

16 November 2022, Wednesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

**SUMMARY OF DENR NEWS ALERTS**

16 November 2022

NEWSPAPER	TITLE	SPECIFIC ISSUES
<b>Top stories</b>		
<p><b>Business Mirror, p1</b> By Jonathan Mayuga</p>	<p>Net-zero plan must consider welfare of seafarers-DENR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a forum, “Delivering a Just Transition in Global Shipping,” organized by the International Labor Organization and United Nations Global Impact last November 9, DENR underscored the need for equitable consideration in planning the global shipping industry’s transition to a decarbonized future.</li> <li>• The forum highlighted key actions to fully decarbonize international shipping by 2050.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Business Mirror, pA2</b> By Rhodina Villanueva</p> <p><b>People’s Journal, p7</b> By Joel dela Torre</p>	<p>DENR chief bats for localized climate change data, solutions</p> <p>DENR bats for localized data in fight against climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the presentation of the Philippines Country Climate Development Report (PCCDR) by the World Bank Group to officials and staff of the DENR last October 28, DENR said it is batting for localized solutions based on data gathered on a regional or provincial level so that communities may have a better chance to respond effectively to climate change and its impacts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Manila Standard, p. A4</b> by Ronald O. Reyes</p>	<p>House bill seeks protection of Panaon Island</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rep. Christopherson “Coco” Yap of Southern Leyte’s 2nd Congressional district is advocating for House Bill 4095 which seeks to protect the waters surrounding Panaon</li> </ul>

		<p>Island by placing it under the protective mantle of Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yap said that the act will safeguard the diverse flora and fauna of the area and simultaneously ensure food security and the generation of sustainable livelihood for the people through tourism jobs and enterprises.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Malaya Business Insight, p.A6</b> By Reuters</p>	<p>World making little progress on food waste, a big climate problem</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● According to the United Nation, every year, the world throws away around 931 million tons of food, most of it ending up in landfills, where it decomposes to produce around a tenth of the world's climate-warming gases.</li> <li>● The top five biggest food wasters per capita: United States, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and Canada.</li> <li>● A UN study last year found "negligible" correlation between household food waste and gross domestic product, indicating most countries "have room to improve."</li> <li>● Insufficient public investment and clear policies to combat food spoiling in trucks and warehouses, wasteful consumer habits, and ambiguity about expiration and sell-by dates, according to experts, are the</li> </ul>

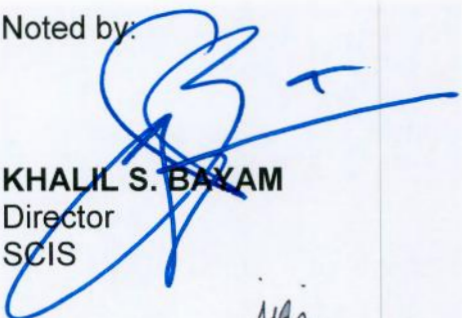
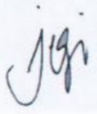
		root causes of the poor performance.
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## NET-ZERO PLAN MUST CONSIDER WELFARE OF SEAFARERS-DENR

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

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**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) underscored the need for equitable consideration in planning the global shipping industry's transition to a decarbonized future.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga who heads the Philippine delegation to COP27, was one of the panelists in the forum, "Delivering a Just Transition in Global Shipping," organized by the International Labor Organization and United Nations Global Impact last November 9.

A just transition plan, she said, should also promote gender inclusion and diversity,

noting that women compose 39 percent of the Philippine labor force and that the country has one of the highest numbers of women in senior management positions globally.

The forum highlighted key actions to fully decarbonize international shipping by 2050 in line with the agenda of COP27 to provide clear pathways for parties and stakeholders to meet the Paris Agreement in limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

It also highlighted the crucial requirement in upskilling and reskilling maritime workers to gain additional skills from which energy transition will

SEE "NET-ZERO," A2



## Net-zero...

CONTINUED FROM A1

demand, such as in terms of new technologies and global standards.

Loyzaga noted that the Philippines is the world's largest supplier of labor in the shipping industry with 1 million Filipinos certified with a Seaman's Book and approximately 400,000 Filipino seafarers at sea at any one time. Filipino nuclear and extended families depending on this livelihood could possibly be as many as 10 times of this work force, she added.

The environment chief noted that out of the over \$30 billion in inward remittances annually, approximately \$6 billion is contributed by the professional maritime sector.

"This is the magnitude of social considerations that need to be factored in the decarbonization of the shipping industry," Loyzaga said.

She said the impact of energy transition must ensure that the welfare and interests of seafarers are at the core of the discussion towards decision-making.

Loyzaga suggested embedding not only upskilling and reskilling but also the inclusion of stronger fundamentals in basic education.

