



UNFCCC 18th Conference of Parties Side Event

Best practices on enabling communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change



As one of the topmost vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change, the Philippine Government is purposively engaging communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These efforts are mandated by the Climate Change Act of 2009, structured by the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change and guided by the National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028 (NCCAP). At the national level, government agencies are aligning development interventions with the seven strategic priorities of the NCCAP. At the sub-national government level, land use and development plans are envisioned to become climate-sensitive and disaster risk resilient, with support from government, civil society and international development partners.

The implementation of the NCCAP at the local level is anchored on building ecologically stable and environmentally resilient towns (Ecotowns), currently being demonstrated in 10 pilot municipalities by the Climate Change Commission. The framework has 7 major components: Natural Resource Assessment; Vulnerability Assessment; Geographic Information as a tool for VA; Ecosystems Valuation and Environment and Natural Resource Accounting; Application of adaptation and mitigation measures; Designing and implementing financing schemes; and Climate proofing of existing local plans.

Aside from the Ecotown Framework, several methods for mainstreaming CCA-DRR were developed by government and development partners in a collaborative way. Examples are the Sectoral Vulnerability Assessment Tool: Mainstreaming Guideline (National Economic and Development Authority); Climate Proofing for Development (Department of Environment and Natural Resources); Sustainable Integrated Management and Planning for Local Government Ecosystems (National Convergence Initiative composed of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Agrarian Reform).

Partners from the NGOs, academe and international development agencies are also instrumental in enabling communities to act on climate change. The approaches, tools and methodologies available in the country so far are compiled and presented as "Alternative Pathways to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction: Mainstreaming and Integration in Development Planning and Budgeting of Local Government Units." The initiative is led by *Aksyon Klima Pilipinas* and the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG) to contribute to synergy and coherence in climate and disaster governance.

On November 28, 2012, a forum featuring the Philippines' range of experience in enabling communities to better mitigate and adapt to climate change will be held at the UNFCCC COP 18 event in Doha, Qatar. The forum will highlight the Ecotown Framework and the CCA-DRR Alternative Pathways to illustrate the breadth of approaches in the country. The side event, entitled "Best practices on enabling communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change" is being organized by the Philippine Climate Change Commission and the Ateneo School of Government with assistance from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the project "Support to the Climate Change Commission in the Implementation of the NFSCC and NCCAP" funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under its International Climate Initiative.

Representatives from all nations of the world are invited to participate in this learning and sharing activity.



UNFCCC COP 18 Side Event: Best practices on enabling communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change (Philippines)

28th November 2012, 18:30 to 20:00 H, Side Event Room
7 Qatar National Convention Center



Registration

Climate Change Commission Institutional Video

18:15 – 18:30

Philippine Practices on Enabling Communities to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change

Asec. Joyceline Goco, Deputy Executive Director, Climate Change Office, Philippine Climate Change Commission

18:30 – 18:40

The Philippines has had a wealth of experiences in enhancing capacities of communities to address impacts of climate change. The Climate Change Commission will present an overview of existing policies, capacity development initiatives, tools, and resources currently available in the country that help enable local government units and supporting national government service providers.

Alternative Pathways to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction: Mainstreaming and Integration in Development Planning and Budgeting of Local Government Units

Atty. Antonio G.M. La Viña, Dean, Ateneo School of Government

19:00 – 19:20

From their indispensable engagements on the ground, ASoG, as a representative of civil society organizations, will present their experiences in applying national government policies and tools in responding to climate change and disaster risks at the sub-national level. Through close collaboration among national government agencies, local government units, academic institutions and non-government organizations, their initiatives have helped capacitate communities to better adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk.

Enabling Communities to Adapt to Climate Change and Reduce Poverty: The Ecotown Framework

Sec. Mary Ann Lucille L. Sering, Vice-Chairperson, Philippine Climate Change Commission

18:40 – 19:00

Based on the framework and action plan developed through participatory processes, the Climate Change Commission is demonstrating the Ecotown Framework for building climate-smart and disaster resilient communities. From ridge to reef, they have demonstrated the way for moving towards science-based, sustainable, climate-smart development of communities.

Synthesis: Building Climate-Smart Communities

19:20 – 19:30

Whether coming from the government down to local communities or from grassroots experiences to national initiatives, the approaches show valuable learnings in initiating and sustaining climate change actions in the Philippines. The mix of policies, capacity building, tools, and on-ground initiatives, all hailing from iterative and consultative processes, paint a picture of planning and action that goes beyond political & geographical considerations and traditional development concerns.

Open Forum

Moderator/Facilitator: Atty. Cecilia Therese T. Guiao

19:30 – 20:00