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PH COMMITMENT

DENR VOWS SUPPORT FOR ONE PLANET INITIATIVE

By Jane Bautista
@janebautistaINQ

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga pledged the country's commitment to support the One Planet initiative and take part in the partnerships of the program during her recent meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in Egypt.

Launched in 2017, the One Planet movement is intended to promote and develop "tangible" solutions

for a transition to a low-carbon economy that would help in climate change adaptation and the protection of biodiversity.

"Secretary Loyzaga indicated the Philippines' support for the One Planet Initiative and willingness to engage in these partnerships to explore ways on how the parties can work together to achieve the goals of this program," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said in a recent news release.

Loyzaga met with Macron at the One Planet High-Level Summit on vital reserves of carbon and biodiversity during the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties.

Before the summit, the environment chief also had a bilateral meeting with Christophe Bechu, French minister for ecological transition and cohesion of the territories, wherein Loyzaga reaffirmed the Philippines' participation in the UN Biodiversity Conference that will take place in Canada in December. INQ


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ASEAN leaders urged to act on climate change, food security

By JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia
— “Our people look up to their
leaders, to us, to correctly navi-
gate uncertain waters of this
new world.”

President Marcos stressed
this on Sunday, Nov. 13, as he
urged fellow leaders to “act de-
cisively and immediately” on the
world’s pressing concerns: cli-
mate change and food security.

At the 17th East Asia Summit
here, Marcos said partnership of
world leaders in terms
of addressing such con- ▶ **9**

ASEAN leaders urged to act on climate change, food security ◀

cerns “will make us strong.”

“Our partnerships will give us
wisdom. The future awaits,” he
said before US President Joe Biden,
South Korea President Yoon Suk
Yeol, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio
Kishida, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang,
New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda
Ardern, India Vice President Jagdeep
Dhankhar, and Australia Prime Min-
ister Anthony Norman Albanese.

In terms of post-pandemic eco-
nomic recovery, Marcos said stake-
holders in ASEAN and East Asia must
build on and improve existing strat-
egies toward holistic, and green and
sustainable development to ensure
environmentally sound economic
progress.

“It has become glaringly clear

that there is a dire need to strengthen
food security toward self-sufficiency
in our region, to increase adapt-
ability and resilience in the face of
threats to the global supply chain,”
he said. “It is incumbent upon us, for
our sake and that of future genera-
tions, to act decisively and immedi-
ately on climate change.”

Marcos also put his expectations
on leaders he faced with who, he said,
have “moral and legal obligation to
work toward finding resolutions and
not resort to inciting conflicts” amid
tensions in the South China Sea.

“Let us be guided by the universal
principles of peaceful coexistence
and friendly cooperation as laid out
in the Treaty of Amity and Coopera-
tion in Southeast Asia,” he said.



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Belmonte welcomes people's participation vs. climate change

By Rio N. Araja

QUEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Monday welcomed the public's participation to attain climate goals, backing groups, and organizations battling for climate justice.

"We welcome all forms of freedom of expression, especially in our advocacy in promoting our climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The city is strongly encouraging people's participation in this cause as everyone, regardless of their age or economic status, is affected by global climate change," she said.

Various civil society organizations

are set to gather at the Quezon Memorial Circle for a "March for Climate Justice" to call on decision-makers to deliver solutions to the global climate and economic crises while they are attending this year's COP 27 (2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference) in Egypt and G20 summit in Indonesia.

The city government is known as one of the leading localities in the Philip-

pines pushing for climate justice.

In 2019, the city declared a climate emergency that initiated the establishment of clean, sustainable and environment-friendly programs for the QCitizens.

QC is also the only Philippine city in the C40 Cities, a global network of mayors taking urgent action to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone can thrive.

During the C40 Cities World Mayors Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October, Belmonte reiterated her call on international climate financing institutions to work with cities to support the implementation of their climate action plans for them to achieve their mitiga-

tion and adaptation targets as soon as possible.

"The city's programs for climate change will not come to fruition without the efforts of the public. We encourage a whole-of-city approach to ensure that the city's initiatives are truly sustainable and responsive to the communities' needs, without risking the lives and livelihood of the residents."