She said the impact of changing atmosphere-ocean dynamics due to climate change must also be considered in the shipping operations, as well as ensuring the health and safety of seafarers in the course of the implementation.



## DENR chief bats for localized climate change data, solutions

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is batting for localized solutions based on data gathered on a regional or provincial level to tailor-fit solutions to the problems triggered by climate change.

In a news statement, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said efforts are now underway to gather and analyze data to better understand how climate change is impacting every region or province in the Philippines.

The DENR chief said it is high time for the country to have an accessible and credible localized climate data so that communities may have a better chance to respond effectively to climate change and its impacts.

Localized data can help public and private decision-makers come up with effective strategies and policies for adapting to climate change.

In terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation, it is important to "not always take climate change impacts at a country level but at the regional or even provincial scale," the DENR chief said.

"Changes in temperature and precipitation vary significantly per region due to the country's different climate types," Lozaga pointed out during the presentation of the Philippines Country Climate Development Report (PCCDR) by the World Bank Group to officials and staff of the DENR last October 28.

Lozaga added: "The utilization of resources due to its natural availability and regional demand varies.

This is especially true for water resources, which our Department is tasked to manage."

She said it is for this reason that the DENR is set to commence the accounting and mapping of the country's natural resources wherein it intends to combine geospatial intelligence, economics, and natural, social and industrial sciences.

"In light of our aim for granularity and to improve our ability to assess problems at the community level, we will soon be meeting with a team from the World Bank that will help with one of our flagship projects," Lozaga said, referring to the conduct of natural capital accounting.

Lozaga said the work of natural capital accounting is trans disciplinary and will entail close collaboration and synergies with different development partners.

"This database is envisioned to be a management tool—one that will provide transparency and promote decisions and actions that are based on information and scientific data," she added.

The PCCDR, which was presented by World Bank Group Senior Environmental Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean Stefano P. Pagiola, analyzed how climate change will affect development in the Philippines, particularly in the water, agriculture and energy sectors, and urban areas.

During his presentation, Pagiola said responses to climate change need to be tailor-fitted based on local conditions such as water demand and supply as impacts on climate change will likely differ across and within regions of the country.



## DENR bats for localized data in fight against climate change

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will need localized data to fight the impacts of climate change.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said the efforts are underway to gather and analyze data to better understand how climate change is impacting every region in the Philippines.

As far as the DENR is concerned, Loyzaga said it is high time for the country to have accessible and credible localized climate data so that communities have a better chance to respond effectively to climate change and its impacts.

Localized data can help public and private decision-makers come up with effective strategies and policies for adapting to climate change.

In terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation, the DENR chief explained that it is important to "not always take climate change impacts at a country level but at the regional or even provincial scale."

"Changes in temperature and precipitation vary significantly per region due to the country's different climate types," Loyzaga pointed out.

She added: "The utilization of resources due to its natural availability and regional demand varies. This is especially true for water resources which our Department is tasked to manage."

At the moment, Loyzaga said it is for this reason why the DENR is set to commence the accounting and mapping of the country's natural resources wherein it intends to combine geospatial intelligence, economics, and natural, social, and industrial sciences.

"In light of our aim for granularity and to improve our ability to assess problems at the community level, we will soon be meeting with a team from the World Bank that will help with one of our flagship projects," Loyzaga said, referring to the conduct of natural capital accounting.

Natural capital accounting's task is transdisciplinary and will entail close collaboration and synergies with different development partners.

"This database is envisioned to be a management tool—one that will provide transparency and promote decisions and actions that are based on information and scientific data," she added.

