Proceedings from
The 1st Philippine
Green Jobs Conference

“Promoting Green Jobs and Decent Work towards Inclusive Growth”

SMX Convention Center
SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City
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The 1st Philippine Green Jobs Conference

Promoting Green Jobs and Decent Work towards Inclusive Growth

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The 1st Philippine Green Jobs Conference (GJC) is a gathering of government, the private sector, employers, workers and the youth aimed at spreading awareness on how climate change affects the world of work. Led by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the GJC seeks to develop and enhance information links among various stakeholders to identify the new jobs, skills and competencies that should be acquired to ensure a just transition toward employment-friendly resources.

With the theme: “Promoting Green Jobs and Decent Work towards Inclusive Growth,” the GJC will convene more than 300 participants at the SMX Convention Center in Quezon City on August 15 and 16, 2011. The Conference held plenary and parallel sessions on: (1) the employment challenges of climate change, business requisites and the greening of jobs; (2) green business practices and strategies; (3) Renewable Energy; (4) Solid Waste Management; (5) Natural Resource Protection and Management; (6) Basic Industries; (7) Green Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and, (8) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Co-convening the Green Jobs Conference are the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the National Youth Commission (NYC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The GJC is being supported by the International Labor Organization (ILO). Tripartite partners include the Federation of Free Workers (FFW), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP).

Conference Objectives

The Conference, count among its objectives the following:

- Spread awareness of the changes in the world of work as a result of climate change that can be expected and the new jobs, skills and competencies that will be required in the medium-term;

- Provide a platform for employers and workers to learn from other national and international initiatives and best practices to mitigate or adapt to climate change;

- Disseminate information on practices that have promoted green jobs or green innovations in order to come up with greener solutions in more workplaces across the country;

- Create awareness among youth leaders on initiatives that they can start in their communities that can help protect the environment and contribute to the creation of more green jobs;

- Provide a platform for employers, workers and constituents to discuss opportunities and constraints in the promotion of green jobs and the role that constituents can play.
KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Welcome Remarks

Hon. Danilo Cruz
Undersecretary, Department of Labor & Employment

Messages

Hon. Mary Anne Lucille M. Sering
Secretary, Climate Change Commission

Hon. Leon G. Flores III
Chairperson, National Youth Commission

Hon. Marlo M. Mendoza
Assistant Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Lawrence Jeff Johnson
Country Director, International Labour Organization
WELCOME REMARKS

Hon. Danilo Cruz
Undersecretary, Department of Labor & Employment

Green jobs are not just about reducing, reusing and recycling. It’s also about using renewable energy, exploring alternative fuels, patrolling our territorial waters for maritime protection, creating green products and services, building green facilities and greening technologies, among others. These are activities and initiatives that can actually produce and result into tangible jobs and real opportunities for many of our workers.

In behalf of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), I am honored and glad to welcome you all to the first-ever National Conference on Green Jobs! This Conference, which is the fruit of our efforts in the Department to promote and integrate environment-friendly labor policies and practices, serves as an opportunity for us to discuss new ideas and offer new policy paradigms and directions for the promotion of Green Jobs not only in our workplaces but also in our country, as a whole.

The Conference gathers not only representatives and leaders from various government departments, trade unions and business organizations but also those from the academe, the civil society, the environment sector and the young people. This Conference is not just a gathering of different personalities but more importantly, a meeting of bright and brilliant minds in the country.

I am very optimistic that throughout this two-day event, all of us here will not only learn new information but also come up with new ideas; not just listen to the talks but also engage in policy discussions and conversations. This is the main reason why this Conference is being held and offered to the public: to dialogue so we are pushed to act towards the promotion of green jobs.

At this time of inconvenient truths about the state of our planet today, we cannot afford to simply sit down and ignore this phenomenon that casts a shadow of anxiety over our existence and survival. For us in the DOLE, responding to the challenge of climate change should be more about tapping opportunities and that is through the promotion of green jobs and the greening of industries.

Along this track, we have Conference topics that would make us more informed and knowledgeable of the nature, goals and directions of Green Jobs. We are blessed to have speakers and panelists who are the leading experts and pioneers on various environment issues. With their expertise, there is no doubt that all of us, especially our young participants, will definitely learn a lot today and tomorrow.

The First Plenary Session this morning is entitled “Green Jobs: Employment, Environment and Labor Policy Framework.” This session will lay down the case for green jobs from a labor and employment policy perspective, on which green jobs is anchored would be explained clearly to us.
Afterwards, in the afternoon, we will have Parallel Sessions that will center on the following issues: Green and Decent Jobs in Renewable Energy, Energy Sufficiency, Solid Waste Management, Job Multipliers in Natural Resource Protection and Management and the Green-Shift of Technology, Skills and Bottomlines in Basic Industries.