"Everyone is affected by global climate change. Every action, suggestions, and concerns of stakeholders are important for the further development of our programs," Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department chief Andrea Villaroman said.



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Climate justice advocates suportado ni Mayor Joy

Suportado ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Quezon City ang iba't ibang grupo at organisasyon na nagtutulak ng climate justice.

Ginawa ni Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte ang pahayag kasabay ng nakatakdang pagtitipon ng civil society organizations sa Quezon Memorial Circle para sa March for Climate Justice sa Nobyembre 16.

Layunin ng grupo na himukin ang mga lider na dadalo sa COP 27 (2022

United Nations Climate Change Conference) sa Egypt at G20 summit sa Indonesia na maglatag ng mga solusyon na tutugon sa global climate at economic crises.

"We welcome all forms of freedom of expression, especially in our advocacy in promoting our climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The city is strongly encouraging people's participation for this cause as everyone, regardless of their age

or economic status, is affected by global climate change," pahayag ni Mayor Joy Belmonte.

Kilala ang Quezon City bilang pangunahing siyudad sa Pilipinas na nagtutulak ng climate justice simula pa noong 2019.

Nagdeklara na ang Quezon City ng climate emergency kung saan itinatag ang clean, sustainable at environment-friendly programs. -**Angie dela Cruz**



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PHOTOGRAPH BY ANALY LABOR FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribuneph1_ana

ENVIRONMENTAL warriors press their point that easing the effects of climate change is a concern for everyone during the Asian Day of Action for Climate and Economic Justice on Monday in Quezon City.

ABBY AT COP27: 'Climate emergency declaration necessary'

Makati Mayor Abby Binay cited the need to declare a global climate emergency in a speech she delivered over the weekend at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP27 held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Via zoom, Mayor Binay said the declaration of a climate emergency is necessary to scale up resources and financing for urban adaptation and resilience to the effects of global warming.

She said government funds must be freed up for use in upgrading critical infrastructure, building more green spaces, and creating clean energy industries.

Binay shared Makati City's experience on how national and local governments can source financing for urban climate change adaptation. In August, the city government declared a state of climate

emergency. "As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides," she said.

"This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities," she added.

Makati has also been procuring modern equipment for use during disasters, along with providing "go bags," and hard hats to residents, public school students and city hall employees.

The city has also passed ordinances on solid waste management, a "green" building code, ban on plastic and cigarette smoking, and smoke-belching, among others, to ease the environmental impact of related activities.

ALVIN MURCIA



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ENVIRONMENTALISTS IN ACTION. Environmental advocates, in a press conference in Quezon City, call on governments of developed nations to address the climate and economic crisis. The clamor coincides with the Conference of Parties (COP27) in Egypt and G20 meetings in Asia. The group demand the delivery of adequate and accessible climate funds, the establishment of a loss and damage fund, as well as reparations for the climate debt owed by rich countries to poor and vulnerable countries. **Jimmy A. Domingo**



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Kuweba ng mga paniki sa Samal

MATATAGPUAN sa Barangay Tambo, Samal Island ang pinakamalaking populasyon ng isang uri ng paniki. Tinawag ang mga paniki na Rousette fruit bat. Napag-alaman sa isinagawang survey noong 2006 na mahigit 1.8 milyon ng mga Rousette fruit bat ang naninirahan sa Monfort Bat Cave sa naturang barangay.

Itinatag ang Island Garden City of Samal sa pamamagitan ng Republic Act No. 8471 na inaprubahan noong 1998. Sa nasabing batas ay pinag-isa ang tatlong dating magkakahiwalay na bayan ng Samal, Babak at Kaputian para maging isang lungsod.



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Bill on improved land use and management sought

A lawmaker filed a measure seeking to improve the land use system in the country in order to prevent abuses and waste of resources.

In filing House Bill 2878 on the National Land Use and Management Act, Negros Oriental Rep. Arnulfo Teves Jr. said improper land use planning and the sectoral methods in resource governance could have adverse effect on society and the environment.

The measure proposed the creation of a comprehensive and holistic approach on conflicting provisions on the use of land.

