



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

**OPENING ADDRESS**

**High-Level Opening Ceremony of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) International  
Technical Workshop: Adaptation Rationale in GCF Project**  
14 November 2018

My esteemed colleague in the Climate Change Commission, Commissioner Rachel Herrera, National Focal Point for GCF; director Jerry Velasquez of the Green Climate Fund Secretariat; the representative of Cebu governor Hilario Davide III, Mr. Batz Tribunalo; Sasakawa Laureate Camotesmayor Al Arquillano; guests; friends; ladies and gentlemen: Good morning.

Thank you for being here. Thank you to the host—Governor Davide and his fellow Cebuanos. Many of us here are familiar faces—advocates and champions all who gather once again to assert our values, and to answer the call for more urgent climate action. In the most concrete terms, we are here to come up with holistic, responsive, and sustainable project proposals for GCF funding support.

This effort may seem routine to many of us who do the hard work, day in and day out, of meeting, writing, measuring, and inching forward, policy-wise, towards greener pathways to the future. Make no mistake about it, though: What we do today is both essential and just for our survival and development as vulnerable nations.

The Philippines contributes only 0.37% of the total global emission and yet is one of the most exposed or vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Adaptation to the expected impacts of climate change will be of crucial concern. The foreseen heating and temperature increase will drive more frequent extreme weather events and sea level rise. In the Philippines, the consequences projected, even as we endeavor to keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming threshold, are severe, especially given our more than 7,000 islands, and our coastline that extends across more than 37,000 kilometers.

This is why the Climate Change Commission was created by law in 2009.

This is why the country drew up its National Framework Strategy on Climate Change in 2011 and its National Climate Change Action Plan in 2011 until 2028.

This is why, with all-of-government-and-society approach, we adopted seven priority areas of climate actions, the programs of which are currently under review and updating along with our Nationally Determined Contributions: Water, food, and human security, climate smart industries and services, ecological and environmental stability, sustainable energy, and knowledge and capacity development.

**S U R V I V E # 1 0 5 C T H R I V E**

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This is why the country's own climate finance mechanism, the People's Survival Fund, was legislated and established in 2012.

This is why climate actions—adaptation and mitigation initiatives—are funded in our annual budget laws.

However, the enormity of the changes that we seek and the urgency of the actions needed to confront squarely the 1.5 degree Celsius climate challenge demand so much from us—not only to mobilize and access the climate finance provided by the Paris Agreement through the GCF, but more so to work hand-in-hand and to move forward in lockstep with the unity of our resolve and the convergence of all our strengths to act with dispatch and to deliver the transformations we want towards our resilient development and low-carbon future.

Today's workshop is an opportunity for GCF Direct Access Entities and National Designated Authorities to share and learn from each other about adaptation and how we access the GCF through its diverse support programs and funding modalities.

We want to strengthen each other's expertise, especially in generating GCF project pipelines. We offer each other's support to ensure that approved proposals are adopted, financed, and implemented. We want to ensure that outcomes build on each other to maximize their impacts and result in the transformation we seek.

The tasks are ever-crucial:

To address the key drivers of climate and disaster risk and vulnerability -- the state of local risk governance that leaves much to be desired; vulnerable rural livelihoods; the declining ecosystems; and the unprotected cultural heritage;

To strengthen and synergize adaptation and disaster risk reduction at national and local levels; and

To embed climate policies within the broader poverty alleviation and sustainable development programs of our government.

Let's all keep this big picture in mind as we go through today's sessions. With the collective brainpower and experience present today, including the powerhouse team of experts GCF director Jerry Velasquez brought along with him, I'm sure it will be a very productive day ahead.

Thank you and mabuhay!

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