



SECRETARY EMMANUEL M. DE GUZMAN
Climate Change Commission

KEY MESSAGE

**Launching of the “NDC SUPPORT PROJECT for the PHILIPPINES”
and Turn-Over of LECB PHL Project Output**
31 May 2018

Mr. Titon Mitra; fellow Climate Change Commissioners; local government leaders; fellow workers in government; private sector and civil society leaders; development partners; ladies and gentlemen: Good morning.

It's gratifying to look around and see so many familiar faces. On behalf of the Climate Change Commission, I thank all of you for making an effort to join us in this momentous occasion.

Today, after almost six years of hard work and dedication, we celebrate the achievements of the Low Emission Capacity Building Project in the Philippines.

I wish to thank the members of our National Steering Committee—the different national government agencies, the NGOs and CSOs, the business sector and the academe, and the donor agencies and governments—for their relentless support in implementing this project.

Allow me to briefly recall the journey that led us to this day. The implementation of the LECB Project by the Climate Change Commission and the UNDP in 2012 gave us the necessary head start in our pursuit of a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

Three years before the Paris Climate Change Agreement was forged, we were already capacitating the government to conduct a national greenhouse gas inventory system.

The hard work and dedication of our LECB Team paved the way for the institutionalization of the Philippine Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management and Reporting System through Presidential Executive Order 174.

Aside from providing budget, EO 174 and the corresponding Guidance Document and Reference Manual ensured the adoption and streamlining of GHG reporting activities into the regular mandates and responsibilities of relevant national government agencies.

The establishment of this institutional framework and structure for the conduct of a national GHG inventory models the ways for other countries to monitor and manage their emissions.

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The work of LECB on developing mitigation options for the AWIT-FE sectors has become the “bible” of national government agencies and development partners in identifying and selecting appropriate sectoral mitigation actions.

The Multi-Criteria Analysis or MCA conducted by the LECB Project has become the tool in the selection and ranking of the mitigation actions included in our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions or INDC that was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2015.

Another important accomplishment of the LECB Project is the development of the Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable or MRV Systems Framework, which will keep track of the overall performance of the country’s mitigation actions.

Meanwhile, recognizing the transformative role of the private sector, the LECB Project has also built the capacity of the business industry in planning and implementing activities to mitigate climate change.

Through the years, the LECB Project, we have been telling the business sector: Climate action makes business sense because investing in climate-friendly development is where the smart money is headed.

After making them understand emissions profiles and capacitating them to conduct their own GHG inventories, companies can now set their GHG emissions reduction goals.

The GHG Protocol that we have developed with the private sector is now the standard for Philippine companies in completing a high-quality, corporate-wide GHG inventory.

We have likewise developed with the business sector the Private Sector LEDS Roadmap, which identified levers and mechanisms that will attract or encourage businesses to invest in low-carbon development projects. This roadmap identified opportunities and strategies for public-private partnerships to address climate change.

For all these and more, we will be launching later the National Integrated Climate Change Database Information and Exchange System or NICCDIES.

The NICCDIES would provide the structural architecture that would consolidate climate change mitigation information and support the three central elements of the Philippines mitigation strategy—which includes the National GHG Inventory, the development of mitigation actions and LEDS, and the MRV Systems Framework.

As we ensure our country’s commitment to the Paris Agreement, the LECB Project has also developed the country’s Nationally Determined Contributions or NDC Framework and Roadmap.

Our NDC will pursue mitigation efforts as a function of adaptation, which is the country's anchor climate action strategy, and at the same time, strengthen our communities' resilience against the effects of climate change.

Yet I wish to stress too a critical perspective that we in the CCC are advocating. The NDC is not merely a mitigation and adaptation compendium.

The NDC stands for nothing less than the country's new industrial strategy. It is about the nation's desire to modernize and generate massive new jobs in the new economy.

With the NDC Roadmap and Framework now developed, the challenge at hand is to transform the NDCs into tangible actions that would lead to long term, zero-carbon and climate-resilient development—a development that will speak to the needs of working class families that they are at the heart of the government's climate agenda.

