

The 1.5° celsius climate challenge: survive and thrive together

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The Climate Change Commission is spearheading this year's observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on November 19 to 25 with the theme "The 1.5°Celsius Climate Challenge: Survive and Thrive Together."

The observance will highlight the whole-of-government climate action together with sustainable development stakeholders. A week-long conference aims to synergize the country's vision and policy direction towards green economy and low-carbon future, informed by the latest climate science and technology, knowledge and best practices on climate change resilience.

The opening ceremonies on Monday (November 19) at the SMX Convention Center in the Mall of Asia Arena Complex will be led by Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman, vice-chair and executive director of the Climate Change Commission.

Sen. Loren Legarda, commissioner of the Global Commission on Adaptation, and, at the same time, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Global Champion for Resilience and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Champion for National Adaptation Plans, will deliver the keynote.

President Rodrigo Duterte, as chairman of the Climate Change Commission, will share his Vision for a Climate-Resilient Philippines.

Invited speakers for the plenary sessions include Lourdes Tibig, PhD, National Panel of Technical Experts, Climate Change Commission, on The Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the Global Warming of 1.5°C; priest Daniel McNamara, PhD, professor, School of Science and Engineering, Ateneo de Davao University, on

The Philippine Climate Change Outlook; and Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera, Climate Change Commission; Heherson Alvarez, former vice-chairman, Climate Change Commission; Vince Perez, former energy secretary; and Lorenzo Clavejo, director, National Security Council, on The Philippine Climate Policy Landscape.

Invited to deliver their statements on climate action include the Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato De la Pena on Linking Science, Policy and Climate Action; Education Secretary Leonor Briones on Advancing Climate Change Education in the Philippines; and National Economic and Development Authority Secretary-General Ernesto Pernia on Aligning National and Local Development Plans to the 1.5°C Global Climate Goal.

Business leaders Alegria Limjoco, president, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Nestor Tan, president, Bankers Association of the Philippines; Hans Sy, chairman, Executive Committee, SM Prime Holdings Inc.; Jose Albert, president, Philippine Association of Supermarkets; Federico Lopez, chief executive officer, First Philippine Holdings Corp.; and Leandro Leviste, founder and CEO, Solar Philippines, are invited to rise to the 1.5°C climate challenge and deliver their commitments to climate action.

In the afternoon, Rodel Lasco, PhD, scientific director of the Oscar M. Lopez Center, will lead in the launch of The Philippine Climate Change Assessment Report.

A series of thematic priorities of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) will follow.

The first thematic panel on Securing Sustainable Food and Water Systems to be moderated by Carlos Primo David, PhD, member, National Panel of Technical Experts, Climate Change Commission, will include Segfredo Serrano, undersecretary for policy and planning, Department of Agriculture; Sevillo David Jr., executive director, National Water Resources Board; Fernando Sanchez Jr., chancellor, University of Philippines Los Baños; and Ramoncito Fernandez, president and CEO, Maynilad Water Services Inc.

The second thematic panel on Ensuring Ecosystems Integrity and Services for Climate Resilience will be moderated by Rodel Lasco, PhD, member, National Panel of Technical Experts, Climate Change Commission that will include lawyer Analiza Rebuella, undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); Julia Nebrija, program manager, Department of Budget Management; lawyer Lloyd Christopher Lao, commissioner, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board; Richard Tantoco, president and CEO, Energy Development Corp.; and Edgardo Manda, president, Philippine Bamboo Foundation.

The third thematic panel on Multistakeholder Convergence for a Healthy, Safe and Climate-Resilient Society will be moderated by Glenn Roy Paraso, PhD, member of the National Panel of Technical Experts; Climate Change Commission, that will include Camilo Gudmalin, undersecretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development; Lyndon Lee Suy, assistant

secretary, Department of Health; Albert Magalang, chief, Climate Change Division DENR-Environmental Management Bureau; and Maria Adelaida MiasCea, regional coordinator for Asia Pacific, UN Habitat Philippines.

The fourth thematic panel on Leveraging Climate Ambition, Economic Opportunity and Sustainability will be moderated by Leandro Buendia, member of the National Panel of Technical Experts, Climate Change Commission, that will include Federico Abuan, assistant secretary, Department of Labor and Employment; Ramon San Pascual, executive director, Health Care Without Harm Asia; and Linda Milan, former director, World Health Organization.

And the last thematic panel on Mobilizing Clean Energy, Finance and Investment will be moderated by lawyer Pedro Maniego Jr., senior advisor, Climate Change Commission, that will include Jesus Posadas, undersecretary, Department of Energy; Airene Robinson, assistant secretary, Department of Transportation; Lawrence Fernandez, vice president, Meralco; Renato Redentor Constantino, executive director, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities; and Alexander Ablaza, director, Blue Sky Energy Asia.

Secretaries Emmanuel Piñol of Agriculture, Roy A. Cimatu of the Environment and Natural Resources, Francisco Duque 3rd of Health, Ramon Lopez of Trade and Industry, and Alfonso Cusi of Energy, will deliver their respective leadership resolve and commitments to climate action.

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