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ECO BUSINESS

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By: Samantha Ho

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By: Jan Elmer Badilla

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Maasinhon shines on nat'l, global stages for disaster resilience initiatives
By: Marcelo M. Pedalino

For more than five years, Maria Thessa Ramos, 42, has been dedicated to preserving everything that helps keep planet Earth intact—leading efforts to build a world that is fit for future generations to inherit, where people and nature can coexist.

REMATE

[Opinion] Sandoval pushes key environmental initiatives for NCR
By: Arlie Calalo

Malabon City Mayor Jeannie Sandoval has pushed for the implementation of key environmental initiatives to achieve sustainability and climate resilience particularly in the National Capital Region.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ECO BUSINESS

COP30 secured a win for civil society – what can future hosts learn from Brazil's approach to people's participation?

By: Samantha Ho

After years of sustained work for greater justice and inclusivity in climate conversations, civil society groups celebrated a win at the COP30 conference in Belém, Brazil last week when more than 190 countries agreed to set up a just transition mechanism.

The mechanism is aimed at ensuring that the rights and voices of those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts and the transition to net zero economies are recognised throughout the United Nations' climate change process. This includes formal and informal workers, Indigenous Peoples, youth and children, women and the elderly, as well as persons with disabilities, among others. [see box]

"The just transition mechanism comes with the most progressive rights-based framing we have ever seen in a COP decision," Anabella Rosemberg, just transition lead at Climate Action Network (CAN) International, a coalition of more than 1,900 civil society groups advocating for climate justice.

"For the first time, labour rights, human rights, the right to a clean environment, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and the inclusion of marginalised groups are all recognised as core to achieving more ambitious climate action," she said.

Although the term 'just transition' was first introduced in official COP documents at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, its two-year work programme was set up only a year later in Dubai, resulting in it being called the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme.

That programme was due to expire this year, until the G77 and China, one of the largest coalitions of coordinated countries in UN negotiations comprising over 130 members, raised an early call at COP30 to establish the just transition mechanism. The coalition was awarded the "Ray of the Day" by CAN International on the first day of the climate conference, a rare show of positivity in a daily ceremony that typically called out fossil fuel-driven polluters.

"According to seasoned observers, what once seemed unattainable was achieved through the united front of the G77 and China, reinforced by the decisive leadership of the Brazilian Presidency," wrote Hilary Kung, senior researcher at Third World Network (TWN), a non-profit focused on developing country concerns.

TWN head of programmes Meena Raman previously told the Eco-Business Podcast that the subject of a just transition would be among the most closely watched by developing countries, extending beyond the energy transition to cover all aspects of sustainable development, poverty eradication and climate adaptation.

Outside official negotiations, civil society groups referred to the just transition mechanism as the Belém Action Mechanism (BAM), chanting the acronym and painting it on flags and banners. It was central to demonstrations held nearly every day during COP30 by CAN International and other climate justice advocacy groups, both within and outside the conference's venue.

In the COP30 the Blue Zone, the site of official negotiations, they were allocated a strategic space between meeting rooms and country pavilions, often attracting large, curious crowds of on-lookers.

The city of Belém also hosted over 70,000 people at the Global March for Climate Justice on Saturday, 15 November, where attendees included Indigenous Peoples, farmers, fishermen, trade unionists, peoples of African descent and the LQBTQIAPN+ community.

Brazil's environment minister Marina Silva and Indigenous Peoples' minister Sônia Guajajara were also present. Silva delivered a speech on behalf of the country's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who said that civil society participation had been "fundamental to the feasibility of COP30".

"COP30 would not be viable without your participation – this extraordinary concentration of people who believe that another world is possible and necessary," the speech said.

But Silva added, "What has been done is still not enough, because the climate has already changed. What we are experiencing today is no longer urgent – it is a climate emergency."

Purely symbolic…or an opportunity to shape climate mitigation?
COP30 reportedly hosted the largest-ever gathering of Indigenous delegates at a UN climate conference, with more than 2,500 estimated to have attended. Throughout the conference's two weeks, Indigenous Peoples were out in force at the Green Zone, a venue open to the public that was adjacent to the official Blue Zone. The zone hosted talks in local languages as well as stalls selling local crafts and cooperative-produced agricultural products.