This challenge brings us to where we are today. Thanks to our development partners—the UNDP and our donor governments—we are inaugurating later the NDC Support Project for the Philippines or NSPP.

I am pleased to announce that this new work stream shall support the government in achieving the transformational change.

Guided by the post-2015 global development frameworks—the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement—the NSPP will help us in implementing the following strategies in moving the country's climate agenda forward:

First is to enhance and sustain awareness and understanding on climate change and associated risks, through all media platforms and formal education system.

The Climate Change Commission has been working with the Department of Education to mainstream climate change and DRR in the K-12 Curriculum.

In line with our efforts to link science, policy and practice, we are also holding experts' forums in different regions of the country on top of our annual observance of the Climate Change Consciousness Week. We are also doing more information campaigns through social media and traditional media.

Second is to promote sustainable urban planning and development in view of the continuing trend of rapid urbanization, increasing urban population density, and unabated rural to urban migration.

The high concentration of economic activities and assets in cities and expanding carbon footprints are expected to result in increased urban disaster risk and vulnerability turbo-charged by climate change.

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This is why the government's Build Build Build Program shall rightly be complemented by the 'Green Green Green' Program initiated by the Department of Budget and Management, which the CCC supports through inter-agency and multistakeholder convergence. We aim to update the comprehensive land use plans based on greening concepts.

Third is to accelerate capacity building for LGUs and local communities on CCA-DRR, including ensuring that local development plans are based on risk science.

We need to ensure that these plans are updated and implemented to respond effectively to the adaptation and resilience needs of our communities.

To address this challenge, we are implementing the Communities for Resilience or CORE Program to capacitate LGUs on science and risk-based development planning together with the Commission on Higher Education, the UP System, and other higher education institutions and state universities and colleges.

As part of this program, we are also working with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Local Government Academy on training LGUs on the enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plans.

We are likewise coordinating with the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples to develop frameworks for comprehensive climate actions for the poor and marginalized, specifically the urban poor and indigenous peoples, etc.

Fourth is to invest in social preparation for the implementation of the NDC and the transformation of all sectors towards low carbon development and a green economy.

In line with this, through whole-of-nation consultations, we are now updating our National Climate Change Action Plan to include and articulate our NDC and our National Adaptation Plan.

We are also engaging the private business sector and the chambers of commerce in awareness raising and action planning across industries for low-carbon development and green economy.

With the International Labor Organization, we are developing a set of standards for certification of green jobs and ensuring a just transition.

With the Philippine Hospital Association and the Philippine Medical Association, we are advocating for the greening of hospitals.

With the Department of Tourism, we are working on the greening of resorts and hotels. With Central Bank, ADFIAP and UNESCAP, we are pushing for green banking and finance.

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With the Department of Energy, we are promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency.

We are likewise helping the Department of Transportation in modernizing public utility vehicles, such as jeepneys.

All these efforts will be complemented by the NSSP to ensure our just transition of our sectors to a greener and more climate-smart economy.

Fifth is to facilitate the efficient access of our communities to international and domestic climate finance and the transfer of technology and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Paris Agreement and in accordance with the principle of climate justice, the CCC is committed to ensure capacity building on needs-based climate financing in the country through the help of the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance.

To sustain the country's leadership in international climate negotiations, advocacy and action, the CCC will continue to work closely with Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Vulnerable 20 Group.

This year, we will be hosting an international convention and a nationwide expo to promote successful adaptation approaches, programs, and technologies and to provide opportunities for international and local shareholders to exchange knowledge and forge partnerships.

In October, together with the United Nations Environment and the Asian Development Bank, we will be convening the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network here in the country for a Regional Adaptation Summit.

Meanwhile, we will be staging our First Adaptation Expo in November as part of the Second National Convention on Climate Change.

Ladies and gentlemen, I can't think of any better way to take care of our people than to take up the mantle of leadership in climate action.

What we are doing today will lay the foundations for a healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable development for the country.

Let us show other nations that the promise of a low-carbon and climate-resilient pathway is achievable through concerted and collaborative action.

Thank you. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

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