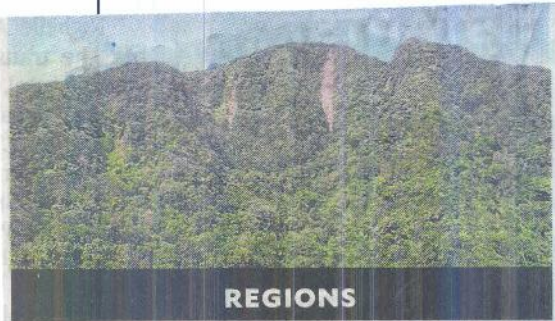




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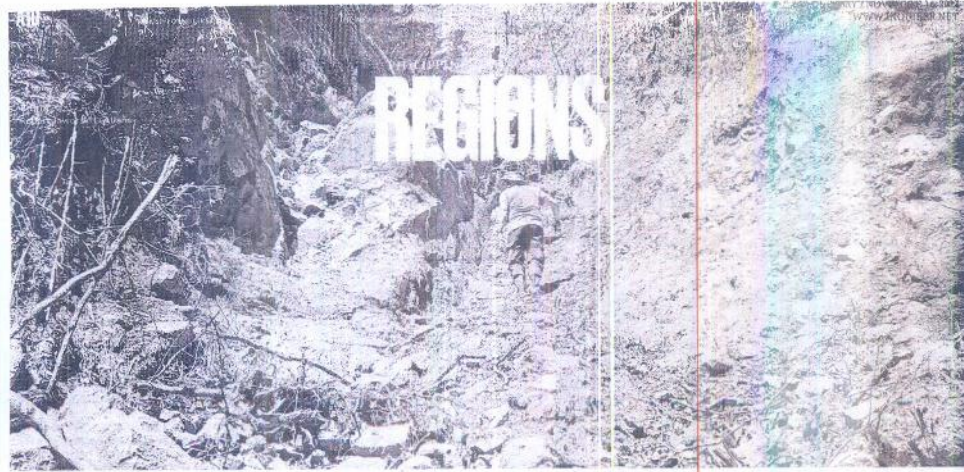


REGIONS

## Rockslides threaten Arayat communities

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Rocks, of a volume equivalent to almost 4,000 truckloads, have accumulated along a creek that flows down to four communities at the foothills of Mt. Arayat, posing a risk to more than 1,000 families. Citing recent aerial and ground surveys, Pampanga officials said residents along the potential path of a rockslide had been identified so they can be prioritized for evacuation. —STORY BY TONETTE OREJAS

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IMMINENT DANGER Boulders and rocks fill the trail of Sapang Maeyagas as confirmed by this photo taken on Nov. 10 from a ground survey that began at Barangay San Juan Baño in Arayat, Pampanga. The rocks, soil and other debris may be loosened once a strong typhoon hits and dump heavy rains on the area. —PHOTO COURTESY OF MGB AND PAMPANGA PDRRMO

# Rocks in Arayat creek threaten Pampanga folk

**Volume of accumulated debris estimated at close to 4,000 truckloads; more than 1,000 households at risk of slides once typhoons, strong rains come**

By **Tonette Orejas**  
@ttorejasINQ

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Rocks, the volume of which is equivalent to almost 4,000 truckloads, have accumulated along a creek that flows down to four subvillages at the foothills of Mt. Arayat where more than 1,000 households are situated, Pampanga Gov. Dennis Pineda confirmed on Tuesday.

Citing results of aerial and ground surveys done on Nov. 10, Pineda said the risks to human lives had increased as the volume of rocks along Sapang Maeyagas at Barangay San Juan Baño in Arayat town reached an estimated 71,350.60 cubic meters. Pineda said this volume would fit at least 3,963 trucks, with each carrying 18 cu. m.

At the height of Supertyphoon "Karding" (international name: Noru) on Sept. 25, about 4,120 cu. m. of rocks cascaded from the mountain's summit, while 1,125 cu. m. rolled down during the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" (Nalgae) starting Oct. 31, government data showed.

The assessment was based on a joint report of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Central Luzon, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO).



SCARRED This aerial shot of the summit of Mt. Arayat on Nov. 10 shows two gashes left by landslides that struck the Pampanga mountain's protected area. —MGB AND PAMPANGA PDRRMO PHOTO

According to a 2014 survey done by a team led by Noel Lacadin, chief geologist of the regional MGB, the rockslides and landslides began during Tropical Storm "Ondoy" (Ketsana) in 2009 and three more strong typhoons up to 2013 racked up the volume to 66,105.60 cu. m.

### Interventions

Those were rocks displaced by previous eruptions of Mt. Arayat, now classified as an inactive volcano.

"The estimated volume shall be considered by the concerned government agencies for the

construction or establishment of appropriate engineering interventions like debris flow barriers in Sapang Maeyagas," the MGB recommended during a meeting of the Mt. Arayat Community Safety Task Force at the provincial capitol on Monday.

Aerial footage showed grounds exposed by many plots cultivated by "kaingin" (slash-and-burn farming) below the protected area, where two large scars occurred.

Arayat Mayor Maria Lourdes Alejandrino said community meetings had been scheduled to regulate, if not stop, kaingin.

Pineda said the provincial government would help fund the local government's massive planting of bamboo to slow down the debris flow.

He said Pampanga Rep. Aurelio Gonzales and Vice Gov. Lilia Pineda were scheduled to meet Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan on Nov. 21 to request for engineering measures and funding for these.

### Relocation

San Juan Baño village chief Froilan Soriano pushed for the permanent relocation of 570 families in Purok 7.

A previous relocation in a hectare of land donated by Gonzales failed because some dwellers sold their units or returned to Purok 7 for lack of land to till for food and cash crops, Vice Mayor Emmanuel Bonifacio Alejandrino said at the meeting.

The governor said that with four to six typhoons usually hitting the country up to December, the villagers would have to rely on warnings based on data gathered by sensors installed on the slopes by the Mt. Arayat Early Warning System for rainfall, earthquakes and landslides.

