



Office of the President of the Philippines
CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

OPENING REMARKS

Biennial Update Report (BUR) 101 Workshop

Linden Suites Hotel, Ortigas Center

*Pasig City * February 22, 2016*

Preparing for the Philippines’ First Biennial Update Report

By Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman

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Representatives from Government & Development Partners

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, countries are encouraged to share information on their progress in tackling climate change. This is an important part of the process of transparency, compliance, and reporting.

In Paris last December, President Benigno Aquino himself underscored this point. Let me quote President Aquino: “As President of a nation increasingly affected by the new normal, I believe the real challenge begins with an accounting of capacities.” Close quotation.

This workshop is the first vital step for an accounting of Philippine capacities. It will help us gain a better understanding of, and a better preparation for, the Biennial Update Report. Every two years, we will need to communicate to the UNFCCC and to the rest of the world an inventory of our greenhouse gas emissions, our mitigation actions, our MRV system and the necessary capacity, technical as well as financial needs to implement these mitigation actions.

The serious work of promoting environment and climate change policies in the Philippines began in 2008 with the debates that led to the passage of Republic Act. No 9729, sponsored principally by Senator Loren Legarda, creating the Climate Change Commission. Additional and crucial policies have been enacted since then, including Executive Order 174 institutionalizing the Philippine Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management and Reporting System.

On the part of our Climate Change Commission, we established the National Climate Change Action Plan as well as existing information technology infrastructure, protocols and data sharing manuals. We are currently working on the framework for the national measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system to monitor our GHG inventories and to track the progress of our mitigation actions.

As part of our Biennial Update Reports, we will conduct a systematic survey of public needs, financial resources, capacity building, and potential technical assistance and technology transfer that we will need to support our struggle against climate change. Our hope, therefore, is that this workshop would enable us to adequately assess our readiness to undertake the preparation of the BURs with support from the Global Environment Facility.

For this workshop, we are deeply indebted to the German Federal Government. More specifically, I want to thank GIZ and Dr. Bernd Markus-Liss for their valuable assistance and support of our Commission.

I wish you all a very good day and a very productive workshop.

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