



EMB-POD conducts Climate Classmate, a platform for climate change advocates

SEPTEMBER 17 - The theme of this year's celebration is "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action." As the world celebrates the achievements of the Montreal Protocol in phasing out ozone-depleting substances (ODS), parties for the Montreal Protocol also reflect and realize the equal importance of the climate system for the people and for the environment.

The Environmental Management Bureau-Philippine Ozone Desk

spearheaded "Climate Classmate" on September 17, 2024. This is a forum that aims to update the EMB regional offices about the present status of climate change in the country, as well as the ODS and HFC importers, dealers, service providers, retailers, and resellers who contribute to ozone layer depletion and climate change.

The Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Climate Change Service, Elenida DR. Basug,

highlighted the effects of climate change in different specific sectors, including physical, social, and economic, and nature's crucial services at risk in a warming world.

In terms of global gas emissions trend, Director Basug noted that the Philippines emits an average of 1.98 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per capita in 2020, or considerably below the global average of four metric tons per capita and contributes less than 1% of global emissions.

Moreover, the DENR-CCS Director emphasized the projects and programs by the government to mitigate the worsening impacts of climate change, including the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan, the National Adaptation Plan of the Philippines, and more.

Ms. Maraida Licerio, the Senior Technical Advisor of GIZ, Philippines, discussed the the Proklima Programme established in 1995 in the context of implementing technical projects for ozone protection under the Montreal Protocol. In 2016, the Kigali Amendment broadened the focus from

ozone to climate protection. Some initiatives of the GIZ Philippines includes Cool Contributions Fighting Climate Change I and II, Accelerating Air Conditioning Transformation through Enhanced Standards and Labeling in the ASEAN Region and Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance.

Different environmental and climate advocates were invited to raise their concerns and present their advocacy and climate actions.

Rachelle Junsay, NCR Regional Coordinator of Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP PH), raised the issue about oil spill and reclamation and its effects on people, particularly in their livelihood, housing, and balance in the ecosystem.

“Our leaders must facilitate the transformation of our unsustainable, profit-oriented, carbon-based economy into a more sustainable one that promotes the well-being of both our planet and its people,” Junsay stated.

Mark Joseph Tinao, Director of Lasallian Institute for Environment, De La Salle

Philippines, shared the Environmental Education and Effective Communication in Digital and Social Media. Director Tinao also provided anthropogenic sources to establish environmental and climate awareness. He also mentioned that consent curation should be timely, relatable, engaging, beneficial, and have a storyline.

Katherine Reyes and Sweet Brien Margen are both from the Bulacan State University Student Government, representing the students. During their advocacy speech, the student leaders stated their initiatives to protect and preserve the climate system, such as plating activities, awareness drives, and more strategies that involve not just the students within their university but also the communities outside.

The editor of Agriculture Magazine of the Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation also participated in the forum; Junephrey Ocampo represents the media sector. Ocampo shared how broad the platform of media is in disseminating information and raising awareness, which should be



maximized by the government to promote causes like environmental issues and climate change. He said that the two entities should not compete with each other but instead work together to champion different advocacies and causes.

The EMB recognizes the efforts, initiatives, and actions of various non-government organizations for the environment and for the climate and is motivated to adopt some strategies that may help them achieve their mission and vision.

The OIC Assistant Secretary for Environment and

concurrent EMB Director Jacqueline A. Caancan, CESO III, affirmed that we cannot change the fact that the world is changing, in different forms, in different ways, and in different phases, but we have the authority and control to maneuver toward a more climate-friendly Earth.

The EMB Director expressed her full support and stated that, "We, from the EMB, wholeheartedly express our support to different sectors, in fact, to every unit in our country.

This is also a call to everyone to appreciate, recognize, and adhere to the plans and programs of

different regulatory offices concerning the environment. We believe that protecting the planet is a shared responsibility; everyone can contribute, and everyone can make an impact. We pledge that in the future, we will take part in addressing the climate crisis by taking appropriate and effective climate actions."

Indeed, Climate Classmate became a platform for every sector represented to hear and address environmental issues from different perspectives and establish networks to provide solutions and climate actions.