It aims to spell out parameters that would guide planning at the national and local levels for the proper and systematic land use policy.

"Improper land use planning and the sectoral approach to resource governance would only result in unsustainable, uncoor-

dated, and unregulated use of land that often leads to conflicts, abuses, and waste of resources. This will have adverse effect on our society and the environment," Teves explained.

Teves said the proposed measure would provide guidelines in major areas, such as – agricultural lands, forestlands and watersheds, coastal zones, mineral lands, energy resource lands, settlement development areas, industrial development areas, tourism development and heritage areas.

The solon added that while there are several existing laws that cover issues on land use, land registration, agrarian reform, ancestral domain, mining, agricultural modernization, urban development, housing and settlements, taxation, and local governance – they are sectoral in nature and have conflicting provisions on the use of land.

Jester Manalastas



Philippine Daily
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House OKs single-use plastic bill

This new tax will only be passed on to sellers and buyers. The people are already battered by the various taxes imposed by the government, yet they add another

BY EDJEN OLIQUINO
@tribunephil_eao

Two hundred fifty-five congressmen nodded to pass a bill proposing to impose a P100 per kilogram excise tax on single-use plastics on the third and final reading during Monday's plenary session.

Although several lawmakers argued — even before the measure reached the plenary — that the bill would shift the burden to consumers, the lower chamber approved House Bill 4102, also known as the Single-Use Plastic Bags Tax Act, with 255-3-0 votes.

HB 4102 was the substitute measure of HB 220 and 1811 authored by Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, Nueva Ecija Rep. Mikaela Angela Suansing, and Sultan Kudarat Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr., respectively.

According to the amended bill, the P100 initial tax per kilo of single-use plastic bags will be increased by 4 percent per year beginning 1 January 2026 through revenue regulations issued by the Secretary of Finance.

One of the three lawmakers who opposed the bill's passage, Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Arlene Brosas, stated that while the government wants to regulate the use of plastic bags for environmental reasons such as pollution reduction, the measure will simply be an additional burden on

consumers, sellers, and retailers.

"This new tax will only be passed on to sellers and buyers. The people are already battered by the various taxes imposed by the government, yet they add another," said the assistant minority leader.

On top of that, she argued that eliminating plastic bags to counter pollution and other environmental issues would not be possible if large businesses or corporations continued to manufacture, sell, and use plastic bags.

"Mr. Speaker, these taxes should be paid by big companies rather than small retailers, who already make a small profit," she furthered.

However, she believed the government should have an accessible and affordable alternative for consumers and impose stringent regulations on big companies.

The government's collection effort will be aided by the levy on single-use plastics and will also assist in reducing plastic pollution, particularly in the marine environment.

Previously, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno warned that single-use plastics would be taxed sooner rather than later, causing outrage among consumer groups, who claimed that consumers and retailers such as sari-sari stores and their customers would bear the brunt of the burden.



House measures taxing plastics, digital services pass on third reading

PRIORITY legislation taxing single-use plastics, foreign digital service providers, as well as a bill reforming the tax regime on passive income, were approved on third reading at the House of Representatives on Monday.

Voting 255-3, the House approved House Bill (HB) 4102, which seeks to impose an excise tax of P100 per kilogram on single-use plastic bags.

The bill calls for the tax to increase 4% every year starting Jan. 1, 2026. Incremental revenue from the tax will fund programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda said the measure is expected to raise P9.3 billion in revenue.

Party-list Reps. Arlene D. Brosas of Gabriela, France L. Castro of ACT-Teachers and Raoul Danniell A. Manuel of Kabataan voted against the measure, calling it a burden to consumers.

"While we want to regulate the use of plastic bags for environmental concerns such as reducing pollution, this proposed measure will just be an additional burden to consumers, sellers, and retailers," Ms. Brosas said during plenary.

In a vote of 253-4 with one abstention, the House also approved HB 4122 on third reading. The measure seeks to impose the 12% value-added tax (VAT) on nonresident digi-

tal service providers such as Spotify and Netflix.