However, there were gaps in ensuring Indigenous Peoples were fairly represented in the most critical conversations on global climate agreements. Only 360 Indigenous Brazilians were given passes to access official negotiations in COP30's Blue Zone, compared to 1,600 representatives from fossil fuel companies.

Many Indigenous Brazilians say that their presence at COP30 felt more symbolic than meaningful, as their voices and concerns did not significantly influence critical discussions on climate actions.

In a report by the Associated Press, Thalia Yarina Cachimuel, a Kichwa-Otavalo member of A Wisdom Keepers Delegation, said: "This was a COP where we were visible but not empowered."

This jarring mismatch came to a head in the first week of COP30, when Indigenous Peoples stormed the entrance to the venue one evening and clashed with security forces, which subsequently locked down entry to the venue. On another morning, the Indigenous Munduruku tribe, who live primarily in Brazil's Amazonian states, staged a protest against exploitative mining in their rainforests at the entrance to the COP30 venue, prompting security personnel to once again close the main entrance to the COP30 Blue Zone.

The COP30 presidency responded with open arms. COP30 chief executive Ana Toni said that the actions of the Indigenous peoples were legitimate and their concerns would be heard. She and COP30 president André Corrêa do Lago spoke to Munduruku leaders outside the COP30 gates, opting to skip an event on oil and gas decarbonisation that do Lago was scheduled to appear at. The president was later photographed carrying one of the Indigenous People's children and walking hand-in-hand with the protestors.

Speaking to Eco-Business shortly after the protest, United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) assistant secretary general Marcos Neto said that the inclusion of Indigenous and local voices is a healthy element of climate COPs, especially when they outnumber fossil fuel lobbyists.

"I'm extremely happy to see the space that the Brazilian presidency and the Brazilian government are giving to civil society," said Neto, who is also a native of Belém. "Indigenous Peoples in this part of Brazil have always been very strong and very powerful in fighting for their rights."

He added, "I think what this COP can teach people is that engagement with civil society actually benefits diplomatic, international negotiations – it is not something that goes against [climate negotiations]."

In fact, public participation is critical to the implementation of any agreed outcomes, particularly when it comes to the success of countries' individual five-year plans to reduce emissions and improve adaptation, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

"The NDCs have become very large, whole-of-economy plans and governments need to consult civil society, businesses and other stakeholders to create and implement them," said Neto.

As an organisation that has supported more than 100 governments in developing their NDCs, UNDP has seen first hand that "the more inclusive and participatory [the process of creating] the NDC is, the more ambitious it is," Neto shared.

"There's a correlation between the degree of social inclusivity of an NDC and the level of ambition in an NDC," he said.

The United Nations' latest NDC synthesis report, published in September, showed that countries are increasingly integrating gender, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their climate targets to promote inclusive and effective climate action.

"The new NDCs reflect a deepening and more structured engagement of [non-government] stakeholders in climate action," United Nations Climate Change said. "An increasing number of parties are involving subnational entities, the private sector and civil society in both the design and implementation of NDCs."

Civil society must ask for more, please

It remains to be seen how the COP31 venue host Türkiye plans to ensure non-profit organisations and climate justice groups have their voices heard at next year's climate conference.

However, Australia, which lost the bid to host the full conference but will be hosting a pre-COP meeting for leaders and assuming the presidency of COP31's negotiations, has promised to centre the voices and concerns of Pacific Islands countries.

Many of these nations are already suffering some of the worst impacts of rising sea levels due to climate change, and more than a third of people living in Tuvalu have applied to permanently resettle in Australia under a new visa scheme.

In a statement following the announcement of the COP31 hosting arrangements, the Australian government said that it would work with the Pacific Island nations to set the agenda for the pre-COP meeting and ensure that the climate finance needs of Small Island Developing States are platformed at the main summit in Türkiye's city of Antalya.

Until then, COP30 president do Lago has welcomed greater public participation in the UN climate change process. In his final remarks, after a closing plenary that lasted more than seven hours, do Lago turned to the civil society representatives in the room.

