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PRESS RELEASE

10-point Climate Action Plan Adopted at Asia Forum

MANILA, Philippines – 22 May 2015: Ten recommendations to improve the regional response to climate change have been agreed to following an international meeting at Manila, Philippines on 20-21 May, 2015. Gathering twelve countries from across Asia, the regional event was part of a series of Climate Vulnerable Forum workshops currently being convened through to June 2015 in Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and the Middle East.

The ten recommendations aimed at stimulating national, regional and global advances stemmed from the event's review of challenges, gaps and success stories in Asia's experience in dealing with climate change:

1. Strong national coordination among institutions and departments as well as vertically within national structures and at the different governance levels
2. Mobilization of community and civil society in climate action and knowledge exchange between governments, experts and communities
3. Reinforce national institutional capacity and human resources for realizing climate action
4. Increased transfer, exchange and diffusion of technologies and expertise between and among developed and developing countries and South-South
5. Enhanced balance, access to, and coordination of, international climate finance, and institutional capacity for national and international financial responses to climate change
6. Greater regional cooperation and coordination (knowledge sharing, information management, technology transfer and development, policies)
7. Promoting understanding and awareness among communities and the private sector including through an enhanced role of the media
8. Providing more effective enabling conditions for greater private sector engagement in driving climate action
9. Accelerate climate-smart industrial development essential for diversifying vulnerable sectors of economies
10. Enhanced infrastructure, research funding, and capacity for hydro-met and socio-economic data and scenarios for more accurate and robust policy-making

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This Asia meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, an international initiative chaired by Philippines, was organized by the Climate Change Commission of the Office of the President of Philippines with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other national and international partners. Participating Governments included Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Tajikistan, in addition to Climate Vulnerable Forum members Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

The regional event also held national and international consultations on the creation of a new Centre of Excellence for climate information and services for Climate Vulnerable Forum countries. The Hon. Vice-Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission of Philippines, H.E. Secretary Lucille Sering said: "I'm really happy about this workshop because there were a lot of things we were able to validate. If we stick together there is so much we can do. When we do our own analysis and planning at home we see ourselves looking for expertise mostly outside. We want to improve our capacity because nobody else understands our situation more than ourselves. This is also why with Philippines taking over as the Chair this year, we would like to really push for the creation of the new South-South Centre of Excellence."

Also speaking at the Forum, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Philippines, H.E. John Gomes said: "In November 2011 Bangladesh hosted an important gathering of this Forum at Dhaka and we think its influence was felt in Durban afterwards where a new track of climate change negotiations was agreed under the UNFCCC just weeks later. The growing collaboration between our two countries in this Forum and other areas really demonstrates the opportunities and potential value of cooperation between developing countries. We look forward to continuing to work with the Philippines as it takes its presidency forward."

Mr. Titon Mitra, Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme, a Forum partner for the event, commented that: "The issues you have identified resonate strongly with what vulnerable countries from other regions have been saying. This is particularly true for concerns on: awareness, coordination for policy implementation, international finance, human and institutional capacity, private sector engagement and on technology and R&D. This region has a real opportunity to shape a collective orientation in the run-up to and after COP21, and to link regional agendas to global agendas for greater impact. Let me congratulate you on your efforts and achievements."

The regional event is the input from the region of Asia to a global consultation of the CVF being held in June 2015 where the conclusions of all Climate Vulnerable Forum regional meetings held during 2014-15 will be reviewed together to inform the Forum's forward communications and activities.

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CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Climate Vulnerable Forum is an international partnership of 20 countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet. Since 2009 the Forum serves as a South-South cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change.

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