

**2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction  
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**Statement by:**

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The Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish to convey to you warm greetings from the Philippines and from the Chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro, Jr. On his behalf, I wish to thank the Government of India for inviting the NDCC to participate in this 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Climate change due to global warming is expected to lead to dramatic escalation in incidents of hydro-meteorological hazards. We are all witnesses to the global extreme weather events during the recent past. My country, the Philippines because of its geographic location and present state of socio-economic development, is indeed extremely vulnerable to natural hazards.

The Government of the Philippines through the NDCC is therefore committed in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action's goal of building the resilience of communities and nations to natural disasters. During the First Global Platform for DRR in Geneva last June 2007, we were given the opportunity to account for the Philippines' modest gains in advancing DRR.

Efforts towards mainstreaming DRR measures into land use and physical planning, public infrastructure works, local governance and in the educational system are gaining grounds. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is leading the advocacy with recent policy directives on DRR as effective means to significantly reduce poverty.

A Presidential Task Force on Climate Change was created early this year to prepare our nation to cope with and confront the effects of climate change. The Philippine Senate too has added its strong voice to the call of the times. A new "Philippine Disaster Risk Management Act" passed its first reading last September. Once enacted into a law, the policy environment to further advance DRR in the country would significantly improve.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are truly grateful that Philippine initiatives on DRR receive support from the United Nations, regional and international organizations. We particularly thank the UNISDR, UNDP and their partners for their valuable assistance to NDCC programs on multi-hazard mapping, community based disaster risk management, early warning and many other DRR projects.

A strategic national action plan for DRR will be pursued following the NDCC's comprehensive disaster management framework in the coming years. Just like in the other countries represented in this conference, our DRR programs are work in progress. We are very appreciative that conferences like this Ministerial Conference on DRR provide us the opportunity to learn and share practices which ultimately contribute to achieving our shared objectives - resilient communities and nations.

Thank you for your kind attention.