"Thank you for driving us in the right direction. You need to ask for more," he told them. "The world expects you to ask for more, and me too – be always on my back, and remind me [when] I'm not doing what I should over the next 11 months, please."

That assurance was received in the plenary hall with claps and cheers by civil society representatives, who say that countries must now deliver on the just transition mechanism.

"Now that the mechanism exists, governments must fill it with ambition, finance, and cooperation," said CAN International's Rosemberg. "A just transition is not a side-chapter of climate policy – it is the lens through which the entire implementation of the Paris Agreement must now be guided."

All eyes are now on future COP presidencies – Turkey, Australia and Ethiopia for COP32 – to take this hard-won inclusion further.

MANILA BULLETIN

LPA east of Philippines may develop into tropical cyclone within 48 hours --- PAGASA

By: Jel Santos

The low-pressure area (LPA) being monitored east of the country now has a high chance of developing into a tropical cyclone within the next two days, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

PAGASA weather specialist Chenel Dominguez said the weather disturbance remains outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) but continues to show signs of intensification.

“Mayroon tayong mino-monitor na low-pressure area dito sa labas ng ating Philippine Area of Responsibility. Ito ay huling namataan sa layong 1,280 kilometers east ng Eastern Visayas (We are monitoring a low-pressure area outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility. It was last spotted 1,280 kilometers east of Eastern Visayas),” she said.

According the weather specialist, the system has a strong likelihood of becoming a tropical cyclone soon.

“Ngayon po ay mataas na ang tiyansa nito na maging ganap na bagyo within the next 24 to 48 hours (It now has a high chance of developing into a full-blown storm within the next 24 to 48 hours),” she said.

“At once pumasok na ng ating PAR bilang bagyo, papangalanan po natin itong Wilma (And once it enters PAR as a storm, we will name it Wilma).”

While initial models hint at a possible landfall, Dominguez underscored that the system’s projected path remains highly uncertain.

“Nakikita po natin sa ating forecast-track na posible po itong mag-landfall dito sa may Eastern Visayas o kaya dito sa may Caraga (Our forecast track shows it may possibly make landfall in Eastern Visayas or Caraga),” she said.

“Pero sa ngayon, mataas pa rin po ang uncertainty natin sa posibleng track po nito (But for now, there is still high uncertainty in its possible track),” she cautioned.

The weather specialist urged residents in the eastern section of the country to prepare for possible rains toward the end of the week.

“Pero ibayong pag-iingat na rin po para sa ating mga kababayan lalo na dito sa eastern section ng ating bansa… dahil inaasahan natin na as early as Friday, posible na tayong makaranas ng mga pag-ulan (We urge extra caution especially for residents in the eastern section of our country… because as early as Friday, rains may already be experienced),” he said.

Multiple weather systems are also affecting the country, Dominguez added.

“Sa ngayon, ITCZ ang umiiral dito sa may Southern Mindanao (Right now, the ITCZ is affecting Southern Mindanao),” he said.

“Pangalawang weather system natin ay ang northeast monsoon or amihan na umiiral naman dito sa may extreme Northern Luzon (Our second weather system is the northeast monsoon or amihan affecting extreme Northern Luzon),” he added.

For the rest of the country, PAGASA said brief rains and thunderstorms are still possible.

“Para naman sa nalalabing bahagi ng ating bansa, localized thunderstorm ang inaasahan natin na magdadala ng panandaliang buhos ng mga pag-ulan (For the rest of the country, localized thunderstorms are expected to bring short bursts of rainfall),” Dominguez said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

UK launches climate fund in PH to boost green transition

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The United Kingdom government has launched its flagship program Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) in the Philippines, with an initial £700,000 or PHP54 million funding to help the country advance its shift to clean energy.

UK PACT's Philippine portfolio will directly support the government and industries in building capacities, tools and policies to de-risk investment and advance scalable renewable energy (RE) solutions in the country.

"This launch marks the next step in the UK-Philippines climate collaboration. UK PACT will continue into the next financial year, enabling us to build on the progress achieved so far and to identify new areas of cooperation with you," British Ambassador to the Philippines Sarah Hulton OBE said.