These sessions are intended to make us see that there are indeed jobs and opportunities in environment-related activities and endeavors. Green jobs are not just about reducing, reusing and recycling. It’s also about using renewable energy, exploring alternative fuels, patrolling our territorial waters for maritime protection, creating green products and services, building green facilities and greening technologies, among others. These are activities and initiatives that can actually produce and result into tangible jobs and real opportunities for many of our workers.

Hopefully, these sessions and topics will make us understand and realize the potentials of green jobs in terms of its ability to generate employment for our people, attract and induce investments in our economy and most importantly, increase awareness and involvement of people in preserving and protecting the environment.

On the second day, we have plenary sessions that will center on these issues: role of the youth in building a greener future, the prospects of a Green Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Industry and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

With these topics at hand, I believe that the interest you have expressed previously in attending this Conference, as evidenced by the various calls and queries we have received, would be eventually turned into your eagerness to share your part in promoting Green Jobs in your offices and businesses.

As such, allow me again to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for attending and gracing this Green Jobs Conference. With that, I welcome you again to the 1st Philippine Green Jobs Conference. Thank you so much! God bless you all! Mabuhay kayonglahat!
MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Hon. Mary Anne Lucille M. Sering
Secretary, Climate Change Commission

Green jobs is not only a form of self preservation but also a strategy towards sustainable development. Green job is no longer about wages and livelihood but it also carries the responsibility to take care of now for the future.

The Millennium Development Goals aim for environmental stability and population stabilization especially in poor countries to end the poverty trap. Despite economic growth, employment barely improved from 2005-2010. Except for promising statistics in the manufacturing sector in the past few months, inclusive growth remains a challenge. Agriculture, the second highest employer of the Philippines is prone to economic shocks and natural disasters and unforeseen weather events.

Industries and the poor rely heavily on natural resources, thus, unsustainable practices are no longer an option. But the role of the private sector is not highlighted in the achievement of the MDG. She stated that an unstable environment would potentially result to scarcity of resources. The impacts of climate change will further worsen the situation forcing businesses to change.

According to a 2004 University of California Berkeley study the renewable energy sector generates more jobs than fossil fuel-based energy sector per unit of energy delivered across a broad range of scenarios. A US Program, the “Pathway to Recovery”, targets poor individuals for training to help them enter the green job market focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency industries. Similarly an EU Report this year encourages countries in Europe to invest two per cent of their GDP if they want to see more growths. Also an emerging market is the US$ 300 billion industry called lifestyle of health and sustainability market, which was not affected by the US economic crisis. This market includes alternative energy.

The Climate Change Commission has recently developed the National Climate Change Action Plan that will focus on the eco-system based management approach that will provide jobs that matches the skills of the community and will prepare them for the green jobs market. Local companies are also starting to pitch in, such as Victory Liner which will manufacture electric hybrid buses amounting to Php 250 million in investments. This will be locally sourced and would employ three (3) green jobs per bus manufactured.

The Department of Transportation and Communication is promoting environmentally sustainable transport while the Department of Energy has developed the electric tricycle program looking to transform the 3 million – 5 million tricycles plying different routes in the country.
The Philippines has a bright green manufacturing future ahead. The Philippines is the 2nd biggest producer of geothermal in the world, and one of the countries in Southeast Asia with the highest potential in wind and solar energy and mature technologies in hydro power.

We need to support more policy programs that will encourage investments to create more green jobs. Creating green jobs is not only a form of self preservation but also a strategy towards sustainable development. Green jobs is no longer about wages and livelihood but it also carries the responsibility to take care of now for the future.

Thank you.

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1 Transcription of the speech of Secretary Lucille Sering.
MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Hon. Leon G. Flores III
Chairperson, National Youth Commission (NYC)

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Reduce, reuse and recycle is a battlecry. Reduce apathy among the youth. Reuse our strengths, competencies and energies for better uses. Recycle our ideas whose time never came or was never implemented. We need to re-imagine green jobs and come up with new ideas that address the challenge of climate change.

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Green jobs maybe alien to a lot of youth like me, and so it is but timely to come up with the 1st Philippine Green Jobs Conference. I take this Conference as an opportunity to encourage everyone to keep prodding on Green Jobs so it could be introduced to a lot more youth and a lot more stakeholders.