The PDRRMO has tagged almost 1,000 houses as priorities for support and distributed "emergency go bags," where essentials are stored, to families needing to evacuate. INQ



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# House okays tax on plastic bags p.3

## House okays tax on plastic bags

**THE House of Representatives has approved on third and final reading a measure that seeks to impose excise tax on single-use plastic bags.**

The House Bill 4102 got an overwhelming 255 affirmative votes and three negative votes.

Principal authors Joey Salceda of Albay, Horacio Suansing of Sultan Kudarat and Mikaela Angela Suansing of Nueva Ecija underscored the need to pass the measure as single-use plastic bags are polluting the environment and are a health hazard to humans.

Plastic pollution poses a major threat to the environment, particularly bodies of water such as rivers, where fishermen depend on for their livelihood.

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 said.

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 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."

The filing of a return and payment of the tax shall be governed by the National Internal Revenue Code. Applicable penalties under the code would be imposed on violators.

Revenues from the tax shall be allocated to programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the implementation of Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, in municipalities.

**Jester Manastas**



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# Manila Standard



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## House bill seeks protection of Panaon Island

By Ronald O. Reyes

TACLOBAN City—Southern Leyte 2nd congressional district Rep. Christopher “Coco” Yap has pushed for House Bill 4095, which seeks to protect the waters surrounding Panaon Island by placing it under the protective mantle of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS).

“This will protect the diverse flora and fauna of the area and ensure food security and green sustainable livelihood for our people via tourism jobs and enterprises,” Yap said.

The lawmaker maintained that the declaration of Panaon Island as Marine Protected Area (MPA) under the Enipas Act “is very important to ensure that our

future generation, including our children, would be able to experience the island as we experience it today.”

“The formation of a body specially created for its protection would deter commercial vessels from encroaching in municipal waters to do their illegal acts with impunity and keep our most prized reefs from destruction. This will allow marine life to thrive and be available to our subsistence fishermen and give assurance to our visitors that they will get what they came for or will have something much better to come back to,” Yap added.

He then thanked the support from the marine advocacy group Oceana Philippines, particularly Oceana vice president Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos and her team.



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# Daily Tribune

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## Leyte eyes 'Bamboo Capital' title

The municipal government of Palo is hosting the Leyte Bamboo Summit at the Oriental Hotel where it invited advocates and bamboo experts in the country

BY ELMER RECUERDO

PALO, Leyte – The province of Leyte is gearing up to become the next bamboo capital in the country as all of the 40 municipalities have committed to come up with a program for its propagation.

Palo Mayor Remedios “Matin” Petilla, who is also the president of the provincial chapter of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, said every mayor in the province will come up with their respective “bamboo plan” including having their own bamboo park or bamboo farm in their towns.

Petilla said she is teaming up with former Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol in pushing for a large-scale bamboo production in the province.

On Wednesday, 16 November, the municipal government of Palo is hosting the Leyte Bamboo Summit at the Oriental Hotel where it invited advocates and bamboo experts in the country which will also include an exhibit of different products derived from bamboo.

Aside from Piñol, among the guests include National Security Adviser Clarita Carlos, who is also the chairperson Emeritus of Bamboo Warriors Philippines. Carlos will talk about the “Threats and Impact of Climate Change on National Security.”

Other speakers include bamboo advocate Rimmon Parren on Giant Bamboo Program – Propagating, Growing and Harvesting of Giant Bamboo; Mark Sultan Gersava, Bambuhay Foundation-Bamboo Farming For Clean and Green Philippines; and Roderico

Bioco of the Mindanao Bamboo Development Council on Creating A Bamboo Industry Through River Basin-Based Clusters.

Development Bank of the Philippines president Emmanuel Herbosa will also deliver a talk on DBP Financing Program For LGU Bamboo Processing Facilities.

Bamboo is abundant in Leyte but there is no inventory on how much area is planted with it. However, Petilla said LMP is pushing for the giant bamboo and iron bamboo variety due to their bigger market value.

“Bamboos are growing just anywhere here. But there are many producers who are looking for bamboo and we cannot supply them,” Petilla said.

She added that bamboo growing also fits well with the climate in Eastern Visayas where it is often visited by strong typhoons.

“Bamboos are resilient even to strong typhoons. It is very pliant; it bends with the wind,” Petilla said.



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## Robes sounds alarm on 'worsening' global climate

SAN Jose del Monte City Representative Florida Robes on Monday raised the alarm bells on deteriorating global climate conditions as she echoed what climate change advocates have been telling us – that we are already in a state of climate change emergency and should start first with strengthening our human resource capacity.

In a privilege speech, Robes proposed that the government should address the issue "immediately."