Through the partnership, the UK will provide support to the Philippines through expertise, financing and advocacy.

In its initial year, UK PACT will focus on four key interventions, including updating the pricing model for offshore wind (OSW) projects for the Green Energy Auction Program in the Philippines.

The other three will concentrate on developing a tool for electric power system cost simulation, advancing national marine spatial planning, building from OSW use cases, and accelerating micro-grid deployment by supporting data collection for unserved and underserved areas.

"Our partnership shows that we do not need to choose between energy security and environmental protection. We can and must achieve both," Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

The UK Embassy in Manila said this year's focus aligns with the Philippines' commitment to reduce and avoid greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent, and target to have 35 percent of RE share in the power generation mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

The program has an indicative funding of £ 1.2 million to £ 1.4 million (about PHP93 million to PHP108 million) for the next fiscal year, with an eye on developing the carbon market.

Representatives from the Department of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission, and DENR, alongside other key agencies, welcomed the initiative, noting its potential to catalyze change in the country's energy landscape.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA STANDARD

CCC Unites Diverse Sectors to Accelerate Climate Action for National Resilience

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) continues to strengthen the country's climate agenda through a whole-of-nation approach that brings government, academe, civil society, and the private sector into unified action toward a climate-resilient Philippines.

The CCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with partners from various sectors to reaffirm and establish a shared climate agenda. Anchored in the theme "Strengthening Partnerships for Climate Action: Multi-Sectoral Cooperation Signing," the initiative underscored the crucial role of collective work in addressing the climate crisis.

Partners represent a wide range of sectors, including the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, government-owned and controlled corporations, Save the Children, Planoteerism, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippine Information Agency, Nueva Vizcaya State University, First Gen, and the United Nations World Food Programme.

"In this critical decade, action cannot be delayed, and it cannot be shouldered by any single institution alone. This is the powerful truth that brings us together: climate change demands a whole-of-society response," said Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje of the CCC.

The signing formed part of the activities under the 18th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week).

"This signifies our solemn covenant between the NCIP and the CCC, alongside our partners. For us, this MOU is a powerful mechanism that ensures the wisdom and practices of Indigenous Cultural Communities are recognized, interfaced, and integrated," said NCIP Chairperson Marie Grace T. Pascua.

Nueva Vizcaya State University College Dean Jessie Pascual P. Bitog likewise emphasized the need for collaborative work to confront the global crisis.

"We recognize that no single institution can address the climate crisis alone. Our experts are networked, and resources across our sectors create a powerful synergy that enables faster, broader, and more meaningful climate action."

Partners pledged, among other commitments, to advance joint climate communication and advocacy, support inclusive research, enhance local resilience, and strengthen climate change and disaster risk management through collaborative research, technical support, and policy guidance.

The event also recognized individuals and long-standing partners for their contributions to climate action. Their dedicated efforts help build a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines.

The CCC's partners come from various sectors, including national government agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations, academic institutions, state universities and colleges, and media partners. All have demonstrated strong dedication and consistent support through awareness campaigns, technical assistance, and green initiatives.

CCC Deputy Executive Director Romell Antonio O. Cuenca expressed his appreciation to the partners.

"It is our privilege to honor the contributions of our partners. This recognition affirms the dedication and innovation each of you brings to this crucial fight. Your work inspires us all and sets the foundation for the results we continue to strive for."

The CCC remains steadfast in pursuing a whole-of-nation and whole-of-society approach to advance inclusive, progressive, and climate-resilient development for all Filipinos.

PALAWAN NEWS

Pinoy Workers pushes bill creating Department of Disaster Resilience

By: Jan Elmer Badilla

The Pinoy Workers Partylist has filed House Bill 6371, or the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience Act of 2025, seeking to establish a full-time national agency that will lead government efforts on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery during calamities across the country.

According to Pinoy Workers Rep. Franz Fernandez Legazpi, the measure aims to create the Department of Disaster Resilience as the central authority responsible for multi-hazard early warning systems, the operation of a National Disaster Operations Center and coordination with local governments on their Local Disaster Resilience Plans.

