



SECRETARY EMMANUEL M. DE GUZMAN
Climate Change Commission

CLOSING REMARKS

**Climate Field School Training for the LGUs
of Antique And Aklan**

11 May 2018

Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center
Aklan State University Compound
Banga, Aklan

Fellow government workers; participants and guests: Mayad nga hapon ka ninyong a tanan.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you have discussed in the past two days, the problem of climate change is enormous.

It is the most defining threat of our time—a development issue that has called for the rethinking of paradigms and redefining of our approaches to sustainable development. We need better and more effective ways of thinking and doing...to be more relevant and responsive to the challenges of our times.

The Philippines has constantly been in the top ten of the rankings of countries that suffered most from global warming.

Every year, we are ravaged by an average of 20 typhoons, that in recent years, the intensity of which has increased. Because of this, we have undergone cycles of destruction and reconstruction, which has stalled our economic growth.

Supertyphoon Yolanda alone in 2013 claimed 6,300 lives and inflicted more than P89 billion pesos worth of damages to public and private infrastructure and lands.

Data showed that the rise in global average temperature in 2015 and 2016 had breached 1°C above pre-industrial levels. In a business-as-usual scenario, global warming could reach up to 4°C by 2050, leading towards potentially devastating consequences.

Imagine, if Yolanda occurred at a global temperature below one-degree Celsius, how much more of our businesses do we put at stake, how much more lives do we put at risk—in a four or six-degree world?

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Records also showed that the Philippines posted the highest average increase in sea level since 1901, roughly three times higher than the global average of 19 centimeters.

This puts at risk 60 percent of our LGUs covering 64 coastal provinces, 822 coastal municipalities, 25 major coastal cities, and an estimate of 13.6 million Filipinos that would need relocation.

The World Meteorological Organization confirmed that the long-term temperature trend is on an upward trajectory, with 2015, 2016, and 2017 being the warmest years on record.

Given all these projections, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are now moral imperatives and clearly social justice in action.

Poverty, as we all know, breeds disaster vulnerability, and those who have least in life, sadly, risk life most. To be indifferent and to do nothing on the threats of climate change is therefore an injustice to the vulnerable.

Rural people, particularly farmers, fisherfolk, and indigenous peoples should be enabled to participate with a strong voice in bottom-up adaptation and risk reduction planning and implementation, articulating their concerns and priorities, as their views are grounded in their daily lives.

In line with this and heeding the call of President Rodrigo Duterte in his 2017 State of the Nation Address to look into the concerns overdrought and long dry spells affecting food production, we in the Climate Change Commission have recently embarked on a three-month program supporting the establishment of Climate Resiliency Field Schools to promote resilient rural livelihoods.

Complementing the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, we have scaled-up and strengthened existing fieldschools 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.

However, we know we have to reach more municipalities so that in turn, we can reach more farmers.

This is the challenge that inspired this partnership between the Climate Change Commission and the Local Government of Dumangas, Iloilo in conducting this Climate Field School Training for the LGUs in Aklan and Antique.

We in the Climate Change Commission are promotive of peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing events such as this one because we deem it critical to build the capacities of all our people as fast as possible.

We need to institutionalize local climate action and resilience in order to complement the efforts being done at the national level.

At this point, allow me to share how we in the national government is facilitating our country's transition to climate-smart and disaster resilient development pathway.

With the country's accession to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2017, the Climate Change Commission is now 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.

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 the United Nations 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 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.

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 for other communities to adopt.

Let us showcase the good practices in Aklan and Antique. 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.

Ladies and gentlemen, all these programs and capacity building initiatives will be nothing without your full support and cooperation of people.

Local interventions are needed to complement national initiatives.

Let us streamline climate actions at all levels. Convergence will be our key to building resilience.

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As I close, I wish to thank all of you for completing this training workshop. Your participation signifies your willingness to join our advocacy of mainstreaming climate action at the grassroots level.

As local government leaders, agriculturists, and agricultural extension workers, your role is crucial in bridging the gap between science, policy, and local action.

I hope that we end this training today with a renewed sense of responsibility.

May these capacity building activity festivities inspire each and every one of you to take a more active role in our collective mission of building a climate-smart and disaster-resilient Philippines.

Thank you!