If signed into law, the 12% VAT will be imposed on the digital sale of services like online advertising, video on demand subscriptions, and the supply of other services which are delivered through online marketplaces, webcasts and mobile applications, among others.

Mr. Salceda, who also chairs the House ways and means committee, said the measure is expected to generate P19 billion in revenue.

"While it is true that the playing field must be fair especially to local online digital service providers who are already imposing VAT on digital goods and services, we believe levying a new tax in the form of digital tax on other streaming services and digital transactions is not the way forward," Ms. Brosas, who voted no, said.

The House, voting 258-3, also approved on final reading HB 4339 which seeks to simplify taxation of passive income by harmonizing most rates at 15%.

Mr. Salceda said the measure is expected to generate P20 billion, mainly by raising the tax rate on foreign currency deposits to 20%.

The measure also proposes gross receipts tax on bank, quasi-bank and other nonbank financial intermediary income of 5%, a premium tax of 2% and a stock transaction tax of 0.1%. — **Matthew Carl L. Montecillo**



House okays excise tax on single use plastics

BY WENDELL VIGILIA

THE House of Representatives yesterday approved on third and final reading a bill imposing a P100 excise tax on single-use plastic bags, which lawmakers said is a major threat to the environment, particularly bodies of water such as rivers, where fishermen depend on for their livelihood.

Voting 255-3 with no abstention, congressmen approved House Bill (HB) No. 4102 which is a consolidation of two related measures authored by Reps. Joey Salceda of Albay, Horacio Suansing of Sultan Kudarat and Mikaela Angela Suansing of Nueva Ecija.

Salceda, chair of the committee on ways and means, noted the Philippines is the third largest contributor to plastic pollution, with 2.7 million to 5.5 million metric tons of plastic waste generated each year, a fifth of which finds its way into the ocean. Plastic bags and other products thrown into waterways likewise contribute to flooding, he added.

The Suansings said that aside from the adverse impact on the environment, plastics are a health hazard to human beings as these products contain cancer-causing chemicals such as Bisphenol A or BPA.

They cited recent studies showing that BPA could "potentially be related to disruptions in gene expression, thereby affecting biological functions related to the body's metabolism and development, as well as disruptions in fertility and sexual maturation."

Under House Bill No. 4102, a P100 tax would be imposed on every kilo of single-use plastic bags removed from the place of production or released from the Bureau of Customs.

The tax would be increased by four percent every year starting on Jan. 1, 2026.

The bill defines "single-use plastic bags" as "secondary level plastics made of synthetic or semi-synthetic organic polymer such as 'ice,' 'labo,' or 'sando' bags, with or without handle, used as packaging for goods or products."



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Excise tax sa single use plastic, aprub na sa Kamara

Inaprubahan na sa Mababang Kapulungan ng Kongreso sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa ang panukalang magpapataw ng P100 excise tax sa kada kilo ng single use plastic bags.

Sa botong 255 pabor, 3 tutol, 3 abstention, pinagtibay ang House Bill 4102 o Single Use Plastic Bags Tax Bill.

Ayon kay House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman at Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, sa oras na maisabatas ang panukala ay makakatulong ito para mabawasan ang paggamit ng plastic bags sa ating bansa na makatutulong para mabawasan ang polusyon.

Tiwala rin ang mambabatas na kapag pinatawan ng excise tax ang plastic ay mas maraming mahihimok na gumamit ng environmental-friendly na alternatibo sa plastic bags.

Ayon kay Salceda, ang Pilipinas ang ikatlo sa largest contributor ng plastic pollution kung saan 2.8 million hanggang 5.5 million metric tons ng plastic wastes ang nakokolekta kada taon.

Ang mga plastic bag naman na itinatapon sa mga daluyan ng tubig ang pangunahing dahilan ng malawakang pagbaha.

Bukod sa masamang epekto sa kapaligiran, health hazard din umano ang plastic dahil ang naturang produkto ay nagtataglay ng cancer-causing chemicals gaya ng BISPHENOL A o BPA.