“Ngayong mas madalas at mas malala ang banta ng bagyo, lindol, pagbaha, at iba pang sakuna, isinusulong natin ang HB 6371 o ang Department of Disaster Resilience Act of 2025, upang magkaroon tayo ng mas malakas na pagtutok at full-time agency na tutugon sa lahat ng uri ng sakuna sa pamamagitan ng prevention, preparedness, response, at recovery,” he said.

The Bill will also allow faster procurement during a state of calamity to avoid delays in emergency operations.

Pinoy Workers also said the DDR will consolidate key functions of the Climate Change Commission and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council to streamline processes and ensure unified government action during disasters.

The measure also intends to strengthen communities through clearer leadership structures and more efficient funding mechanisms.

“Layon nating gawing mas ligtas, mas handa, at mas matatag ang bawat komunidad, mula probinsya at siyudad hanggang sa mga barangay sa pamamagitan ng mas malinaw na pamumuno, mas epektibong pondo, at mas mabilis na aksyon,” the statement added.

Pinoy Workers stressed that the bill seeks to make communities safer, better prepared and more resilient.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

Maasinhon shines on nat'l, global stages for disaster resilience initiatives
By: Marcelo M. Pedalino

For more than five years, Maria Thessa Ramos, 42, has been dedicated to preserving everything that helps keep planet Earth intact—leading efforts to build a world that is fit for future generations to inherit, where people and nature can coexist.

"Because I am Nature. If Nature is destroyed, I die," Ramos said in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency Southern Leyte, putting perspective on why she has been doing all these things, on why she is deeply invested in matters related to conserving the environment.

"This is not some heroic thing to do. This is a matter of survival. Nature is fine on its own; it can heal, grow back, and regenerate. But we, humans, if we abuse Nature, we die," Ramos bluntly said, spelling "Nature" with a capital N as if it were a proper noun, a living thing, which it actually is.

WIN DRR

For starters, this Maasinhon, a native of Barangay Ibarra, was among the seven finalists of the Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN DRR) Rising Star Award this year.

Organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and supported by the Government of Australia, the WIN DRR Rising Star Award celebrates and honors women who are "bringing fresh energy and innovative ideas to some of the region's most pressing challenges," a narrative on the subject states.

"Over 200 entries were selected, coming from 26 countries," Ramos told PIA. Her efforts on ecosystem-based adaptation and other related works were among the very few that were chosen.

The seven finalists and the countries they represent are Hakimun Nesha Bappy of Bangladesh, Swastika Devi of Fiji, Xie Hu of China, Nashin Mahtani of Indonesia, Mai Nguyen of Viet Nam, Sana Parveen of Pakistan, and Maria Thessa Ramos of the Philippines.

"Their diverse experiences highlight the creative and forward-looking solutions needed to tackle the growing frequency and severity of disasters, as well as the impacts of climate change," the WIN DRR literature further said.

Resilience Awardee

The awarding ceremony for the WIN DRR was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on November 25; however, Ramos was unable to attend because she was receiving another award in Manila.

She was one of the 2024 awardees of the Philippine Resilience Awards, recognized for her role as co-founder of the Eastern Visayas Society of Native Tree Conservation and the Youth for Resilience Network.

“I was here in Manila also to receive the awards with the Climate Change Commission. I also won the Philippine Resilience Award last year,” Ramos shared.

Senator Loren Legarda, in a social media post on July 9, cited Ramos as a champion in climate resilience through native tree restoration, leading workshops, school arboreta projects, and community partnerships that reconnect people, especially the youth, with the country’s ecological heritage.

“From planting a tree for her son’s first birthday to confronting deforestation, Ramos has transformed her personal passion into a public purpose. Her pioneering project, Reforestation and School Arboreta for Climate Resilience Using Philippine Native Trees, has created living learning labs in schools and homes, fostering stewardship and biodiversity in one of the Philippines’ most disaster-prone regions,” Legarda, known for her strong stand on the environment, declared.

