Capacity-building, simplified application procedures, and technical support for project monitoring should be institutionalized.

LGUs must also be empowered to issue local green bonds — an initiative already explored by Quezon City — to finance renewable energy, waste management, and flood mitigation projects. When local governments own their financing tools, climate governance becomes participatory rather than merely administrative.

Transparency must be the backbone of every climate fund. The Philippines can take three major steps forward, namely, Institutionalize Climate Finance Audits–where the Commission on Audit

(CoA) creates a dedicated climate finance audit unit to track fund allocation, project outcomes, and compliance with environmental laws;

Standardize Green Bond Regulation with the Securities and Exchange Commission and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas requiring climate bonds and sustainability-linked loans to meet internationally verified disclosure standards; and establish a National Climate Accountability Dashboard — where public online portal detailing approved projects, funding sources, and implementation status is set up to allow citizens, media, and researchers to scrutinize performance in real time.

These reforms would signal to international donors and investors that the Philippines takes climate governance seriously — not as a matter of compliance, but of credibility.

The Philippines' climate future depends not only on how much money it secures, but on how wisely and transparently it is used. The country's geography may make it disaster-prone, but its governance can determine whether it remains disaster-ready or disaster-resigned.

Climate finance, when governed with transparency and foresight, can be more than a shield against calamity — it can be a foundation for inclusive, sustainable growth. The nation's challenge is not merely to attract funds but to earn the world's confidence in how it uses them.

The path forward is clear: build trust, ensure transparency, and align governance with genuine resilience. Only then can the Philippines transform vulnerability into value — and financing into a future worth sustaining.

NEWSLINE PH

CCC urges stronger role for young women in climate action, with Mindanao girls facing heightened risks

By: Daisy Canarias

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is calling for stronger empowerment of girls and young women in climate leadership — a push that resonates strongly in Mindanao, where climate-driven disasters continue to hit some of the country's most vulnerable communities.

At the Girls Summit 2025 on Nov. 5, CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said climate impacts are felt unevenly, with girls facing heavier burdens especially in rural and conflict-affected areas.

"Climate change is a threat multiplier," Herrera said. "It disproportionately affects women and girls, threatening their safety, health, education, and livelihoods."

Why this matters for Mindanao

From the flooding in CARAGA and Maguindanao to prolonged droughts in North Cotabato and the Bangsamoro region, Mindanao girls often shoulder additional responsibilities during disasters — caring for siblings, missing school, or traveling longer distances for water and food. These conditions heighten exposure to gender-based violence and limit opportunities to pursue education and leadership roles.

Herrera said the CCC is strengthening gender-responsive climate budgeting and requiring sex-disaggregated data in local climate plans — tools crucial for LGUs in Mindanao, where climate pressures intersect with poverty and limited access to services.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte echoed the need for inclusive frameworks and urged young women to take active roles in citizen science, early warning systems, and community-based adaptation — approaches long adopted in many Mindanao barangays facing recurring floods and landslides.

Plan International Pilipinas Executive Director Pebbles Sanchez-Ogang stressed that many girls, particularly in remote and conflict-prone communities in Mindanao, continue to navigate daily threats that "silence their voices and limit their potential."

The Girls Summit 2025, organized with the Quezon City Government, ended with the handover of The Girls' Agenda — a set of priority demands urging government and the private sector to amplify girls' participation and protect their rights in climate policymaking.

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