



SECRETARY EMMANUEL DE GUZMAN
Climate Change Commission

MESSAGE

2018 Climate Reality Leadership Awards
5 November 2018
National Museum of Natural History

The Climate Reality Project Country Manager, Mr. Rodne R. Galicha; distinguished guests, nominees and awardees; ladies and gentlemen; good evening.

Recently, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) released its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

It affirms what many of us have known for some time now: Climate change is not a specter on the horizon. The disasters are not looming or impending.

They are happening now, in ways that are visible and not immediately visible. From extreme weathers, slow onset climate impacts occur, slowly bleeding our economies and will power.

Our call for more urgent and greater ambitions has never been more pronounced.

Those of you here—the awardees more than most, but also the policy-makers, the advocates, the stakeholders—have already done so much for the cause.

But I'm sure that you will also be the first to say that more needs to be done, sooner, and with greater effort.

It is essential to go beyond the current pace and intensity of climate action if humanity, especially the poor and vulnerable has to survive and thrive.

The time is not merely now—it should have been earlier.

The integrity of our ecosystems must be upheld.

Local communities must be protected.

The sustainable supply of food, water, and energy must be secured.

And all these must be done in line with climate justice. Ensuring the welfare of those who are most vulnerable must be treated as a moral imperative by all,

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especially those that have gained so much from the current fossil-fuelled world economic order.

As climate change becomes a more urgent economic, social, and existential threat to countries and peoples, we hope that the moment to act has not passed.

May the awards you receive tonight serve as both motivation and reminder: To stay true to the course, and remain steadfast in our responsibility and commitment to action.

Thank you very much and congratulations to the deserving recipients of tonight's climate reality leadership awards.