Community coalition

Told that her name has already become a big shot among noted environmentalists in the country and the world, Ramos said she remains grounded, routinely dipping her feet into muddy terrains and the forests at every opportunity.

“Mao ra gihapon, Sir. Magkalapok-lapok ra gihapon ko diha, kamang sa katunggan ug kalasangan,” she quipped.

(It’s just the same, Sir. I can still be soaked deep in mud right there at home, crawling in mangroves and in forested areas.)

Indeed, Ramos, the eldest of five siblings and studied at the Visayas State University (VSU), has mobilized the involvement of various sectors in the community to join her in planting mangroves off the coastal wetlands of Barangay Bilibol in Maasin City.

She said this December, there will be a launch of the Coalition for Community Resilience in the city, with national figures from the Climate Change Commission (CCC) joining the activity.

The exact date is still to be determined. Still, the commitment of partners from public and private schools, farmers’ organizations, and the city local government unit, in close coordination with City Councilor Mikhael Mercado, among others, has been secured, Ramos said.

Whether such a launch can be pushed through or not, due to the busy schedules of everyone during the December days, Ramos has already established a name and a reputation carved in a deep-rooted belief in a life-or-death attitude when it comes to caring for Mother Nature.

She has been working on various projects with numerous organizations under the umbrella of the United Nations and other international groups, projects that balance progress with sustainability, ensuring development does not occur at the expense of the environment, at the very least, while protecting it at the very most.

She has been working on various projects with several organizations under the United Nations and other international groups—projects that align progress with sustainability, ensuring that development is not done at the expense of the environment, but protected.

And she has proven to be a living model of this mantra, both in words and deeds; her actions have truly walked her talk.

In September, she launched her online publication “Climate Information Services for Agriculture and Fisheries,” a collaborative work with like-minded partners—a paper on arming and guiding marginal sectors amid the ever-changing landscape of reality.

“This is for my ancestors. This is for Southern Leyte. This is for all the communities who want to build back stronger!” Ramos shared on her social media page.

“This is for the enduring Filipino spirit, that we may collectively take our share in resilience building,” she said.

REMATE

[Opinion] Sandoval pushes key environmental initiatives for NCR
By: Arlie Calalo

Malabon City Mayor Jeannie Sandoval has pushed for the implementation of key environmental initiatives to achieve sustainability and climate resilience particularly in the National Capital Region.

Sandoval, who heads the Climate Change Task Force-NCR, has underscored the need to further strengthen collective action toward a cleaner, greener Metro Manila and, eventually, the entire archipelago.
The city's first female mayor was one of the key speakers during the Climate Convergence: Innovation, Leadership, and Advocacy Forum held at the University of Makati late last week.

Organized by the Climate Change Commission in celebration of Climate Change Week 2025, the forum convened government officials, student leaders, climate advocates, and representatives from various academic institutions who all agreed to unite and strengthen collective action toward a cleaner, greener Philippines.

Sandoval led other forum participants in highlighting the shared responsibility of communities and institutions in addressing the climate crisis through innovation, strong leadership, and inclusive policy-making.

The Malabon chief executive told Good Riddance that the key forum participants were also in unison in acknowledging the essential role of educational institutions in shaping environmentally conscious and climate-resilient citizens.

Led by Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz, the CCC recognized Sandoval's exemplary leadership of Metro Manila's climate change task force, "praising her unwavering support for climate-centered programs, her strong governance, and her consistent backing of initiatives that promote environmental protection and climate adaptation."

Malabon, being among the most flood-prone areas in Metro Manila, continues to prioritize climate-responsive initiatives aimed at mitigating risks and safeguarding communities, the commission said.

During the same event, Sandoval and CCC led the induction of the new task force members and the ASEAN Carbon Market Sustainability Council—marking a vital step in improving national climate governance and advancing regional environmental partnerships.

The proactive engagement and sustained leadership of Sandoval has reaffirmed the local government's commitment to building a cleaner, safer, and more climate-resilient future for the city.

The local government has also launched the Search for the Cleanest and Greenest Barangay 2025, a competition among villages to boost community participation, cleanliness, and environmental protection, the top city official added.

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