

COP 15 aftermath: Challenges to the Climate Change Commission

Atty. Mary Ann Lucille L. Sering
Commissioner, Climate Change Commission
Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines

International climate change processes

IPCC

- Fourth assessment report 2007
- Fifth assessment report prep

UNFCCC

Conference of the Parties = COP
Kyoto Protocol meets as
COP/MOP

Subsidiary bodies: SBSTA, SBI, Adhoc
working group on long term co-operative
action (AWGLCA), AWGKP

Decision
1/CP.10

Nairobi Work
Programme

Bali Action
Plan

Copenhagen Talks

2-tracks of Negotiations

- UNFCCC by the AWG-LCA
- ✓ 4 Building blocks under the Bali Action Plan:
Adaptation, Mitigation, Technology Transfer and Financing
- ✓ Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)
- ✓ Mitigation actions from developing countries
- ✓ Mitigation commitments from developed countries

- Kyoto Protocol
- ✓ Agree on developed country emission reduction targets without the US (did not ratify)
- ✓ Means to achieve targets: market mechanisms (such as CDM), national policies, accounting issues and the role of LULUCF
- ✓ Parties to the KP took note of the IPCC report that GHG reduction commitments between 25 to 40% below 1990 levels were needed beyond 2012 to limit a mean global temp
- ✓ GHG emissions peaking within the next 10 to 15 years and must decline thereafter

Importance of Conference of Parties COP-15

- Based on science, urgent action is needed to reduce global emissions of GHGs in order to limit dangerous impacts of climate change such as glacial melt, floods and landslides, drought, desertification and extreme weather events
- Aim of COP 15 is to secure an ambitious, effective and fair global climate agreement for the period from 2012 when the commitment period under the KP expires
- Threshold on global mean temperature based on science
- Political momentum globally was high

Negotiating Groups

- **GROUP OF 77 and CHINA** – made up of three UN regional groupings: **AFRICA** (North and South, East, West and Central Africa), **GRULAC** (Latin America, Central America and the Caribbean), **ASIA** (Central Asia: mainly Arab countries, plus Iran, sometimes Lebanon; South Asia; Southeast Asia and Pacific; and East Asia: China, Japan, Republic of Korea and DPRK).

Negotiating Groups

- **SIDS (Small Island Developing States)** countries are recognized in the Convention. The SIDS come from the three G77 regions, but many Pacific Islands are represented by Annex 1 country people: either Australian, Canadian, US, UK (such as Micronesia, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Tuvalu). Other G77 countries have Annex 1 representatives in them, such as the Republic of Congo, other Caribbean SIDS, Papua New Guinea. Only the Indian Ocean SIDS have their own representatives, such as Maldives and Mauritius.

Negotiating Groups

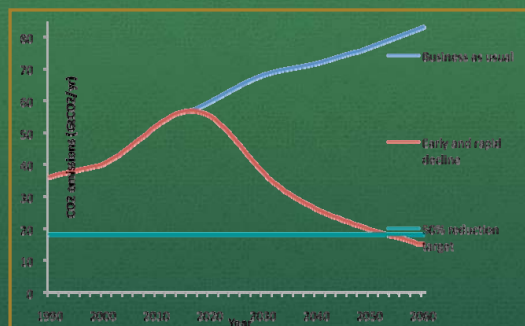
- **AOSIS (Alliance of Small Island States)** is an interest group in the negotiating process, and not a UN grouping. Not all AOSIS members are members of the G77 (such as Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Niue), and could therefore take different positions within the Group.
- **EUROPEAN UNION (EU)** - negotiates together with the European Commission and the "Troika" (past, present and future Presidencies); Rotating presidency of the EU leads negotiations; changes every six months; Groups 27 countries, including many of the former Eastern European countries, known as countries with "Economies in Transition" (EIT).

Negotiating Groups

- **ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION (EIT)** - Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan; negotiates separately; Take developed country positions
- **UMBRELLA GROUP (UG)** - United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand; sometimes with Norway; part of Western European and Other Groups (WEOG) countries in the UN system; often negotiates separately, but with common positions
- **ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY GROUP (EIG)** - Switzerland, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Monaco and Liechtenstein. Switzerland, Monaco, Liechtenstein are WEOG countries. Republic of Korea and Mexico are non-Annex I countries in the UNFCCC; Negotiates as a group; Tries to bridge gaps between developed and developing countries, but often sides with developed countries

A global challenge needs a global response

To avert the most dangerous climate change, global emissions must decline by 2020

