

MESSAGE

June 9, 2016

ADB Multifunction Hall 3, New Atrium

Mandaluyong City, Philippines

**ACEF PLENARY SESSION: Implementing Successful Nationally  
Determined Contributions (NDCs) in Asia-Pacific  
by Secretary Emmanuel M. de Guzman**

1. Bending the temperature curve to 1.5C

The climate outlook is grim: 4-6C warming by end of the century relative to pre-industrial level.

Reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 pledged by nations in Oct 2015 lets the planet warm to 2.7C, a level that augurs death and destruction for humanity.

Bending further the global warming curve to below 1.5C is a moral imperative, because it means saving the lives and livelihoods of hundred millions of people; it means upholding the human rights of the poor and the vulnerable; it means ensuring the integrity of our ecosystems.

2. Adaptation is key to resilient socio-economic development

For developing countries like the Philippines, adaptation is key to survival, resilience and sustainability.

Global warming has already breached the 1C level with unprecedented warming in the past months. Last year was the warmest year ever and this year may just prove to be unprecedented.

We have already borne countless tragedies and losses from recurring impacts of extreme weather events below a 1C global warming. How much more with further warming. 1.5C is our ultimate threshold for us to stay alive and thrive.

The Philippines has invested much in adaptation and will continue to invest more to ensure socio-economic buoyancy amid anticipated disasters and climate change impacts. Our climate risk-sensitive annual national budget alone speaks for government's current investment in building resilience.

The CCC will further promote risk-sensitive national and local development planning to ensure that underlying risk factors are addressed and disaster and climate risks are reduced effectively.

The CCC is facilitating a whole of government approach - the convergence and integration of the efforts of all sectors and stakeholders - to build the resilience of our ecosystems, our local communities and key sectors such as

agriculture, water and health, to mainstream climate action in local, national and sectoral plans, to strengthen our institutions and systems, and to promote research-- all in pursuit of the new development frameworks-- the Sendai Framework for DRR and the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

### 3. Philippines shall take the path to low carbon development

The country's socio-economic gains shall be sustained with the prospects of growth and progress pursued with a low carbon development pathway and in accordance with law and the state policy of ensuring sustainable RE resource management.

In this regard, the whole-of-nation comprehensive energy policy review that the CCC is spearheads will commence next week.

In this regard, the CCC, with its leadership mandate, will ensure that government agencies' efforts on RE development are integrated and coherent and that the country remains on track and on time in meeting targets.

The Philippines is committed to ratify the Paris Agreement.

With the help of developed countries and development partners, our country shall implement its ambitious GHG emissions reduction targets of 70% by 2030 from business as usual in the energy, transport, waste, industry and forestry sectors, as pledged with the UNFCCC.

The country shall face the climate resilience challenge squarely: The challenge to transform the economy towards green growth, moving away from fossil fuels to a future of green jobs, renewable energy, sustainable transport, protected forests and enhanced biodiversity. Because taking this development path will deliver a wide-range of benefits to the country: health, social, economic, environmental, and resilience benefits to the Filipino people who deserve a better life, a more secure future.

Although the Philippines is not a major emitter of GHG, we cannot let our economy grow with the ways that caused today's climate crisis; we cannot let humanity live in a world fraught with dangers to life and wellbeing.

Through partnerships on the implementation of our NDC, the Philippines shall leapfrog to a new economy of green growth with enormous opportunities for green jobs for the Filipino people.

Thank you. # #