"In the aftermath of Super Typhoon 'Karding,'

this representation would like to spark an honest dialogue to three inconvenient—yet vital—truths that affect our nation and humanity as a whole... The pressing and urgent need to strengthen our policies on environmental protection and [to adapt] to climate change," Robes said.

Robes said it is lamentable and alarming to know that the Philippines, in terms of global metrics, ranked 2nd in the 2018 Climate Risk Index among countries heavily affected by extreme weather events and 11th out of 180 nations in

the 2020 Environmental Performance Index (EPI).

As a result, she said, our country suffers a great economic loss (around US\$3.5 billion based on World Bank estimates) yearly due to natural calamities.

"We can definitely feel the economic devastation of climate change. To illustrate, recently, Karding alone destroyed at least P160 million worth of high-value crops," Robes said.

No less than 5,239 Bulakeños, 1,571 families, including 1,447 children and 231 senior citizens, were displaced and forced to

evacuate to escape the floods, which also caused the lives of five emergency volunteers in the process.

She reiterated that climate change is no longer imminent.

"We are already in a state of climate emergency. Our President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. addressed the UN General Assembly who declared that the country is the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change. This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now," she said.

**Ryan Ponce Pacpaco**



## Handshake sparks climate hope, but officials remain worried

BY FRANK JORDANS, SETH BORENSTEIN & KELVIN CHAN

The Associated Press

**S**HARM EL-SHEIKH—A handshake in lush Bali is being felt at climate talks thousands of miles away in the Egyptian desert, where lack of progress had a top United Nations official worried.

After more than a week of so far fruitless climate talks, negotiators were grasping for something themselves: Hope. It came in the form of a cordial greeting between US President Joe Biden and China's President Xi Jinping, who met on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Indonesia.

Tensions between the world's two biggest polluters—whose cooperation is essential for any climate deal to work—have cast a shadow over the annual U.N. climate gathering, known as COP27. The Biden-Xi meeting could unfreeze negotiations between the US and China on climate, which Beijing paused in August to protest House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

At Monday's meeting, Biden and Xi agreed to "empower key senior officials" on areas of potential cooperation, including tackling climate change—though it was not immediately clear whether that meant formal talks would resume. The two nations' top climate envoys, John Kerry and Xie Zhenhua, have a long and friendly working relationship that was put on hold by the summer tensions.

Li Shuo, a China expert at Green-

peace, said the news from Bali showed Beijing and Washington had found an "offramp" to avoid geopolitics from polluting climate engagement. "This will help calm down tension at COP27," he said. "Both sides can talk to each other, now they also need to lead."

Despite the handshake, United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen used the word "worried" six times when talking about the state of climate talks in a half-hour interview with The Associated Press late Monday.

"We need to see much, much greater effort now," Andersen said. "So, yes, I'm worried, concerned, but also absolutely determined that we have to push to get there."

Sameh Shoukry, the Egyptian official chairing the talks, acknowledged that negotiators will need help from ministers now flying to Sharm el-Sheikh in order to get a deal over the line.

"There is still a lot of work ahead of us if we are to achieve meaningful and tangible outcomes of which we can be proud," said Shoukry, who is also Egypt's foreign minister. "We must now shift gears and



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## Despite the handshake, United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen used the word "worried" six times when talking about the state of climate talks in a half-hour interview with The Associated Press late Monday.

complement the technical discussions with more political, high-level engagement."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, arriving in Bali, said, there was no way to address climate change "without the cooperation of all G-20 members and in particular without the cooperation of the two biggest economies, the United States and China."

But there was worry that fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the ensuing energy and food crises and global inflation, could see the G-20 backtrack on last year's commitment to addressing climate change, including upholding the 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) warming limit agreed seven years ago in Paris.

"It would clearly be a great disappointment to the majority of countries, the vast majority of countries, to the small island developing states" that insisted on putting the 1.5 goal in the 2015 Paris agreement, Andersen said. "We cannot undo Paris."

Deep divides remain at COP27, where tens of thousands of attendees

from nearly 200 countries returned to the sprawling conference zone in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh after a one-day break.

Aside from haggling once again over the 1.5-degree target, delegates remained divided on calls for wealthy nations whose industrialization contributed most to global warming to provide more help for poor countries who've contributed little to global emissions.

This was reflected in the first draft of a crucial agreement released Monday on the issue of "loss and damage." Poor nations are seeking the creation of a new fund "no later" than November 2024 to provide further financial aid to countries hit by extreme weather, sea-level rise and other devastating effects of global warming. Rich nations including the United States have conceded that they need to provide more aid but made clear they don't want a new fund, instead citing an existing "mosaic of funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage."

UNEP head Andersen said the talks in Sharm el-Sheikh might clear the path for future pledges, but there still needed to be meaningful and clear progress on a pathway.

