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World's most vulnerable nations to boost experience-sharing on climate change adaptation

Countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change led by the Philippines gathered in Tagaytay City on Thursday to discuss plans and strategies to further boost their cooperation on climate change adaptation and in championing climate justice.

The Philippines plays host to the gathering from August 11-15 as outgoing chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), a global intergovernmental body of collaboration exclusive to developing countries that are particularly susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change.

Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Atty. Michael Dizon, who represented Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, welcomed the delegates led by Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam Menbacho, the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change of Ethiopia, the incoming chair of the CVF.

During the CVF Troika Plus Meeting at the Taal Vista Lodge, De Guzman shared the country’s contributions for greater global action on climate change. The Philippines and past CVF chairs Bangladesh and Costa Rica comprise the CVF Troika.

De Guzman, the vice chair and executive director of CCC, said the country will soon set up the CVF South-South Center of Excellence for Climate Information and Services, which is anticipated to benefit countries highly susceptible to climate change through sharing of experiences and exchange of information on best practices.

The CVF Center of Excellence will be part of the planned Philippine Climate Change Institute.

"We are establishing the CVF Center of Excellence that will be a part of the Philippine Climate Change Institute along with the Center for Climate Policy Research and the National Panel of Technical Experts," he added.
The institute will be based in Quezon City but will have a network of research and learning centers throughout the country, according to De Guzman. This network includes the Ateneo de Davao, Ateneo de Zamboanga, Xavier University Cagayan de Oro, and Visayas State University.

The institute is envisioned to become the national resource backbone for capacity building on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, and for facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices among local government chief executives in the country.

Menbacho said it is important for CVF members to learn from each other to build capacity in the long term for climate action.

The gathering in Tagaytay City will be followed by the CVF High-Level Climate Policy Forum to be held at the Senate of the Philippines in Pasay City on August 15.

The event is the culmination of the Philippines’ chairmanship of the CVF, which will then be turned over to Ethiopia. ###

Reference: Asec. Romell Antonio Cuenca / Tel. No. (02) 735 3069