

OPINION ARTICLE

**Climate Change in the Philippines**

*Cambio climático en Filipinas*

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*“Climate change knows no borders. It will not stop before the Pacific Islands and the whole of the international community here has to shoulder a responsibility to bring about sustainable development.”*

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany.

Climate change is a contemporary problem that is haunting me for the past few years. It is necessary to advocate for climate action and support local organizations in the Philippines to promote substantial education regarding climate change because if more people become aware of what’s going on, they will make radical decisions and take radical action.

For a brief background about Climate Change in Philippines, let me take you back in 2013, where a super Typhoon Yolanda struck the island country of the Philippines, killing more 6000 people and leaving 1800 missing. The typhoon affected more than 14 million people, leaving a devastated

damage in the livelihood of millions of workers. On the average, 19-20 cyclones hit the country each year. Philippines is the third most vulnerable country to climate change as well as one of the world's most typhoon impacted places (The Philippines is Third-Riskiest Country When it Comes to Natural Disasters, 2018). The Philippines is in the Southeast Asia Pacific region and by the virtue of its geographic circumstances, it is highly vulnerable to natural disasters.

Impacts of Climate Change in the country includes threats to biodiversity such as coral loss, declining rice yields, more intense droughts, and higher sea level rise. While there is a strong scientific consensus that human-caused greenhouse gas emissions are generating climate change that then contributes to stronger typhoons, the Filipino has low responsibility for causing climate change. That is, the struggle that is faced by the Philippines, as well as other developing countries, it is more than just an environmental problem, it is an example of a climate injustice.

Despite of the Pandemic, Filipino youth organizations are continuously fighting for climate justice and the harmful impact of the rapid changing climate that goes long and wide, most especially for girls and indigenous people who faced constant harassment and attacks in their fight to protect their land, rivers, and forest from environmental destruction. In fact, according to the UK-based international human rights and environmental group Global Witness, The Philippines remains the worst place for Land and environmental defenders in Asia. Climate strikes of the Filipino Youths in the country also goes beyond asking the government to held responsibility as carbon emitter. Fortunately, the Philippines then commit to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change a revise target to cut greenhouse gas emission to a 75% reduction by 2030.

To sum everything up, people and ecosystems all throughout the world are suffering because of climate change. The Philippines, on the other hand, is particularly sensitive to climate change's effects (Climate Change in the Philippines, 2021), wherein extreme weather events are becoming more common, sea levels are rising, droughts, storms, and floods are becoming more widespread and intense, heavy rains are becoming more frequent and temperatures are rising. Even though climate change will most likely affect everyone, the children, the elderly, the poor, and minorities will be the earliest and most affected groups. If we do not act, this catastrophe may become both inevitable and irremediable. Future research about the specific policies and regulations

that the Philippines government issued for environmental protection represent an important point to adjust the complementary actions towards effective environmental protection actions.

## REFERENCES

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