Kasama sa papatawan ng P100 tax ang mga plastic bags mula sa "place of production" o inilalabas mula sa Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Aabot naman sa P1 bilyon kada taon ang inaasahang revenue sa ipapataw na plastic bags excise tax.
(Joy Cantos)



Buwis sa plastic labo pasado na

Pasado na sa ikatlo at huling pag-basa ng Kamara de Representantes ang panukala na patawan ng P100 excise tax ang bawat kilo ng single-use plastic bags.

Sa botong 255 na pabor, at tatlong tutol, inaprubahan ang Single-Use Plastic Tax Act (House Bill 4102) sa sesyon ng plenary ngayong Lunes.

Sa ilalim ng panukala, ang single-use plastic bag ay ang plastic na gawa sa synthetic o semi-synthetic organic

polymer katulad ng 'ice', 'labo', o 'sando' bag na may hawakan man o wala.

Nakasaad din sa panukala ang pagtataas ng buwis ng apat na porsyento kada taon simula sa Enero 1, 2026.

Ang kikitain mula sa buwis na ito ay ilalaan sa mga programa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) alinsunod sa Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. **(Billy Begas/Eralyn Prado)**



The plastic curse

IN the days leading up to the start of the now currently under-way COP27 climate talks in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, two interestingly contradictory publications found their way to my inbox. The first was a lengthy (147 pages!) report by the World Bank Group that presents a comprehensive "road map," to use the term popular here, for creating a circular economy with plastic. The second was a report released by Greenpeace on October 24 that offers the discouraging assessment that, not only is most plastic not being recycled, most plastic cannot be effectively recycled, therefore implying that any notion of a "circular economy" is nonsense.

Greenpeace is largely correct, and it is bad news for the world in a couple of ways.

Ever since the 1970s, when concerns about the environmental impact of human pollution first started to lead to real action to combat it — even before the idea of "climate change" entered the public consciousness — recycling is the one common ground where industry and environmentalists could meet. From industry's point of view, promoting recycling was an easy social responsibility win, and an aspect of product life from which some tangible financial gain could be extracted. From the



ROUGH TRADE

BEN KRITZ

environmental perspective, anything to help clean up the planet is a good thing, and being able to convince industry to "change its image" and apply its vast resources to developing new, less harmful products and recycling technologies was real progress.

Of course, through the years recycling has also become a bone of contention, with many companies being accused, sometimes accurately, with employing "recycling" as more a greenwashing buzzword than an actual process. For example, a common complaint is that producers will label products with the ubiquitous recycling symbol without actually bothering to develop or support any sort of recycling program, passing responsibility for it on to the consumers. Nevertheless, a great many enterprises did get on board with the recycling idea, to the extent that recycling is considered the default method of disposal of many products — paper, glass and metal products are recycled in

vast quantities, something the Greenpeace report highlights.

Plastic, however, is an altogether vastly larger and more complex challenge. All recycling is energy-intensive, but paper/fiber, glass and metal recycling uses about the same amount of energy to recreate products of like quality to the originals, with somewhat less residual waste, so the trade-off is valid.

Not so with plastic; plastics are more complex chemical products, and when they are recycled — which, as it turns out, is not that often — they use as much energy and produce as much residual waste as manufacturing "virgin" plastic products, but invariably are of lesser quality or utility. For example, high-density plastics can be recycled into lower-density products, but low-density products are difficult to upcycle into higher-density ones; it's not impossible, but is so uneconomical that it's more sensible — even from an environmental standpoint — to simply manufacture new ones.

And there is a growing body of evidence that many recycled plastic products are actually more harmful to humans than the originals. A research study published in the *Journal of Hazardous Materials* in May and cited by the Greenpeace report found that recycled plastic

products tested for "food contact chemicals" had significant levels of an imony, acetaldehyde, and so-called endocrine-disrupting chemicals, which include different types of phthalates, bisphenol A (BPA) and cadmium, among others.

Bursting a bubble

The ambition to promote a "circular economy" with plastic is essentially based on the idea that most plastics are not recycled but they could be, and if they were it would create a new economic chain. As further icing on the cake, this would also help to meet goals of economic and climate action inclusiveness by formalizing the already vast underworld of "waste pickers" that exists in less-developed countries (such as this one).

