

SECRETARY EMMANUEL M. DE GUZMAN
Climate Change Commission

WELCOME REMARKS

**Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on the
Development of the Green Jobs Act Assessment
and Certification System and Guidelines**

17 May 2018

Edades Function Room, Aruga by Rockwell
Waterfront Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

Director Khalid Hassan of the International Labour Organization; Assistant Secretary Alex Avila of the Department of Labor and Employment; development partners, participants and guests; fellow workers in government; ladies and gentlemen: good morning and welcome to our Consultation Meeting on Green Jobs.

The Philippine Green Jobs Act was enacted into law in 2016 to provide a framework to identify, develop, certify, sustain, and incentivize “green jobs” to support the country’s transition into a greener economy.

This landmark law complements earlier laws promoting environmental sustainability and decent work by sharpening the country’s policy focus on promoting green jobs.

It models a way for countries to pursue a green economy in line with the goal of the Paris Agreement of limiting the global temperature rise of 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

One of its salient provisions is the formulation of the National Green Jobs Human Resource Development Plan, which will enable and sustain the generation of green jobs

towards more employment and equal opportunities and the promotion of social justice and workers' welfare.

Another important feature is the creation of an incentives system that will encourage business enterprises to generate and sustain more green jobs.

Following the issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the green jobs law last year, we in the Climate Change Commission are now developing the appropriate standards for the assessment and certification of green jobs and services, and technologies and practices.

To this end, in partnership with the International Labour Organization and in line with our whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, we are holding this first multi-stakeholder consultation to gather your perspective on developing the necessary standards for green products and services and green jobs certification process.

I encourage all of you to share your knowledge and expertise because the discussions today will provide the necessary context in finalizing the design of our green jobs certification system and services.

Through the seeds of dialogue and cooperation that will be sown here today, we hope to release the green jobs standards and certification system by June.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we gather and appreciate our climate change and green job laws today, let us keep in mind that in this era of climate change, current carbon and resource-intensive approaches to economic growth increasingly undermine the welfare of our environment, society, and economy and augur ill for the generations to come.

It is thus important for us in the national government, together with development partners, to pave the way for a low-carbon and green economic development with innovative and reformative practices, plans and programs on climate change adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development.

Climate change action, if pursued and managed well, promises to result in more and better jobs, poverty reduction, and social inclusion.

Hence, we are challenged to implement a well-managed transition to green and climate-smart economies—a transition that will drive decent and green job creation, job upgrading, social justice, and poverty reduction—which are all crucial in the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable growth.

Both the government and private sector have a fair share in a just transition to a green economy. However, the government must create an enabling environment for the private sector to invest in green and climate-friendly ventures.

The Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016 and the Climate Change Act of 2009 are among these enabling laws —both strengthen national and local efforts in shifting to a green and low-carbon economy.

Our own National Climate Change Action Plan or NCCAP should also guide this national transition. It must be noted that our NCCAP recognizes Green Jobs as a means to climate-smart industries and services.

We in the Climate Change Commission are currently updating our NCCAP to articulate our National Adaptation Plan and our Nationally Determined Contribution or NDC.

We assure you that the pursuit of green jobs and just transition is a primary consideration in the development of our

NDC, which we intend to submit to UNFCCC within the year as in line with our ratification and joining of the Paris Climate Change Agreement .

Our NDC serves as the country's new industrial policy and investment agenda. It is expected to generate jobs several magnitudes greater than if we stick to failed and failing carbon-intensive, and increasingly unreliable and far more expensive business-as-usual pathways.

In implementing the NDC, we recognize that the transformative role of the private business sector is crucial.

It is in this context that we call on the private sector to stop making bets on an unsustainable future and focus investing on green and climate-friendly ventures.

Considering the role of public and private banks in catalyzing these investments, we have already embarked on promoting green banking and climate financing within the country's financial sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, addressing a problem as enormous as climate change entails our collective action and constant resolve to make a difference. There are five (5) emerging major challenges we must confront together as we pursue a low-carbon and climate-smart economy:

First, we must enhance and sustain the awareness and understanding of all sectors and the several problems on climate change and green jobs through all media platforms, formal education system, and corporate practices.

Second, we must promote sustainable urban planning and development with green jobs and just transition in consideration. The governments's 'Build Build Build' Program shall rightly be complemented by the 'Green Green Green'

Program initiated by the DBM which the CCC supports through inter-agency and multistakeholders convergence.

Third, we must accelerate capacity building for all sector, especially the LGUs and local communities on CCA-DRR, including ensuring that LCCAPs and LDRRMPs are in place, updated, and responsive to the new development frameworks and adaptation, resilience and just transition needs of the poor and marginalised groups.

Fourth, we must invest in social preparation for the implementation of our NDC, the transformation of all our sectors towards low-carbon development and a green economy, and the sustained implementation and monitoring of the outcomes of our NCCAP.

And fifth, we must facilitate immediate and sustainable access to international and domestic climate finance and the transfer of appropriate technology and knowledge on climate change adaptation and mitigation and on good green practices.

The key to overcoming these challenges is to advance national and cross-sectoral cooperation and action on in our country which the Climate Change Commission is committed to lead and to foster.

We will conatantly support convergence meetings such as this so we could all work together, pool our resources, knowledge and expertise, for a safer, more secure and sustainable future for the Filipino people.

Thank you and may we all have a meaningful and productive Consultative meeting today.