The Philippines is the most vulnerable to climate change as seen in its impacts in the form of typhoons and storms. Like our Asian neighbors, we do not only share best practices with our Chinese and Korean friends, we also share typhoons, since a lot of these visit the country first before proceeding to Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea.

The Conference theme is relevant as it talks about inclusive growth - which is also the goal of the Philippine Development Plan. This he says does not sideline the youth, who want to take part in building our nation again rather than just take part in street protests. The youth do not want to become mere beneficiaries of programs but partners as well. A study by the NYC has proven that almost 60 - 70 per cent of the youth want to take part in environmental causes, who do not want this to become merely a fad. Climate change is critical, timely, urgent and real.

The youth need to be crafters of policies. The Philippine Youth Development Plan creates green jobs consciousness as well. Reduce, reuse and recycle is a battlecry. Reduce apathy among the youth. Reuse our strengths, competencies and energies for better uses. Recycle our ideas whose time never came or was never implemented. We need to re-imagine green jobs and come up with new ideas that address the challenge of climate change.

The youth also creates opportunities for green jobs. There are a lot of young social entrepreneurs making their mark by providing green jobs to their fellow youth, who are also among the participants who will all meet as this two-day Conference unfolds.

In conclusion, I would like to share with you an anecdote of former Senator Raul Roco who told of a story about national artist Cesar Legaspi. Legaspi’s one-foot long painting costs half a million pesos. He gave a painting to Sen. Roco with different shades of green. What baffled everyone was that Legaspi was actually color blind. So, the senator asked how he was able to mix beautiful colors despite his condition. Mr. Legaspi said that he found his color within him. These colors are also within us. It is my hope that at this Conference that the color green surfaces during the Conference, within ourselves.

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2 Transcription of the speech
MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Hon. Marlo M. Mendoza
Assistant Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The DENR shall continuously collaborate with other government agencies, industries, labor groups, and other stakeholders, to create and expand more green jobs which address the triple bottom line. We see in it endless possibilities for helping our government in nation-building through the green path.

A pleasant good morning to everyone! First of all, I would like to congratulate the Department of Labor and Employment for spearheading this significant event, as well as partner agencies and supporters for working together to bring to fruition this 1st Philippine Green Jobs Conference. I convey on behalf of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources our Agency’s appreciation for being part of this undertaking.

We can say that the subject of green jobs is an idea whose time has come as we stand witness to global trends: the specter of climate change and environmental degradation in the midst of economic meltdown, retrenchments, poverty, among others.

First appearing in a joint report by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), green jobs have been defined as work in agricultural, manufacturing, research and development (R & D), administrative, and service activities that contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality. Green jobs may also be viewed as work that puts equal emphasis to the preservation of the environment while pursuing economic and social benefits to the community and to the workers.

The same ILO-UNEP report cited that “green jobs need to be decent work, i.e. good jobs which offer adequate wages, safe working conditions, job security, reasonable career prospects, and worker rights. A job that is exploitative, harmful, fails to pay a living wage can hardly be hailed as green.”

At this point allow me to talk about a Program which the DENR through the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau implemented in 2004-2009 in partnership with the Department of Tourism. As you are all aware of, ecotourism is fast becoming a significant green job sector.

The Philippine National Ecotourism Program was a New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID)-funded Project that paved the way for new businesses to develop and thus, new jobs to be created.

An important component was the training of ecotourism assessors in the application of ecotourism standards under the Ecotourism Certification Program in which eco-guide, eco-tour, eco-lodge and eco-tourism facilities are assessed according to guidelines for accreditation. More green jobs are created as demand for ecotourism facilities that pass the green eco-tourism standards increase.
On the other hand practical hands-on trainings on nature trek like those given to Aetas in project site in SapangBato-Mt. Pinatubo, Pampanga and to members of the Banaue Travel Guides and Tour Organization on mountain guiding and first aid afforded them more opportunities to improve their income, as tourists better appreciate the much improved services.

The Project is a success story as it has also drawn additional support for some of the sites: Korean investment in SapangBato; Ayala Foundation for Pamilacan; local government unit investment/support in Hundred Islands, Lake Sebu and Mayon Volcano as well as the support of the DOT to the Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape in Bohol.

Distinguished guests, aside from agricultural, manufacturing, research and development (R & D), administrative, and service activities, may I now lead you to the forestry sector, but first may I cite a finding in the ILO-UNEP report on forestry which says:

“Despite growing informality and mechanization, forestry is still a very significant sector with roughly 1-2 percent of the global workforce and over a billion people dependent upon forests for their income and livelihoods. The sector is also an important source of income and employment for developing countries and for rural communities where there are few economic activities.”