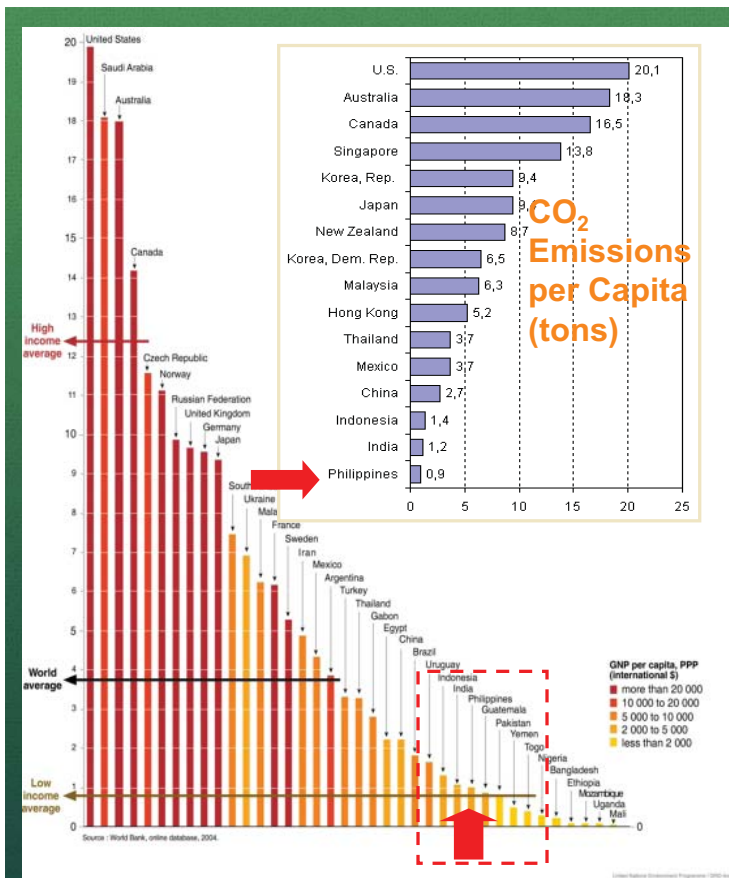


To limit climate change to 2°C, global emissions need to be cut by at least 50% of 1990 levels by 2050

Copenhagen Accord Concerns

- The accord itself is not legally binding
- No decision was taken on whether to agree a legally binding successor or complement to the Kyoto Protocol.
- The accord sets no real targets to achieve in emissions reductions.
- The accord was drafted by only five countries
- The deadline for assessment of the accord was drafted as 6 years, by 2015.
- The mobilisation of 100 billion dollars per year to developing countries will not be fully in place until 2020.
- There is no guarantee or information on where the climate funds will come from

- There is no agreement on how much individual countries would contribute to or benefit from any funds
- COP delegates only "took note" of the Accord rather than adopting it
- The head of the G77 has said it will only secure the economic security of a few nations.
- There is not an international approach to technology.
- Forgets fundamental sectoral mitigation, as transportation.
- It shows biases in silent ways such as the promotion of incentives on low gas- emitting countries such as LDCs. RP is not an LDC



Where the Philippines Stands and What it Means

- Even if the Philippines stops emitting CO₂ there will be little effect on global warming
- Emission reduction is done for other benefits: cleaner air, less oil dependence, cheaper energy

Future impacts of CC on developing countries

- Philippines ranks among the top 10 countries whose economic activity is most at risk from an intensification of storm surges
- (Dasgupta et al, 2009). The Philippines also count three cities among the top 25 cities whose population is at risk of being affected by storm surges (Manila ranks as number one, Taguig is 23rd, and Kalookan is 25th). Out of a larger sample of the 327 largest (i.e., with population above 100,000 inhabitants) coastal cities world-wide most at risk of storm surges, the Philippines contains, by far, the largest number of cities at risk (48), with Indonesia ranking second with 28 cities. The population in these at-risk Philippine cities account for 18.3 percent of the global in-cities population at risk

Mortality Risk Index (top 15 of 222 countries)



United Nations

Which populations are most and least at risk from earthquakes, floods, tropical cyclones and landslides

