

PHILIPPINE COUNTRY STATEMENT
13th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO
7-11 December 2009
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EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
AT THE OUTSET, I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT,
AND THE MEMBERS OF YOUR BUREAU ON YOUR ELECTION AND ASSURE
YOU OF OUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON HIS RE-APPOINTMENT BY
ACCLAMATION AND WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN LEADING UNIDO.

GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND GREEN INDUSTRY

THE WORLD CURRENTLY FACES TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES:
RECOVERY FROM THE WORLD FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND
GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE. WHILE THEY AROSE INDEPENDENTLY, THEY
CANNOT BE SOLVED SEPARATELY. THE COMMON SOLUTION IS LOW-
CARBON AND RESOURCE-EFFICIENT PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT
EXEMPLIFIED IN "GREEN INDUSTRIES."

THE PRACTICE OF "GROW NOW, CLEAN UP LATER" IS NO LONGER
ACCEPTABLE. WE NEED TO SOLVE OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN AN
ENVIRONMENTALLY-SUSTAINABLE MANNER. AT THE SAME TIME, WE
NEED TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT IN WAYS THAT WILL CREATE
JOBS, INCOME AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES. WE NEED TO DEVELOP
INDUSTRIES THAT PRODUCE LESS CARBON AND RELY LESS ON
NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION.

NEED FOR GREEN INDUSTRY IN ASIA

THIS TRANSITION IS CRITICAL FOR ASIA: THE FASTEST GROWING REGION IN THE WORLD AND ONE OF THE RICHEST IN BIODIVERSITY BUT HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ESPECIALLY EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND SEA LEVEL RISE. THE PHILIPPINES GETS ABOUT 20 STRONG TYPHOONS, ON A GOOD YEAR. ON A BAD YEAR, WE GET MORE. TYPHOONS ARE NOW STRONGER AND MORE FREQUENT. THEY GO IN AREAS WHERE THERE WERE NONE BEFORE. THEY STAY AND LINGER IN OUR SHORES. AND, WHEN THEY LEAVE...THEY COME BACK.

WE CANNOT ALLOW OUR GREENHOUSE GASES TO GROW AND THE RESULTING GLOBAL WARMING TO THREATEN OUR WELLBEING. WE CANNOT ALLOW CLIMATE CHANGE TO DESTROY 20% TO 30% OF OUR PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES, AS ESTIMATED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

PHILIPPINE GREEN INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

THE PHILIPPINES IS ON THE PATH OF GREENING ITS INDUSTRY. THE LAWS ARE IN PLACE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT, CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, HAZARDOUS WASTES, ECO-TOURISM, BIOFUELS, RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND MANY MORE. ABOUT 43% OF OUR ENERGY ALREADY COMES FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES. WE INTEND TO DOUBLE THIS BY 2020. WE ARE THE SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER OF GEOTHERMAL POWER IN THE WORLD, NEXT TO THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE THE LARGEST WINDMILLS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE HAVE ABUNDANT WATER RESOURCES FOR HYDROPOWER.

WE PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM PROJECTS AND CARBON TRADING. WE NOW HAVE 39 CDM PROJECTS REGISTERED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, MAKING US NUMBER 6 IN THE

WORLD. THESE PROJECTS WILL PREVENT 1.4 MILLION TONS OF CARBON EMISSIONS EVERY YEAR.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN INDUSTRY IN ASIA

WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO HOST AND CO-ORGANIZE WITH UNIDO, THE FIRST "INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN INDUSTRY IN ASIA: MANAGING THE TRANSITION TO RESOURCE-EFFICIENT AND LOW-CARBON INDUSTRIES," IN SEPTEMBER, TOGETHER WITH UNEP AND U.N. ESCAP. IN THE WORDS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, "IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL, BEST-ATTENDED AND PRODUCTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES UNIDO HAS HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SUPPORTING."

WE EXPECTED 600 PARTICIPANTS. MORE THAN 1,200 CAME AND REGISTERED. AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE; POLICY-MAKERS WERE BETTER INFORMED OF POLICIES AND INITIATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN GREENING THEIR INDUSTRIES. THE PRIVATE SECTOR GAINED GREATER INSIGHT INTO THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND FINANCING ON GREEN INDUSTRIES. EXPERTS HONED THEIR EXPERTISE AND GAINED MORE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE.

THE CONFERENCE PRODUCED THE "MANILA DECLARATION ON GREEN INDUSTRY IN ASIA," ADOPTED BY 21 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. THE DECLARATION PROVIDED A ROAD MAP, TOOLS AND A SET OF ACTIONS, WHICH MANIFESTED THE COMMITMENT OF ASIAN COUNTRIES TO WORK TOWARDS LOW-CARBON AND RESOURCE-EFFICIENT INDUSTRIES. THIS IS THE FIRST REGIONAL DECLARATION EVER ADOPTED ON GREEN INDUSTRIES AND WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE 15TH COP OF UNFCCC IN COPENHAGEN, AS A CONTRIBUTION OF 21 ASIAN

COUNTRIES AND UNIDO TO FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE CONFERENCE GENERATED SO MUCH INTEREST AND APPRECIATION THAT PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ARE NOW NETWORKING WITH EACH OTHER AND UNIDO IS NOW FACED WITH THE CHALLENGE OF SCALING UP ITS SUPPORT TO HELP COUNTRIES IN THE REGION MANAGE THE TRANSITION TO GREEN INDUSTRIES. THE CONFERENCE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT AND DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL YUMKELLA, THE SUPPORT OF THE UNIDO SECRETARIAT AND OTHER U.N BODIES AND THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE ASIAN COUNTRIES. TO THEM, WE SAY THANK YOU.

CONCLUSION

WE BELIEVE THAT THE THEME OF THIS GENERAL CONFERENCE -- "GREENING INDUSTRY FOR GLOBAL RECOVERY AND GROWTH" IS BOTH APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY. IT RESPONDS TO THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME -- A SPEEDY ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND REVERSING CLIMATE CHANGE. GREENING INDUSTRY MAKES ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SENSE.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, HOWEVER, THIS IS NEITHER ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT NOR ABOUT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS ULTIMATELY ABOUT THE WELLBEING AND SURVIVAL OF THE HUMAN RACE.

THANK YOU.