Some delegates were already talking about the possibility of a walkout by developing nations unless demands for more aid to poor countries are met.

"Now rich countries need to play  
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## Handshake . . .

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their part," said Rachel Cleetus, policy director and lead economist at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

"So this is going to be the litmus test of success at this COP, at COP27, that we get this loss and damage finance facility agreed here and that it's up and running in two years," Cleetus said at a press briefing.

Guterres, the UN chief, said he was encouraged by some countries' declarations that they would contribute funds, "but it's still early to know whether these (loss and damage) objectives will be—or not—reached."

The Group of Seven leading economies launched a new insurance system Monday 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 (dollars) in funding, mostly from Germany. Initial recipients include Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegal.

But civil society groups were skeptical, warning that the program should not be used as a way to distract

from the much broader effort to get big polluters to pay for the loss and damage they've already caused with their greenhouse gases.

India made an unexpected proposal over the weekend for this year's climate talks to end with a call for a phase down of all fossil fuels.

The idea is likely to get strong pushback from oil and gas-exporting nations, including the United States, which promotes natural gas as a clean 'bridge fuel' to renewables.

India was blamed at last year's climate talks for resisting a call to "phase out" coal. Countries compromised by calling for a vaguer "phase down" instead, which was nevertheless seen as significant because it was the first time a fossil fuel industry was put on notice.

The talks are due to wrap up Friday but could extend into the weekend if negotiators need more time to reach an agreement.

The UN's top climate official appealed for constructive diplomacy to match the high-flying rhetoric heard during the opening days of the talks.

"Let me remind negotiators that people and planet are relying on this process to deliver," UN Climate Secretary Simon Stiell said. "Let's use our remaining time in Egypt to build the bridges needed to make progress."





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# Climate fight: Asia's leadership opportunity

**N**ew York/Seoul—A year ago, following US President Joe Biden's election, multilateralism once again became the beating heart of global climate action. G20 leaders agreed to more ambitious near-term climate targets en route to achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century, and they committed to ending inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and cooperating on clean energy deployment to phase out coal more quickly. The willingness of China and India to address fossil fuels reflected a growing awareness of the macroeconomic risks of resisting the clean energy transition.

These outcomes were crucial for delivering a litany of new initiatives at last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) that were dedicated to "keeping 1.5 alive," in line with the Paris climate agreement's goal for limiting the increase in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius, relative to the pre-industrial average. They also helped set the stage for the historic Glasgow Climate Pact, which commits every country to phase down unabated coal use, even if India and China were able to block calls to phase out coal entirely.

Unfortunately, the stage for this week's G20 summit in Bali could not be more different. Geopolitical and economic conditions are much less favorable, owing largely to Russia's appalling war of aggression in Ukraine, with G7 countries backtracking on their commitments to end fossil fuel investment as a result. Today's heightened US-China tensions will, one hopes, be eased somewhat by the bilateral meeting between Biden and President Xi Jinping in Bali. But forging a strong outcome will be hard.

Given that G20 countries account for around 80 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the summit will set the tone for the final outcome of this year's UN climate conference (COP27), which will conclude in Egypt after the G20 wraps up in Indonesia. The proceedings in Sharm El-Sheikh have already been dominated by the world's most vulnerable countries calling for climate justice and demanding that big emitters pay up to support their transitions and livelihoods.

## WORLD VIEW

KEVIN RUDD AND BAN KI-MOON

This is why the fight against climate change might be the unifying moment the G20 requires. And the G20's Asian members have a vital role to play in that.

Rather than backtracking on climate action during the ongoing and compounding crises of the past year, Asian economies have deepened their resolve. Major Asian emitters headline the small list of countries that actually responded to the Glasgow Climate Pact's call to increase their climate ambitions in 2022: India, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, and the new government in Australia have all enhanced their targets. While greater ambition is needed for commitments to align with the Paris agreement's 1.5 degrees Celsius target, regional momentum is moving in the right direction.

Asia is acting because it makes good policy sense. Research commissioned by our High-Level Policy Commission on Getting Asia to Net Zero shows that more ambitious climate action is a boon for the region's economic development. If the region fully implements the climate targets it set at COP26, it will boost the gross domestic product growth by as much as 5.4 percent by 2030, while also creating more new jobs, reducing energy costs, and strengthening energy security. This is a big deal for governments looking to escape the inflation trap and rising energy prices.

Developing economies are also aware that embracing the green transformation can help mobilize the massive amounts of investment needed to turn rhetoric into reality. For example, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are among those publishing "Climate Prosperity Plans" that, if funded, could enhance resilience, reduce poverty, and spearhead economic growth.

