

**SECRETARY EMMANUEL DE GUZMAN**  
**Climate Change Commission**

**INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE**

**CLIMATE SCIENCE YOUTH CONGRESS**

20 November 2018  
SMX Convention Center

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles; Climate Change Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera; Members of the National Panel of Technical Experts; teachers and students of the Philippine Science High School; civil society leaders; honored guests; ladies and gentlemen; magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

I see so many young faces brimming with passion and energy. The message of urgency in climate action has bred an entirely new movement that finds its embodiment in those of you present today.

To our young climate scientists, thank you for joining us today.

Thank you for lending the force of your voice in this year's observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week. I can only hope that we can keep up with you, and that those of us who have been around can pass on much knowledge as we can.

As you all know, the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was recently released.

It affirms what many of us have known for some time: Climate change is real. And it is moving faster than us and we need to respond faster and bolder. The disasters are not looming or impending. They are happening now.

This is the reality that we have to contend with. And the trajectory, if the default remains, is even worse. If humanity do not do anything it can, as quickly as it can and in ways that are strategic and efficient, we are looking at Armageddon.

***The Role of Youth in Climate Action***

Solving a problem as enormous as climate change is an intergenerational responsibility. This is not up to our leaders alone. It is not only up to our scientists. It is not only up to advocates and teachers and businesses alone. It is also not only a problem of then and now, but also a problem of tomorrow.

It is up to all of us—and the youth, who are constantly finding new pathways to build and sustain movements, raise awareness, and innovate in all aspects of climate action—have an especially important role to play. It is up to us to enlighten and empower younger generations—make them learn from our experiences and transform.

This Climate Science Youth Congress manifests the widespread recognition of the role that you play. We see innovation, research, or demonstrated technologies made by K-12 students and science clubs.

Because these projects all align with our National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), especially water resources management, I can say that you are now already folded into a much more massive and strategic effort to combat climate change.

Those who form our ranks—from green businesses, to champions in government and media, to advocates who have been fighting the good fight since well before Climate Change became a byword—all of us are now your brothers- and sisters-in-arms.

And we are here to share their knowledge with you. Participants will be given time to demonstrate their respective researches and have one-on-one mentoring sessions with our National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE).

This is how things are done beyond your schools—we iterate, we gain feedback, and we improve our work, constantly. I hope that you make the most of this opportunity.

This first ever National Climate Science Youth Congress is envisioned to serve as a platform of scientific intellectual showdown among the Filipino youth to articulate and translate their ideas and advocacies into active and relevant social action for climate justice.

We provide them a stage, or a playground, to showcase their giftedness, both in talents and futuristic ambitions, for the benefit of our nation. We, who have been born before them, will surely keep us in wonder that the Filipino race improves over time, with our belief in them, and ardent support to realize their full potential as hope of our country.

This is not to discount the fact that advancing their role in climate action, as part of a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral process in the broader context of climate change action planning and program harmonization and coordination, is consistent with our mandate as Climate Change Commission pursuant to the Climate Change Act of 2009, as amended.

Under the law, the Climate Change Commission is also tasked to promote and provide technical and financial support to local research and develop merit programs and projects in vulnerable and marginalized communities and areas.

As we are about to witness the articulation of innovative ideas on securing the lives of the Filipinos, this time on water resource and relevant technologies by the country's foremost young scientists, we invite you to behold the other side of the story of our national climate action. This is a piece of dialogue with the future, told today.

## **Closing**

Indeed, climate change is the greatest humanitarian challenge of our time. You are a new generation of climate diplomats—or climate justice warriors, if I may—all of whom I treat as our partners now and I expect to be working with in advancing climate action.

In the future, when we—your seniors—retire from our work, you will be the ones to take over the responsibility of aligning everyone's efforts. You will be the ones representing our country in future climate negotiations. You will be the ones addressing yet a new batch of climate diplomats.

May you strive to be the better of us in all aspects when that time comes. Thank you, Philippine Science High School, for being our partner in this initiative. For from that beginning, a new dawn of climate action by, for, and with the Filipino youth is hoped to be a potent climate action for the future.

Thank you very much at mabuhay po kayong lahat.