The focus of COP27 is on financing climate action, putting money where the world's mouth has been with unfulfilled pledges over the past seven years since the 2015 Paris Agreement. A form of climate action that at least hypothetically offers some kind of value creation and mitigates the perception of climate action as being all cost — i.e., the "circular economy" — fits right in with COP27's aims, which is likely why the World Bank released its report

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The plastic curse

when it did. The Greenpeace report, however, which is not the only such report, but perhaps only the best-publicized, sticks a very large pin in that balloon.

So now what? For Greenpeace's part, it makes a couple of recommendations to "mitigate the systemic problems

associated with plastic recycling," including phasing out single-use plastics, mandating the use of standardized reusable packaging, and adopting a Global Plastics Treaty that would establish international standards for plastic lifecycle management.

These are all worthwhile sugges-

tions, but Greenpeace falls into a trap that seems to be common in most efforts to address plastic pollution, which is to treat plastic packaging as the only, or at least the biggest, problem. The same criticism has been made, quite correctly, about the recently enacted Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law in this country. Plastic is everywhere, and unless those who sincerely wish to reduce its harmful effects on the planet can wrap their heads around

how big the problem actually is, any effort, while still being well-intentioned and worth pursuing, is going to have results that fall short of expectations. The only solution, ultimately, is to develop more sustainable materials that can completely replace plastics. We will never know until we try, of course, but at this point, that does not even seem like an imaginable possibility.

ben.krutz@manilatimes.net



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Climate activists take part in a protest inside the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Center, during the COP27 climate conference in Egypt over the weekend. AFP

Climate activists renew call for climate change fund

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (AP) — Dozens of climate activists yesterday staged a protest at the United Nations climate summit in Egypt to pressure industrialized nations to pay for the destruction caused by climate change in the most vulnerable nations.

The protest came as the United Nations' climate conference enters its second and final week in Egypt's seaside resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. The protesters were seen dancing and chanting inside the conference's Blue Zone, a UN territory.

Virginia Llorin, a protester from the Philippines, said activists would keep fighting for financing for the most vulnerable nations to be able to recover from the impacts of climate change and prepare

themselves for future climate-related weather events.

"We can't wait anymore," she said.

The Group of Seven leading economies launched a new insurance system yesterday to provide swift financial aid when nations are hit by devastating effects of climate change.

The so-called Global Shield is backed by the V20 group of 58 climate-vulnerable nations and will initially receive more than 200 million euros in funding, mostly from Germany.

Initial recipients include the Philippines, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan and Senegal.

Ghana's Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta called it "a path-breaking effort" that would help protect communities when lives and livelihoods are lost.



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New agri tech vital to climate-resilient ASEAN

THE use of new agricultural technologies is crucial in strengthening climate resilience in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, President Marcos said.

In an intervention speech at the 41st ASEAN Summit Retreat in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the President said the regional bloc could address the climate crisis by improving its cooperation mechanism on environmental sustainability and holistic green economic strategies.

Marcos said ASEAN must take advantage of technological innovations to boost food security cooperation and ensure self-sufficiency in the region.

"We need to shift our paradigm from the old, traditional farming methods to climate-smart agricultural systems, to better shield us against the ongoing, adverse effects of climate change," he told his fellow Southeast

Asian leaders.

He issued the statement as he emphasized that protecting the environment and ensuring the Philippines' resiliency and adaptation to the new normal of climate change are on top of his national agenda.

"The measures we seek to undertake hopefully will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he said.

The President stressed that addressing climate change is a "collective responsibility" of all nations, with developed countries playing a bigger role in global efforts to mitigate its risks and effects.

"Developing countries are more vulnerable, lose more when these climate shocks hit, and have fewer resources to cope with the adverse effects of these shocks," he added.

During the 40th ASEAN Summit Plenary also held Friday, Marcos called

for Southeast Asian nations' united voices to address the climate crisis, as well as for the fulfillment of their obligation to attain carbon neutrality by 2050.

The ASEAN, he said, must continue supporting the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity in its efforts to conserve, protect, and advocate for the sustainable use of biodiversity and adopt evidence-based approaches to climate change.

The ACB, established in 2005, is the ASEAN's response to the challenge of biodiversity loss.