Likewise, Indonesia and Vietnam are expected to announce new "Just Energy Transi-

tion Partnerships," replicating a model whereby developed countries committed \$8.5 billion to South Africa last year to enable a faster exit from coal while protecting fossil fuel workers' livelihoods. Political will and policy certainty are powerful tools for unleashing capital flows from rich donor countries, derisking private finance, and unlocking new domestic resources.

Asia finds itself in the multilateral hot seat at a critical time. India will take on the G20 presidency from Indonesia following this week's summit, Japan will host next year's G7 summit, and the United Arab Emirates, as part of the Asia-Pacific group, will host the COP28 climate conference next year. Simply put, climate action can be the common thread that helps rebuild a consensus in favor of multilateralism.

The G20 could start by seeking a unified commitment among member countries to climate action as a driver of economic recovery and growth. After India, the G20 presidency will rotate to Brazil, implying a unique opportunity to define what this looks like from the perspective of major emerging economies. Countries like Indonesia, India, and Brazil could emphasize the win-win benefits of deepening cooperation.

Multilateralism is on life support at a moment when it is critical for humanity's survival. By putting climate action at the heart of their efforts to rebuild consensus and reinvigorate multilateralism, Asian countries will prop open the world's window of opportunity to prevent climate disaster. They will also catalyze their own ability to benefit from the massive economic and social opportunities created by the green transition. *Project Syndicate*

Kevin Rudd, a former prime minister of Australia and founder of the G20 Leaders' Summit, is president of the Asia Society and convener of the High-Level Policy Commission on Getting Asia to Net Zero. Ban Ki-moon, a former secretary general of the United Nations, is deputy chair of The Elders and a member of the High-Level Policy Commission on Getting Asia to Net Zero.



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## Western thirst for African gas raises alarm at COP27

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt (AFP) - Wealthy Western nations facing an energy crunch are eyeing natural gas in Africa at the expense of supporting green transition in poorer countries, climate activists at COP27 charge.

European countries have been scrambling for alternative sources of gas after the continent's former top supplier, Russia, slashed exports in apparent retaliation for Western sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February.

Gas-rich Norway has since overtaken Russia as a leading supplier, but Europe sees great potential in African fossil fuel reserves, including promising oil and gas discoveries in Senegal and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Europe wants "to turn Africa into its gas station," Mohamed Adow, director of the Power Shift Africa think tank, said at the UN climate summit in Egypt.

"We don't have to follow the footsteps of the rich world that actually caused climate change in the first place."

Exporting natural gas may bring short-term profits but exacerbate the climate crisis and leave African nations worse off in the long run, activists, researchers and advocacy groups said.

Research group Climate Action Tracker called the global dash for gas a "serious threat" to the Paris Agreement goals - of keeping global warming well below two degrees Celsius, and preferably at 1.5 degrees

compared to pre-industrial levels.

Some African leaders argued the potential benefits for people on the world's poorest continent outweighed the harm from the production and export of fossil fuels.

"We are in favor of a just and fair green transition, instead of decisions that harm our development process," Senegalese President Macky Sall told some 100 world leaders last week at COP27.

Germany - the European country most dependent on Russian supplies before the war - has been keen to tap Senegal's gas deposits.

Omar Farouk Ibrahim, secretary general of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization, argued the slight increase in the continent's marginal contribution to greenhouse gas emissions "would make a fundamental difference in whether people live or die."

"We have 600 million people in Africa who don't have access to electricity at all. We have over 900 million people in Africa who do not have access to modern form of energy for cooking or domestic heating," he said.

"No progress can be made in any society without energy."

But advocacy groups were not convinced Africa's poor would reap any benefits.

"History shows us that... extraction in African countries has not resulted in development," said Thuli Makama, African programme director at Oil Change International.



## World making little progress on food waste, a big climate problem

EVERY Thursday, California resident Richard Redmond takes a gallon-sized container of food scraps to the farmers market in the city of South Pasadena where it is collected and composted for use in gardens – an effort to reduce the amount of household waste he sends to landfill.

“It’s just stunning,” the web designer, who is in his 60s, said. “You can see how separating it just reduces the amount of garbage you are putting out.”

Redmond’s experience is a tiny window into a huge global problem, and not enough people are with him.

Every year, the world throws away around 931 million tons of food, most of it ending up in landfills, where it decomposes to produce around a tenth of the world’s climate-warming gases, according to the United Nations.

That’s a major challenge for countries tackling global warming at the COP27 climate summit underway in Egypt. Nations around the globe pledged in 2015 to halve food waste by 2030, but few are on track to do so, according to officials from the United Nations, sustainability watchdogs, and governments interviewed by Reuters.

“Eight years to go and we are

nowhere close to reaching that goal,” said Rosa Rolle, the team leader for food loss and waste at the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization.

