

DENR partners with Japan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has strengthened its partnership with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) for the reduction of greenhouse gas emission toward a "decarbonized" society and "Asia zero emissions community."

During the Philippines-Japan Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue in March, DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said the dialogue served as an avenue for DENR and MOEJ to partner in protection against the impact of climate change.

"The Philippines, being an archipelago, is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Our country has faced several typhoons for as long as we can remember. Partnering with Japan in terms of technology and know-how on measures to mitigate climate change is indeed vital at this time," Sampulna said.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones said the Philippines remains committed to the "projected greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance of 75 percent."

MOEJ Vice Minister Tokutaro Nakai said the agency was deepening its cooperation with the DENR through strategies such as Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management, Joint Crediting Mechanism.

"In the area of climate change, we were able to confirm that there are some areas of cooperation such as the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions as well as the development of long-term strategies. We will make efforts to work for that and hope to cooperate with you in the future, too," Nakai said.

Through a joint statement, the DENR and the MOEJ agreed to take actions to tackle climate change. The two countries will work on advancing the life cycle management of fluorocarbons in the Philippines and Japan to contribute to the former's hydrofluorocarbons emissions reduction.