It is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the 10 member states and with regional and international organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such natural treasures.



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Low levels of air pollution deadlier than previously thought

THE World Health Organization's most recent estimates (2016) are that over 4.2 million people die prematurely each year due to long-term exposure to fine particulate outdoor air pollution (often referred to as PM2.5).

But a recent study now showed that the annual global death toll from outdoor PM2.5 may be significantly higher than previously thought. That's because the researchers found that mortality risk was increased even at very low levels of outdoor PM2.5, ones which had not previously been recognized as being potentially deadly, causing as many as 1.5 million additional deaths around the globe each year.

The study said the microscopic toxins cause a range of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and cancers.

"We found that outdoor PM2.5 may be responsible for as many as 1.5 million additional deaths around the globe each year because of effects at very-low concentrations that were not previously appreciated," said lead author Scott Weichenthal, an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health at McGill University.

The researchers arrived at this conclusion by combining health and mortality data for seven million Canadians gathered over a twenty-five-year period with information about the levels of outdoor PM2.5 concentrations across the country. Canada is a country with low levels of outdoor PM2.5, making it the perfect place to study health impacts at low concentrations.

The WHO recently set out ambitious new guidelines for annual average outdoor fine particulate air pollution, cutting its earlier rec-



ommendations in half, from concentrations of 10 to concentrations of 5 micrograms (ug) per cubic meter.

"One takeaway is that the global health benefits of meeting the new WHO guideline are likely much larger than previously assumed," Weichenthal added. "The next steps are to stop focussing only on particle mass and start looking more closely at particle composition because some particles are likely more harmful than others. If we can gain a better understanding of this, it may allow us to be much more efficient in designing regulatory interventions to improve population health."
(McGill University)



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WORLD BRIEFS

Philippines among first to get G-7 climate funding

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT—The Philippines was listed along with Pakistan, Ghana and Bangladesh as among the first recipients of funding from a Group of Seven (G-7) "Global Shield" initiative to provide funding to countries suffering climate disasters, the program announced on Monday at the 27th Conference of Parties summit in Egypt. The Global Shield, coordinated by G-7 President Germany, aims to provide rapid access for climate-vulnerable countries to insurance and disaster protection funding after floods or drought. It is being developed in collaboration with the V20 group of 58 climate vulnerable economies. —REUTERS



Subarctic boreal forest, vital for the planet, is at risk

FORT MCMURRAY, Canada: It burns, it drifts, it falls victim to insects. And it's shrinking. The boreal forest, which is second only to the Amazon in terms of its vital role in ensuring the future of the planet, encircles the Arctic — and it is in just as much danger from climate change as the South American rainforest. The deep, verdant green ring — which

►PlanetA8

PLANET FROM A1

Subarctic

stretches across Canada, Scandinavia, Russia and Alaska — has been weakened by increasing forest fires, the melting of permafrost, intensifying insect infestations and warming temperatures.

Experts are categorical in their warnings: the forest is encroaching on the tundra, and the prairies are slowly taking the place of the trees.

In his cabin in Quebec, not far from the banks of the St. Lawrence River amid the trembling aspen and black spruces, Jean-Luc Kanape, a member of the Innu Indigenous group, says he likes to feel the "energy of the wind, the cold." "When I'm in the heart of the forest, I feel like I'm part of it. The trees are like my roots," says the brawny 47-year-old, his hair askew and his skin bronzed from the sun.

Kanape has dedicated his life to the protection of the caribou, a species whose habitat is under threat because of the effects of deforestation and global warming. And he is worried.

"We often say we need to save the

planet, but that's not true," he says, suggesting humanity's own existence is what is at stake.

The forest — named for Boreas, the Greek god of the north wind — covers 10 percent of the world's land surface and has a decisive impact on the globe's northern oceans and overall climate.

Its 1.2 billion hectares (nearly 3 billion acres), which account for nearly a third of all forested land in the world, help slow global warming by absorbing a significant amount of carbon emissions.

The boreal forest holds twice as much carbon as all tropical forests combined, and also helps purify a massive amount of freshwater.

