

Due to its geographic location and economic situation, the Philippines is one of the countries in the world that is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as increase in temperature, sea level rise and extreme weather events. (2013 Climate Change Vulnerability Index, Maplecroft)

The impacts of climate change, especially from extreme weather events, have resulted in billions of pesos in damages to property and loss of thousands of lives. Its impacts also include an undeterminable damage to ecosystems and biodiversity loss that adversely affect the country's environment, culture and economy.

Recognizing the magnitude of climate hazards and its consequent impacts, the Philippine Government enacted Republic Act 9729 (RA 9729) or the Climate Change Act of 2009 which established the Climate Change Commission.

The Commission is an independent national government agency attached to the Office of the President. It serves as the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs and action plans of the government relating to climate change pursuant to the provision of RA 9729.

REPUBLIC ACT 9729 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 10174

A. COMPOSITION

The Commission shall be composed of the:

- President of the Republic of the Philippines who shall serve as the Chairperson
- Three (3) Commissioners to be appointed by the President, one of whom shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Commission.

The Vice Chairperson will also concurrently serve as the Executive Director of the Climate Change Office created to assist the Commission.

B. FUNCTIONS

Some of the Commission's functions are the following:

- Coordinate and synchronize climate change programs in consultation with national government agencies and other stakeholders;
- Exercise policy coordination to ensure the attainment of goals set in the strategic framework and program on climate change;
- Recommended legislation, policies, strategic, program on and appropriations for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Create an enabling environment that shall promote broader multistakeholder participation and integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Coordinate and establish a close partnership with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness in reducing the people's vulnerability to climate - related disasters;
- In coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, represent the Philippines in the climate change negotiations, constitute and lead the Philippine panel of negotiators to the UNFCCC and formulation of official Philippine positions on climate change negotiation arena;
- Formulate and update guidelines for determining vulnerability to climate change impacts and adaptation assessments and facilitate the provision of technical assistance for their implementation and monitoring;

- Coordinate with local government units (LGU's) and private entities to address vulnerability to climate change impacts of regions, provinces, cities and municipalities;
- Facilitate capacity building for local adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring of climate change initiatives in vulnerable communities and areas;
- Promote and provide technical and financial support to local research and development programs and projects in vulnerable communities and areas;
- Oversee the dissemination of information on climate change, local vulnerabilities and risks, relevant laws and protocols and adaptation and mitigation measures; and
- Establish a coordination mechanism with the concerned government agencies and other stakeholders to ensure transparency and coherence in the administration of climate funds taking into consideration the official Philippine position in international negotiations.



C. PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS

To assist the Commission in leading the country towards climateresiliency, a national panel of technical experts consisting of practitioners in disciplines that are related to climate change, including disaster risk reduction shall be constituted.

The Panel shall provide technical advice to the Commission in climate science, technologies, and best practices for risk assessment and enhancement of adaptive capacity of vulnerable human settlements to potential impacts of climate change.

CCC INITIATIVES

In order to the pave the way to climate resiliency, the Commission, with the support of various stakeholders, formulated the following:

NATIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK & PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

This document serves as the road map for climate change planning, research and development, extension, and monitoring of activities to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change.

The framework was formulated based on climate change vulnerabilities, specific adaptation needs, and mitigation potential, and in accordance with international agreements. It was adopted on April 2010 and shall be reviewed every three (3) years, or as may be deemed necessary.

NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

The National Climate Change Action Plan outlines the specific programs and strategies for adaptation and mitigation for 2011 to 2028.

It identifies seven strategic priorities, namely:



Water Sufficiency



Food Security



Human Security



Sustainable Energy



Climate-smart Industries and Services



Ecological and Environmental Stability



Knowledge and Capacity Development



ECOTOWN

The Ecotown Framework, developed by the Climate Change Commission, is the implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan in the local community. It aims to raise adaptive capacity of communities by making it economically stable and environmentally resilient. Through this initiative, the local government units are capacitated to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in local development and land use plans.



GREENERATION PHILIPPINES

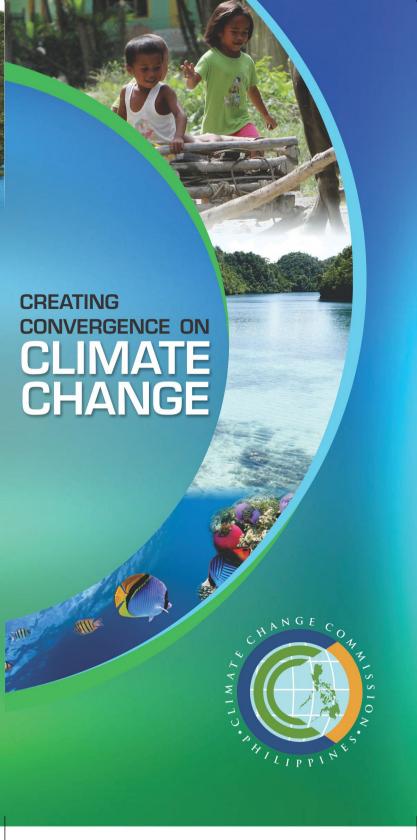
Recognizing the potential of the youth as key agents of change, the Commission, through its Greeneration Philippines campaign, seeks to urge the youth to become active in addressing climate change. This is a call for a unified movement of Filipino youth to combat the impacts of climate change and other environmental challenges and to rally for climate action.

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