In the Philippines, there are about 5 million poor families in the uplands and yes, they are dependent upon forest resources for subsistence and livelihood.

There has been a dramatic shift in the manner the government has dealt with forest settlers through the years. They have been transformed into partners in forest governance and possibilities of jobs revolving around this role are continuously being explored and enhanced.

Under the Upland Development Program, BantayGubats were hired among households in the uplands alongside Forest Extension Officers as well as farm workers. From 2008 up to June 2011, some 21,360 BantayGubats who serve mainly as forest patrollers were hired in addition to some 2,056 forest extension officers from 2009 to June 2011.

Various other jobs were created, on the other hand on various aspects of forestry activities such as boundary delineation, planting material propagation, plantation establishment and maintenance, protection activities, timber and non-timber forest products utilization, among others. For the same period, some 13,011 workers were hired.

With the signing of Executive Order No. 26 on February 24, 2011 creating the National Greening Program, the Government seeks to further refine the country’s reforestation scheme in implementation making it a truly green Program.

For one, as a poverty-reduction, food security and environmental program, NGP targets mainly tenured lands of the public domain to ensure the existence of stewards who will look after the maintenance and protection of plantation sites. These stewards who are members of upland communities will also be one of the priorities in the awarding of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) under the DENR-DSWD convergence initiative collaboration, where this time, additional environment related conditionalities shall be imposed such as adherence to farm plans and systems, practice of soil and water conservation measures, and meeting minimum survival rates of cash crops, fruit bearing and forest trees. With these, the CCT
may now be called e-CCT or environmental conditional cash transfer. The e-CCT shall satisfy the triple bottom line of sustainable development: people or social responsibility, environment friendliness, and economic benefits.

The NGP also aims to initially target 1.5 million hectares of the 8 million hectares of unproductive, open, denuded or degraded forestlands into areas capable of generating earnings for the upland communities and the government through import substitution of wood and wood products and crops such as coffee, cacao, and grains, all of which have vast possibilities for green jobs, i.e. from production, processing, marketing and distribution of products for local and international consumption.

On the other hand, urban supporters of the NGP such as schools, the Program encourages the adoption of waste segregation in the respective homes and composting of the biodegradable wastes to be used as potting media for the nursery.

These are some of the latest initiatives of the DENR, together with our partner agencies that help contribute to creation of more green jobs. The DENR shall continuously collaborate with other government agencies, industries, labor groups, and other stakeholders, to create and expand more green jobs which address the triple bottom line. We see in it endless possibilities for helping our government in nation-building through the green path.

Thank you and good day.
MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Mr. Lawrence Jeff Johnson
Country Director, International Labour Organization

The resulting impact of natural disasters on infrastructures, businesses, communities and individuals clearly influence the decision-making of investors throughout the world and at home. Collectively, it is possible to turn these challenges into opportunities to achieve sustainable, inclusive and greener growth and to reduce poverty and the ranks of the vulnerably employed.

The world of work has been tremendously affected positively or negatively as a result of climate change and the unsustainable use of our natural resources. Indeed, extreme weather conditions such as floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, and droughts have affected people’s lives throughout the world. In recent years, we have witnessed loss of lives, properties and livelihoods.

Governments and communities realize the need to invest in infrastructures and adaptation measures to reduce vulnerabilities of local communities and protect lives and livelihoods.

In the Philippines, the effects of climate change have impacted families and communities who suffer from the loss of loved-ones, homes and livelihoods.

The resulting impact of natural disasters on infrastructures, businesses, communities and individuals clearly influence the decision-making of investors throughout the world and at home. Collectively, it is possible to turn these challenges into opportunities to achieve sustainable, inclusive and greener growth and to reduce poverty and the ranks of the vulnerably employed.

In Agusan Del Norte provinces, weather based crop insurance has been introduced as a social protection measure to adapt to climate change. Farmers have also been provided training and support in order to look at alternative forms of livelihood to minimize the impact of climate change and diversify their sources of livelihood.

At the global level, countries seek sustainable energy solutions moving into renewable, low-carbon and energy resource efficiency which creates a number of decent and productive jobs within the green sector.

Research has also shown that investing and supporting sustainable stewardship of natural resources, can help create sustainable, inclusive and greener growth and decent and productive employment not only for the generations now but for the generations to come.

