

ANNEX B1

Addresses and Messages

APEC Symposium on Climate Change

6-8 February 2012

EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

Opening Remarks of **Undersecretary SEGFREDO R. SERRANO**

Department of Agriculture, Republic of the Philippines

Distinguished delegates from APEC member economies, honorable speakers, guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

In my capacity as Undersecretary of the Philippine Department of Agriculture and APEC Agriculture Technical Cooperation Working Group Focal Point for the Philippines, and in behalf of the Government of the Philippines, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Manila and to this APEC Symposium on Climate Change. Its specific focus is on Adaptation Strategies with Mitigation Potential for Food and Water Security.

As you may very well know, the First APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security met in Niigata, Japan in October 2010. It approved, along with the Ministerial Declaration, the APEC Action Plan on Food Security. The action plan embodies the commitments of APEC member economies to turn the Ministerial Declaration into concrete action. This symposium is one of the commitments made by the Philippines. We are deeply honored to be able to fulfill this commitment and contribute to APEC's goal of attaining food security in the region.

The Philippines, as the host to this symposium, would like to take this opportunity to recognize the support of our able co-sponsors: the Chinese Taipei and the Kingdom of Thailand.

Climate change as it affects food and water security is among the most important current concerns affecting not only Asia-Pacific, but all parts of the world. Most of us are aware that climate change has a direct impact on the agriculture industry, and in effect, food security of the world. We realize that Agriculture is most vulnerable to climate change. Frequent extreme events in the form of either drought or excessive rainfall result to direct commodity damage besides increased incidence of pests and diseases, and emergence of new diseases, among other factors which directly affects yield. Incidents of prolonged drought or excessive rainfall also affect water resources and threaten both food and water security.

Through your active participation in this symposium, we hope to be able to draw information on what is already on the ground in different economies. Such knowledge will enable us to learn from one another and move forward to address our theme in this symposium: "Adaptation Strategies with Mitigation Potential for Food and Water Security." The aim is to develop stronger cooperation among the APEC economies so that collectively we increase our capacity to better adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change towards a more secure food and water systems among the economies. It is my

ANNEX B1

Addresses and Messages

hope that at the end of the symposium, we would have identified the way forward as springboard towards APEC's next collective action. Given the background of the various participants in this symposium, I look forward to a lively exchange of information and experiences to make this symposium a truly stimulating and productive.

Before I formally open this symposium, allow me to acknowledge and thank our partners in this undertaking: APEC for sponsoring this event, and the Food and Agriculture Organization, International Rice Research Institute, UN-International Labor Organization, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, IFAD Medium-Term Cooperation Programme in Asia Pacific Region (MTCP) Farmer's Forum , and our local partner institutions, the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines and the Climate Change Congress of the Philippines for the participation of their competent experts and resource speakers.

Thank you and Mabuhay.

ANNEX B2

Addresses and Messages

Message of **Secretary PROCESO J. ALCALA**
Department of Agriculture, Republic of the Philippines

(Greetings)

Ladies and gentlemen: Good morning!

On behalf of President Benigno S. Aquino III and the Filipino people, welcome to the Philippines! Mabuhay!

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to address you in this symposium.

Last year, I was in Japan to attend the Niigata Ministerial Meeting on Food Security along with fellow Ministers in the Asia-Pacific region or APEC, and we approved the Action Plan on Food Security annexed to the Niigata Declaration.

The Symposium on Climate Change is one of the commitments made by the Philippines towards the achievement of food security under the action plan, and we are happy to deliver this commitment to you, our fellow APEC members.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies have been talked about in several circles and fora, but not much has been said about adaptation strategies with mitigation potential.

Some research studies claim that there are significant opportunities for greenhouse gas mitigation in agriculture that can be realized if the numerous barriers to adoption, like policy, institutional, social, educational and economic constraints could be overcome.

Obviously, options that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase productivity are more likely to be adopted than those which reduce emissions alone.

In this symposium, we would like to thresh out technologies, best practices and other strategies for climate change adaptation that have mitigation potential, and we hope that this symposium will initiate a continuous exchange of information and capability building within APEC on this approach.

For being able to conduct this symposium and start the ball rolling, we are happy to acknowledge the sponsorship of APEC.

Ladies and gentlemen, all of us will agree that APEC plays a very important role in improving food security globally.

ANNEX B2

Addresses and Messages

APEC member-economies account for half of world grain production, and major exporters and importers of agricultural products are in the region.

It is understandable therefore that APEC can be an influencing force to push forward the increase of food availability by raising agricultural productivity, trade and investment facilitation and market expansion.

On the other hand, we are also aware that the region is highly vulnerable, as most APEC economies are situated along the so-called 'Pacific Ring of Fire.' where 75% of the world's volcanoes are found and 90% of the world's earthquakes occur.

Hence, our region experiences over 70% of the world's natural disasters that can disrupt food supply and livelihood, displace people and reduce access to food.