Among the top five biggest food wasters per capita, for example, at least three – the United States, Australia and New Zealand – have increased their food waste since 2015, according to independent estimates that their governments do not dispute. Reliable information for the other two, Ireland and Canada, was not available.

The problem is not limited to richer countries, either. A UN study last year found “negligible” correlation between household food waste and gross domestic product, indicating most countries “have room to improve.”

The bleak performance is due to a lack of public investment and clear policies to counter things like food spoilage in trucks and warehouses, wasteful consumer habits, and confusion about expiration and sell-by dates, experts said.

Complicating the issue is a lack of transparency. When the UN General Assembly adopted the 2015 food waste goal, it did not establish a clear benchmark against which to measure progress because of spotty country-level estimates.

UN agencies and nonprofits attending COP27 will ask governments on Nov. 16 to renew their pledges and provide progress reports at next year’s summit in Dubai, Rolle said.

The average American wastes more than 700 calories of food per day – about a third of recommended daily intake – according to a 2020 study by researchers in Switzerland and India, making America’s progress an important benchmark for other nations.

The country is no role model yet. The amount of food wasted in the United States rose 12 percent between 2010 and 2016 and has since plateaued, according to ReFED, a waste reduction group that works closely with the US government.

“We do have a long way to make the goal,” said Jean Buzby, the food waste liaison at the US Department of Agriculture.

Part of the problem is a lack of federal leadership.

The USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration agreed in 2018 to tackle America’s food waste together. But they’ve devoted few resources to the effort since, said Dana Gunders, executive director of ReFED.



TITLE: World making...

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A woman picks up vegetables discarded by food vendors at a garbage dump site of a wholesale market in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China. (Reuters Photo)

USDA and FDA each have just one full-time staff person dedicated to food waste, the agencies told Reuters. EPA declined to give a number, saying the work was spread across several offices.

“What real focus would look like on this topic would be for each of

these agencies to dedicate staff, to give those staff funding to implement things,” Gunders said.

The USDA and EPA said they do not track spending on food waste initiatives. The FDA did not comment on its spending.

In the meantime, the agencies are

relying on the private sector to help. Forty-seven companies, including food retailer Ahold Delhaize and processor General Mills, have made pledges to halve their food waste by 2030 as part of a voluntary USDA and EPA program launched in 2016. - Reuters



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
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Philippine Daily  
**NGAYON**  
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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

GOODHANDS WATER SPECIALISTS, INC.,  
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3459

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Uptown Village and Liberty Homes Subdivision, Barangay Sapang Maragul, Tarlac City, province of Tarlac, with the following proposed rates:

**PROPOSED TARIFF**

Public Tap						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	₱ 157.00	34.60	37.70	44.00	50.30	53.40
Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	₱ 163.00	35.80	37.70	42.40	45.60	49.60
Commercial and Industrial						
Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3	
1/2"	₱ 942.00	78.60	94.30	94.30	94.30	
Bulk						
Pipe Size	Per cu.m.		Others		Per cu.m.	
1"	₱ 208.30		3/4"		₱ 104.20	

This application will be initially heard by the Board on 5 December 2022. The hearing will start at 9:00 o' clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Tarlac and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

**Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III**  
Executive Director

**Affected Parties:**

The Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod  
Tarlac City, Tarlac

The Barangay Chairman  
Barangay Sapang Maragul  
Tarlac City, Tarlac

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Uptown Village & Liberty Homes Subdivision  
Barangay Sapang Maragul  
Tarlac City, Tarlac

The General Manager  
Tarlac City Water District  
Tarlac-Sta. Rosa Road  
Maliwalo, Tarlac City 2300



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

GOODHANDS WATER SPECIALISTS, INC.,  
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3466

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Diamond Heights Subdivision, Barangay Communal, Buhangin District, Davao City, province of Davao del Sur, with the following proposed rates:

**PROPOSED TARIFF**

Public Tap						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	₱ 117.00	25.70	28.00	32.70	37.40	39.70
Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	₱ 122.50	26.90	29.00	37.80	42.30	46.70
Commercial and Industrial						
Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3	
1/2"	₱ 700.50	58.40	70.10	70.10	70.10	
Bulk						
Pipe Size	Per cu.m.		Others		Per cu.m.	
1"	₱ 156.90		3/4"		₱ 78.50	

This application will be initially heard by the Board on 5 December 2022. The hearing will start at 9:00 o' clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Davao del Sur and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

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**Affected Parties:**

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Davao City, Davao del Sur

The Barangay Chairman  
Barangay Communal, Buhangin District  
Davao City, Davao del Sur

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Diamond Heights Subdivision  
Barangay Communal, Buhangin District  
Davao City, Davao del Sur

The General Manager  
Davao City Water District  
McArthur Highway, Matina  
Davao City 8000