



**Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman
Climate Change Commission**

OPENING REMARKS

CLIMATE FIELD SCHOOL TRAINING FOR LGUS

06 March 2018
Dumangas, Iloilo City

Mayor Ronaldo Golez, fellow government workers, participants and guests, good morning.

As the first in the entire country and the second in the whole of Asia, the Climate Field School in Dumangas is at the forefront of the fight against the severe impacts of climate change to our communities.

The initiative of the Municipality of Dumangas to expand climate field school trainings to the other municipalities of Panay Island is consistent with the Climate Change Commission's thrust of promoting peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange on innovation approaches to accelerate climate actions at the local level.

At this point, allow me to commend Mayor Golez and the local officials of Dumangas for all their efforts in mainstreaming grassroots adaptation.

Your commitment to promoting climate-resilient agriculture is crucial, given that the impacts of climate change will continue to drive vulnerability and exacerbate existing risks in our communities.

Our farmers are among those who are intimately familiar with the traditional ebbs and flows of the weather and the apparent changes caused by the climate change.

Given the extreme weather we are experiencing at the moment under the so-called "new normal", it is an imperative to equip our farmers with ways on how to cope with climate change.

CCC's Climate Resiliency Field Schools

We in the Climate Change Commission are with you in this endeavor.

Heeding the call of President Rodrigo Duterte in his 2017 State of the Nation Address to look into the concerns over drought and long dry spells affecting food production, we have recently embarked on a three-month program supporting the

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establishment of ClimateResiliency Field Schools to promote resilient rural livelihoods.

Complementing the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, we scaled-up and strengthened existing field schools in 17 partner cities and municipalities.

We were able to cover more stakeholders to strengthen climate information services at the local level, and raise awareness among local government unit officials and farmers on climate action.

At least 45 barangays with a total of 577 enrollees from 13 LGUs were covered by these intensive and special learning sessions.

Other initiatives of the CCC

At this point, allow me to share with you the Commission's other major initiatives, which should complement your efforts here at the local level.

With the country's accession to the Paris Agreement in 2017, we have been facilitating a bottom-up approach in developing the country's Nationally Determined Contribution or NDC, which will serve as our roadmap as well as an investment plan towards a climate-resilient, low-carbon economy.

As we pursue climate change adaptation, interventions that reduce carbon emissions also deliver the development benefits we long for our people: cleaner air, a healthier and greener environment, and a safer and more secure future for Filipinos.

I am pleased to inform you that the initial draft of our NDC is already at hand and is set for promulgation and submission to UNFCCC this year.

Pursuant to our mandate under the Climate Change Act, we have also established a Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation System to monitor and evaluate the progress of the implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan or NCCAP.

We are currently updating our NCCAP to articulate both our National Adaptation Plan or NAP and our NDC.

Through a series of consultations with different stakeholders, we have also successfully facilitated the national policy review and framework development on energy.

The energy policy framework, which is now being finalized, will be our guide on how we could introduce reforms and make our energy policies more relevant and more responsive to climate change and sustainable development challenges.

To ensure climate-resilient planning and programming at the local level, we have also initiated the development of a set of standard training modules for local

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development planning founded on science and aimed at reducing risk or loss and damage from the impacts of disasters and climate change. We have called these training modules Communities for Resilience or CORE Module Series.

This year, we continue to train faculty members from higher education institutions on the use of these standard training modules. These institutions shall, in turn, use the modules to train local government executives and planners, and to help them prepare LCCAPs and access PSF grants.

In support of the full implementation of the Green Jobs Act of 2016, we have conducted policy roundtable discussions to tackle important issues in the implementation of the law and their consideration in finalizing our NDC.

In line with the mandate of the Commission in the Green Jobs Act, we are now developing the standards for green jobs and establishing an accreditation and certification system that would provide incentives to businesses that support green jobs, green skills and green workplaces, and collectively support a just transition to a green economy.

Through our LECB Project, we have also been conducting roundtable discussions and regional consultations on the greening of Philippine hospitals, and the response of the country's hospital sector has been very positive and encouraging.

To address the fragmentation and shortage of risk information in the country we are now facilitating the establishment of a National Integrated Risk Information System or NIRIS by various government agencies concerned. A singular platform for risk information will let national and local government stakeholders access risk data that inform policy and planning processes.

The risk information platform will also strengthen multi-hazard early warning system and impact-based forecasting in the country, an innovative approach to saving lives and property, especially in disaster-prone communities, through effective early warning.

The platform shall also benefit the private business sector by providing risk information that informs climate-resilient investment planning.

On top of that, we are also working with the Office of Civil Defense to develop a loss and damage registry, which could provide the insurance sector with better profiles of risk in the country.

Indeed, we must do more and do better to sustain our gains through the years.

We must promote more adaptation and disaster risk reduction interventions, like this climate field school initiative.

Let us showcase the good practices here in Dumangas, Iloilo. Our Philippine Pavilion at COP 24 could be the venue for showcasing your good practices in climate change adaptation, specifically in climate-smart agriculture.

For all these and more, we will release before the year ends, the First State of Philippine Climate Action Report, which reports on the progress of all sectors on their programs and activities on climate change. The report serves also as a comprehensive baseline on the country's climate action.

We are also pursuing efforts to mainstream green financing within the banking sector. In the past months, we were able to assemble leaders of the finance sector through a series of high-level and multi-stakeholder forums that identified the gaps that hinders climate finance investments, as well as the measures that could fill it in.

Partnership between the national and local government

In all these, the local government is an indispensable partner to move on and to make a difference. All these policies and capacity building initiatives I have mentioned will be nothing without your full support and cooperation.

Partnership and cooperation is key to resilience building. We in the national government cannot do the work alone. Your actions are crucial to advance our cause and deliver the benefits and progress we all desire for the country, for our communities, and for our families.

Ladies and gentlemen, please keep in mind that whatever happens in this training workshop will reverberate not only throughout the world but throughout the years to come. I wish you all a pleasant and fruitful day ahead.