It is therefore worth recognizing the potential collective efforts of APEC economies to improve emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction in response to disasters affecting agriculture.

APEC is also in a position to help the region achieve a steady supply of food through these collective efforts towards helping the agricultural sector adapt to and mitigate climate change.

In the Philippines, the framework strategy of the Department of Agriculture on climate change provides a basis for the national and regional programs.

Based on the fundamental principles of sustainable development, the framework treats mitigation as a function of adaptation, while being aware of the vulnerability of other key sectors.

Our Climate Change Program aims to build the adaptive capacity of farming and fishing communities and increase the resilience of natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimize adaptation with mitigation opportunities towards sustainable development.

Therefore, we are fully integrating climate change adaptation measures in all our programs and projects.

For instance, using the concept of the Farmers' Field School, we are putting up the 'Climate Field Schools,' to integrate weather data gathering and forecasting, in addition to being an effective agricultural extension medium.

We are starting to roll-out the weather-based insurance system, tested to be an effective risk transfer mechanism.

We aggressively promote organic agriculture that addresses both adaption and mitigation.

ANNEX B2

Addresses and Messages

We support the adoption of livestock breeds and fish strains, as well as organic inputs that improve productivity and make organic produce more affordable.

We advocate the use of biological inputs to reduce or substitute agri-chemical use. We pursue biotechnology projects to improve farm productivity and food security, while causing the least environmental harm.

Rehabilitation of mangroves and replanting of coconuts are potential sources of carbon sink, while being at the same time, effective adaptation to prevent the damages brought by storm surges.

The Philippines has 3.2 million hectares devoted to coconut farming. Based on studies, per hectare of coconut farm could potentially absorb 17.54 tons of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to 14.7 million pesos per 1,000 hectares through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) valuation.

Given this magnitude, we could generate roughly 47.0 billion pesos from our total area planted to coconuts.

These are just a few of the doable actions we can immediately undertake.

We hope to learn a lot more of these strategies and best practices from this symposium, both from actual experiences contained in the various economy reports, and from technical papers presented by our able experts.

At the end of the day, we expect to map out climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, provide appropriate financing mechanisms, and implement what needs to be done to sustain the productivity of our land, water and marine resources to feed our region's ever-increasing population.

We hope this symposium is a beginning of our continuing concerted efforts to surmount the challenges of climate change in agriculture.

Once again, on behalf of President Aquino and the Filipino people, thank you and we wish you a memorable and enjoyable stay in the Philippines.

We urge you to explore and find out for yourself why *"It's more fun in the Philippines!"*

Mabuhay!

ANNEX B3

Addresses and Messages

Symposium Overview of **Director ALICIA G. ILAGA, Project Overseer**
Department of Agriculture, Republic of the Philippines

It is my pleasant task to provide you an overview, the objectives, and what we expect to achieve in this symposium. For emphasis, let me reiterate the objectives of this symposium:

- To have an increased understanding and promote information exchange on climate change adaptation strategies with mitigation potential in crop and livestock production, as well as identify sources of green house gas (GHG) emission in agriculture and long-term outlook for GHG mitigation in agriculture
- To come up with recommendations on effective institutional arrangements for wider dissemination and adoption of adaptation strategies with mitigation potential at the national and local levels in APEC economies.
- To promote region-wide dissemination and adoption of these through the strengthening of networks and linkages with international organizations.

To achieve these objectives, the symposium program has been designed according to the following themes:

1. Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Crop and Livestock with Mitigation Potential
2. Institutional Arrangements toward the Widespread Dissemination and Adoption of Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies
3. Establishing Networks and Linkages for Region-Wide Adoption

At the moment, we have 14 experts from various local and international organizations who will make presentations on the various themes and 11 presenters from member-economies who will address the following issues and concerns in relation to our themes in this symposium:

- Climate change adaptation strategies most widely used and how/why these have been selected
- Which strategies have been proven to have mitigation potential, and benefits obtained from these strategies
- Institutional arrangements that led to wider adoption
- Policy options for wider adaptation
- Financing options

ANNEX B3

Addresses and Messages

- Extent of adoption and/or prospects for widespread adoption

Please take note that while the symposium title includes water security, our focus is on food security in view of the inclination of most paper presentations

A synthesis of the presentations and recommended next steps to promote wider dissemination and adoption will be presented at the end of the symposium as the final output.

Please be guided by the day to day program we provided, which also indicates the function rooms of the different sessions and events. We encourage you to make use of all coffee and lunch breaks to network with one another, which we hope will lead to stronger collaborations and partnerships on the themes of this symposium among various participants and economies. .

Please be advised that all functions will be held at this hotel, the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. Please take note as well that Tuesday night (February 7) is free time to enable you to contribute to the Philippine economy by shopping or taking advantage of the vibrant entertainment industry in Manila. For those who are interested to do some shopping major malls, including the SM Mega Mall and Edsa Plaza, are just within walking distance from this hotel, and they close at 9:00 pm.

Have a pleasant symposium everyone!