There have always been natural changes to its makeup, but scientists are now concerned that those changes are happening more often, and are even becoming the norm.

'Monster' fire

Dead tree trunks stretch toward the sky — ghostly white shadows staining the green canopy in this corner of Alberta province.

On the ground, shrubs and grass battle to stay alive.

"I'll never again see a spruce tree in these hills," laments Harvey Sykes, a 70-year-old former oil industry worker who lives in the Fort-McMurray area, home to the world's biggest oil sands production complex.

Here, the boreal forest still bears the signs of a huge fire in May 2016 that sent 90,000 residents scrambling for safety from a wall of flames along a lone access road.

"This one was a monster," recalls Sykes, pointing to the hills where the blaze began. "A fire like that, you don't confront it ... you get out of there." Like many in the region, Sykes lost everything in the inferno — his house, his belongings and a lifetime of mementos.

The wildfire remains the most destructive natural disaster in Canada's history, with 2,500 buildings destroyed and damages totaling nearly CA\$10 billion (\$7.4 billion).

It was the first time in the country's history that residents found themselves in danger as a direct result of the consequences of climate change on the boreal forest.

Today, wildfires are multiplying in Alaska, Canada and Siberia. They

are one of the greatest threats to northern woodlands even if, paradoxically, they are also essential to the forest's survival and evolution.

Fires release precious nutrients into the forest soil, and create holes in the tree canopy that allow sunlight to break through, contributing to the growth of new trees.

In the boreal forest, the most prevalent type of fire is a crown fire, which spreads quickly from treetop to treetop. These blazes are more intense and more difficult to fight than fires on the ground.

Fires can burn all winter under the snow, producing toxic smoke and significant amounts of carbon monoxide.

The forest's plants are resistant to the bitter Canadian cold, and have adapted to the recurrent fires — the trembling aspen burn quickly but regenerate easily.

Some species even depend on the fires — jack pines or black spruces have sap-coated cones that open up to deposit seeds as the flames spread, ensuring their survival.

But data collected over the last few decades indicates that the increasing frequency and intensity of the fires have reached an abnormal level. AFP



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Community Environment And Natural Resources Office
RXI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City, Davao del Norte, 8105 Philippines
TELEFAX NO. (084) 823-2011/email: cenropanabo@denr.gov.ph



PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbibigay alam sa madla na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City ay tatanggap ng selyado o nakasulat na alok sa ika alas Diyes (10:00 o'clock) ng umaga sa ika 11 ng Enero, taong 2023 para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa ibaba nito.

Lugar	:	San Pedro, Panabo City
Deskripsyon	:	Fis 5262-D
Sukat	:	8, 406 square meters
Tasahan ng Lupa	:	Php 9,700.00 kada metro kwadrado o Kabuuang Php 81,538,200.00
Halaga ng nakakatayong	:	Php 21,864,350.00
Proyekto	:	
Aplikante (DICT)	:	Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. represented by: Bonifacio B. Licayan

Ang karapatan na upahan ang nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbibigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong (3%) porsyento sa halaga ng lupa at isang (1%) porsyento sa halaga ng itatayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat-dapat na aplikante at kailangang bago magsimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's o manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang taon na sumali sa subasta na nagrerepresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang panhintulot na magkaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kanyang alok ay itinaas para makumpleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anuman alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa pamahalaan. Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangan tutumbasan ang kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito sa pagpapasukat ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Panabo, Pilipinas, Nobyembre 16, 2023.

LARRY A. AMBONGAN
OIC, CENR Officer



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LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10:00) o'clock in the morning on **January 11, 2023**, for the lease for docking purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	:	San Pedro, Panabo City
Description	:	Fis 5262-D
Area	:	8,406 square meters
Appraisal (Land)	:	Php 9,700.00 per square meter or Php 81,538,200.00
Value of Improvements	:	Php 21,864,350.00
Applied for by	:	Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. represented by: Bonifacio B. Licayan

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land.

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed/existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent of at least three (3) month's rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit everytime his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) month's rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is served to reject any or all bids.

Panabo City, Philippines, November 16, 2022.

LARRY A. AMBONGAN
OIC, CENR Officer