Country/Territory Name	MRI milli	MRI milli absolute	MRI milli relative	Tropical Cyclones	Tropical Cyclones abs.	Tropical Cyclones rel.	Earthquakes	Earthquakes absolute	Earthquakes relative	Floods	Floods absolute	Floods relative	Landslides	Landslides absolute	Landslides relative
Bangladesh	9	10	7	9	10	7	2	3	1	7	8	5	4	5	2
China	9	10	7	4	6	2	9	10	7	6	8	4	4	6	2
Colombia	9	9	8	0	0	0	9	9	8	5	5	4	5	5	4
India	9	10	7	6	8	4	9	10	7	8	10	5	4	6	2
Indonesia	9	10	7	0	0	0	9	10	7	5	6	3	5	6	4
Myanmar	9	9	8	5	6	5	9	9	8	6	6	5	5	6	4
Afghanistan	8	8	7	0	0	0	8	8	7	6	6	5	4	4	3
Guatemala	8	8	8	2	2	2	8	8	8	4	4	3	6	6	5
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	8	8	7	0	0	0	8	8	7	5	6	4	3	4	2
Pakistan	8	9	6	3	4	2	8	9	6	5	6	4	4	5	3
Peru	8	8	7	0	0	0	8	8	7	4	4	3	5	5	4
Philippines	8	8	7	7	8	5	7	8	6	4	5	3	5	6	4
Romania	8	8	7	0	0	0	8	8	7	4	4	4	3	3	2
Uzbekistan	8	8	7	0	0	0	8	8	7	5	5	4	2	3	1
Albania	7	6	7	0	0	0	6	6	6	4	3	4	5	4	5

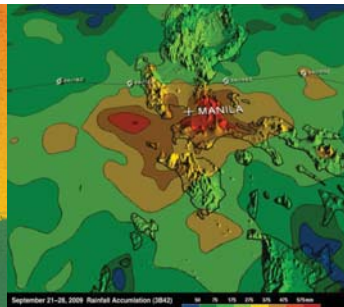
Category 8:
VERY HIGH
RISK

Recent Typhoons

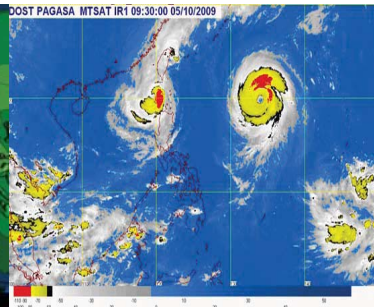
- **US\$4.3 Billion or PhP 207 B (2.7% of GDP)** in damages to crops, property and infrastructure (WB)
- **US\$2.34 billion** damage to enterprise sector
- **US\$849.3 million** losses by farmers
- **US\$730.4 million** losses by housing sector
- **9.3 million** people affected
- **956 deaths** from floods and landslides
- **249 deaths** from diseases such as Leptospirosis (NDCC)
- **86 missing**
- **84 injured**

RECONSTRUCTION:

- **US\$4.42 billion** needed for RP's recovery over 3 years (World Bank)



Ketsana



Parma



Approximate Adaptation Costs

- Developing countries will need \$28-67 Billion to enable adaptation to climate change in 2030 (UNFCCC Secretariat estimate)
- Corresponds to .06-.21% of projected global GDP by 2030
- Incremental costs to adapt to projected climate change in developing countries are in the order of \$10-\$40 billion per year (World Bank)

Where are we on finance?

- **ALL PARTIES** have agreed on the need for a global adaptation and mitigation fund, agreement only on level of contributions from developed countries
- A legally binding agreement will provide for predictable and long-term funding; making it easier for developing countries like the Philippines to directly access new, additional and resources.

Findings on RP NEEDS assessment

Covering the period of 2004-2008

- Grants: \$ 559.8 Million
- Loans: \$ 396.9 Million
- GOP Appropriations: \$1, 576 Million

- Only a few developed countries are in compliance with the .7% of GNP commitment for ODA (namely: Denmark, Norway, Netherlands and Sweden)
- Most Annex 1 will have to significantly channel more funds for ODA. Diversion of ODA to Climate Change is possible, to the detriment of other sectors like health and education

Climate Change Commission

Composition

- President as Chair
- 3 Commissioners with 1 Commissioner serving as Vice-Chair
- Advisory board composed of 14 cabinet secretaries, 4 Pres of the Leagues, 3 reps from academe, business and NGO

Mandate

- Oversight and policy supervision over agencies affecting CC
- Ensure mainstreaming of CC policies in synergy with DRR and DRM into national, sectoral and local development plans and programs

National Framework Strategy on Climate Change

- Shall serve as basis for a program for planning, R&D, programs and projects from the adverse effects of climate change
- Shall be formulated based on vulnerabilities, bio-physical profiling and characterization, as socio-economic assessments, specific adaptation needs and mitigation potential
- In accordance with international agreements to which RP is a party

Challenges

- IRR does not fully maximize the opportunity provided for by the law to address significant issues that can affect implementation as most provisions are mere reiteration of the main law
- IRR failed to provide in detail on the seemingly overlapping functions with that of line agencies
- Limited budget
- Submission of the draft framework next month



THANK YOU