

Philippine Urban Development and Climate Change Forum

November 11-12, 2009
Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Manila, Philippines

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Philippine Urban Development and Climate Change Forum was a joint undertaking of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). It was conducted on November 11-12, 2009 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Manila, Philippines.
- The two-day activity was attended by 133 participants. Twenty three (23) speakers shared their experiences and knowledge through various presentations. A total of 74 institutions/ organizations (13 international institutions, 26 NGOs/POs/ Academe/ Business, 20 government agencies and 15 cities) were represented.
- The forum was designed come up with strategic solutions to the climate change phenomena by bringing together different stakeholders involved in urban development and climate change. It aimed to:
 1. discuss climate change;
 2. improve understanding on how climate change will impact on the country's sustainable urban development and highlight the important role of cities in increasing the country's resilience to the projected impacts of climate change;
 3. share and disseminate the Sorsogon City experience in developing the city's action agenda in addressing climate change impacts;
 4. initiate the development of the "National Urban Agenda for Action on Climate Change" that will feed into the (a) implementation of the National Urban Development and Housing Framework and the (b) formulation of the Framework Program on Climate Change and the National Climate Change Action plan as embodied in the Philippine Climate Change Act of 2009; and
 5. disseminate key information and messages from the Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Planning Sustainable Cities to inform national discussion on urban planning and sustainable development.

- Experts on Climate Change and Practitioners were invited as resource speakers/reactors/discussants during the two-day forum. Topics covered are as follows:
 1. *Framing the Science of Climate Change, Impacts and Scenarios* by Noel Duhaylungsod, Institutional Development Specialist;
 2. *The Challenge of Climate Change to Sustainable Urban Development: UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative* by Bernhard Barth, Climate Change Coordinator from UN-HABITAT HQ in Nairobi;
 3. *The Sorsogon City Experience and Challenges in Developing a Local Climate Change Action Plan* by Leovic Dioneda , Sorsogon City Mayor;
 4. *Mainstreaming Climate Change in Urban Governance Processes* by Jesse Robredo, Naga City Mayor;
 5. *Mainstreaming Climate Change in Urban Governance Processes* by Discussant Joey Mastrili, City Planning and Development Officer (CPDO) of Taguig City
 6. *Keynote Address* by Heherson Alvarez, Presidential Adviser on Global Warming and Climate Change;
 7. *Urban Poverty and Climate Change: Can the Philippines Keep the MDG Promise?* by Mel Senen Sarmiento, Calbayog City Mayor and LCP Secretary-General;
 8. *Programming Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Towards Sustainable Urban Environment Management* by Mary Anne Lucille Sering , Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary;
 9. *Framing Local Urban Economic Development vis-a-vis natural and climactic hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities: the Iloilo Experience* by Joel Hechanova, City Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) of Iloilo City;
 10. *Highlights of the National Urban Development and Housing Framework (NUDHF)* by Zacarias Abanes, HUDCC Director;
 11. *Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Planning Sustainable Cities* by Bruno Dercon, Technical Adviser of UN-HABITAT Indonesia;
 12. *Reaction to the Global Report* by Celia Alba, HUDCC Assistant Secretary;
 13. *Reaction to the Global Report* by Linda Gonzales, Ligao City Mayor and LCP National Executive Board (NEB) member;
 14. *Reaction to the Global Report* by Percival Chavez, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) Chair;
 15. *Financing Climate Change Adaptation* by Brillo Reynes, Senior Vice President of the Development Bank of the Philippines;
 16. *Financing Climate Change Adaptation* by Florian Steinberg, Asian Development Bank
 17. *Financing Climate Change Adaptation* by Victor Vergara, World Bank
- Open forums were facilitated to solicit reactions, questions, suggestions and sharing of ideas and experiences from the participants. The respective speakers composed the open forum panelists who responded to the feedback from the plenary.

- Simultaneous break-out discussions and workshops on “Defining the Urban Sector Action Agenda on Climate Change” were conducted as follows:
 1. *Session A: Urban Governance and Climate Change* facilitated by Dr. Mario Delos Reyes, University of the Philippines- School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP)
 2. *Session B: Urban Poverty Alleviation and Climate Change* facilitated by Ricardo Torres, Philippine Equity Foundation (PEF) Assistant Director
 3. *Session C: Urban Environmental Management and Climate Change Mitigation* facilitated by Noel Duhaylungsod
 4. *Session D: Local Economic Development and Climate Change* facilitated by Francis Gental, Canadian Urban Institute (CUI)

- The workshop outputs were presented to the plenary and were turned over to HUDCC Undersecretary Lucille Ortille for consideration in the government’s urban agenda and the Philippine Urban Consortium (PUC).

- The UN-HABITAT publication “Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Planning Sustainable Cities” was launched and copies of the report were turned over by UN-HABITAT to HUDCC, LCP, DILG and city mayors.

- As an output of the forum and workshops, participants were able to come up with the following:
 1. Four workshop outputs on the thematic areas of Urban Governance, Urban Poverty Alleviation, Urban Environmental Management and Local Economic Development
 2. The Philippine Urban Stakeholders’ Action Agenda on Climate Change was drawn up and presented to the Philippine Urban Consortium (PUC) as a concrete set of directions that the urban stakeholders can pursue in the short and medium term future

- A composite team from HUDCC, LCP and UN-HABITAT managed the conduct of the forum.