



## **ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2016**

Vigyan Bhawan (Convention Centre), New Delhi  
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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

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MS CHAIR,  
EXCELLENCIES,  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION EXPERTS, PRACTITIONERS AND  
ADVOCATES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

GOOD AFTERNOON.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND UNISDR FOR HOSTING AND ORGANIZING THIS FIRST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK IN 2015.

AT THE ONSET, I WISH TO AFFIRM THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S:

- CONTINUOUS SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR MORE ADAPTIVE AND RESILIENT DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES;
- ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS;
- AND ENHANCEMENT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR ASIAN NEIGHBORS AS WELL AS WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

MOREOVER, THE PHILIPPINES ENCOURAGES THE CONTINUOUS UPDATING OF RELATED FRAMEWORKS, POLICIES, AND PLANS THROUGH CONSTANT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ACTIONS EXPERIENCED AND IMPLEMENTED ON THE GROUND.

AS A COUNTRY THAT CONSTANTLY EXPERIENCES NATURAL AND HUMAN-INDUCED DISASTERS SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR, IN FACT THE PHILIPPINES HAVE THE RARE OPPORTUNITY OF HOSTING THE STRONGEST TYPHOON ON EARTH, TROPICAL TYPHOON HAIYAN WAY BACK I N 2013. AND AS A RESULT, WE MADE SOME AMENDMENTS IN OUR LAWS ON HOW TO DEFEAT THESE KINDS OF TYPHOONS. I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION SOME INITIATIVES WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN:

1. WE HAVE SUBMITTED A REPORT TO THE UNISDR ASIA PACIFIC ON THE STATUS OF OUR PROGRAMS THAT FOCUSES ON OUR PRACTICES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK. I HOPE OUR REPORT CAN HELP IDENTIFY MAJOR CHALLENGES, DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF FUTURE PROGRAMS, AND ADDRESS CRITICAL GAPS TO SPEED-UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK.
2. TODAY, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF AMENDING THE *“PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010”* THROUGH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS TO ENSURE THAT ITS PROVISIONS WILL BE ALIGNED WITH INTERNATIONALLY AGREED FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, DOABLE AT THE LOCAL LEVELS.
3. ALSO, IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH, MEASURES FOR INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF VARIOUS SECTORS ARE

INCORPORATED IN THE ON-GOING FORMULATION OF THE “*PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2016-2022*”.

*ON UNDERSTANDING RISKS –*

4. IN ORDER TO REDUCE DISASTER RISKS AND PROMOTE A CULTURE OF RESILIENCY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS HAVE JOINTLY CRAFTED A “*SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN*”. THIS PLAN FOCUSES ON HAZARDS AND RISK MAPPING AS VITAL COMPONENTS OF OUR COUNTRY’S NATIONAL AND LOCAL DRR PLANNING METHODOLOGY. THESE PLANS ARE BEING REVIEWED AND UPDATED EVERY YEAR.

*ON INVESTING IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR RESILIENCE –*

5. LIKEWISE, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED FUNDS TO SUPPORT DRRM PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS. AS SUCH, AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE REVENUE ALLOTMENT OF A PARTICULAR LOCALITY IS SET ASIDE TO SUPPORT THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FOUR (4) THEMATIC AREAS.

*IN ENHANCING AND STRENGTHENING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND REHABILITATION –*

6. AND BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE, THE CLUSTER APPROACH, AS A COORDINATION MECHANISM, IS CRITICAL IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT. IT CULTIVATES A CULTURE OF “*TEAM SPIRIT*”

AMONG HUMANITARIAN ACTORS AND THEREFORE OPTIMIZES RESULTS AND MINIMIZES REDUNDANCY, ESPECIALLY DURING RESCUE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER A DISASTER.

7. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF A MULTI-AGENCY “*RAPID DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS*” AS BASIS FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF, RESPONSE AND EARLY RECOVERY. LIKEWISE, A “*POST-DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT*” IS DONE FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY.

NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THESE YOUR EXCELLENCIES, THE PHILIPPINES STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THE STRENGTH OF ANY DRRM PROGRAM LIES ON THE RESILIENCY OF THE COMMUNITY. HENCE, WE ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT RESILIENCE PROJECTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES, AND UN AGENCIES BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE GRASSROOTS.

IN ADDITION, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS PRIORITIZES PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION MEASURES BY IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS AIMED AT ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF EVERY FILIPINO FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD THROUGH ORGANIZING, KNOWLEDGE BUILDING AND TRAINING WITH THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF HAVING A WELL-INFORMED AND A WELL-ORGANIZED FILIPINO COMMUNITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

LIKEWISE, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEMENTS LOCAL INITIATIVES BY INVESTING ON EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE ACCURATE EARLY WARNING CAPABILITY AND BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURES TO MITIGATE PROBABLE DISASTERS IN VULNERABLE AREAS.

MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR ITS LEADERSHIP IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN RECENT YEARS, AND EVEN CONSIDERED AS A MODEL FOR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION AMONG GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

HENCE, OUR GOVERNMENT WELCOMES AND COMMITS ITSELF TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION OF THE *“ASIA REGIONAL PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK”*. WE PLEDGE OUR SINCERE COMMITMENT TO ENHANCE PEOPLE’S CAPACITIES AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS. THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE ADAPTION OF THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK HAS RESULTED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF OPEN DIALOGUE AMONG STAKEHOLDERS, OF KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND PARTNERSHIPS. WITH THE PHILIPPINES’ EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK, WE ARE EAGER TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT TARGETS AND GOALS IN COOPERATION AND IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO ACCELERATE AND ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR 2015-2030.

THANK YOU AND GOOD DAY TO ALL!