We, at the ILO, will continue our support to this transformation and contribute to addressing climate change impacts and environmental challenges as it affects the labour market.
The ILO commends the DOLE and the Climate Change Commission for leading this First Philippine Green Jobs Conference which focuses on “Promoting Green Jobs and Decent Work for Inclusive Growth”.

We recognize also the efforts of other government agencies partners such as the NEDA, DENR and DTI, our social partners – the employers and workers, green jobs partners and advocates in the Philippines. Truly, if we face these challenges and turn it to opportunities, we need to work together in order to tackle such a large issue.

Our contribution to this conference was made possible through the ILO Green Jobs in Asia project, which is supported by the Government of Australia.

The First Philippine Green Jobs Conference is indeed a result of social dialogue. It aims to further address questions such as:

- What are green jobs?
- Are green jobs a reality?
- Where are the green jobs now and in the future?
- How can government, employers, workers and civil society promote green jobs?

The First Philippine Green Jobs Conference is part of the many initiatives and partnerships we have been involved with.

The ILO Green Jobs initiative launched together with the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Organisation of Employers, and the International Trade Union Confederation, to support countries to facilitate fair and viable transition activities.

At the same time, the green jobs initiative aims to address vulnerabilities in employment. This can be through looking at green goods and services creation or transformation. What are the new industries out there and how do we help transform other industries?

In the Philippines, the ILO Green Jobs Initiatives include the Greener Business in Asia, the Climate Change Adaptation Project in Farming Communities, the Labour Intensive Community Infrastructure Project, and the Green Jobs in Asia Project.

Rest assured that the ILO stands ready to support the country in its goal of achieving inclusive, sustainable and greener growth through decent and productive work.

My best wishes for the success of the First Philippine Green Jobs Conference.

Thank you and Mabuhay!
Director Encabo began her presentation by giving reference to Memorandum Circular No. 3 (02 September 2010) directing the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and the Public Investment Program (PIP) for 2011-2016 under the Aquino Administration.

Consultations were made with the private sectors to come up with this plan. She declared that purpose is to achieve inclusive growth, create employment opportunities and reduce poverty. She emphasized the three broad strategies to achieve inclusive growth are the following: high and sustained economic growth; equal access to development opportunities; and effective and responsive social safety nets.

The plan key strategies include: stable macroeconomic environment; mitigate potential impacts of environment factors; and advance peace process and guarantee national security. Some of the highlighted chapters of the above-mentioned plan were comprised of: macroeconomic policy; towards a dynamic and resilient financial system; and good governance and the rule of law.

According to her, one of the objectives of Philippine Development Plan is to be globally competitive and innovative industry and services sectors contributing to inclusive growth and employment generation. It goals for better business environment, improved productivity and efficiency and enhanced consumer welfare.

The government shall create policies and mechanisms to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in industry and services sectors. The presentation also mentioned accelerating infrastructure development with the objective of speeding up the provision of safe, efficient, adequate, reliable, cost-effective and sustainable infrastructure.
Major CCA and DRR Strategies of Infrastructure Sub-sectors consist of planning and design of flood management structures, intensify development and utilization of renewable energy (RE) and environment-friendly alternative energy resources/technologies, explore the use of indigenous and recyclable materials that are environment-friendly to reduce costs and incorporate DRRM and CCA concepts in building health facilities. The plan also envisions an environment that is healthy, ecologically-balanced, sustainably productive, climate-change resilient and provides for present and future generations of Filipinos.

**DOLE UNDERSECRETARY LOURDES TRASMONTE: GREENING THE PHILIPPINE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT PLAN**

In her detailed presentation on the green contents and goals of the DOLE’s Philippine Labor and Employment Plan 2011-2016, Labor and Employment Undersecretary Lourdes Trasmonte underscored the importance of integrating green jobs in the National Employment Plan. She said that Green Jobs is integral to the success of climate change initiatives in the country. She also cited the following impacts of climate change to the intricacies of the labor market:

a. The Green Jobs Initiative (GJI) is a critical complement to climate change adaptation efforts.

b. As a complement to adaptation efforts, the GJI outlines strategy requisites to make possible positive labor market transitions in the face of climate change.

c. Given evident adaptation challenges, it is imperative that labor market transition issues be broadly addressed in the medium-term.

She declared that reference to Green Job oftentimes results to skepticism and indifference among the labor sector. “How can green jobs exist when there is no job to talk about in the first place?” she said. People usually lack awareness the connection between climate change and jobs. According to her, there must be a transition from job to green jobs.

She defined Green Jobs as activities that are derived from climate solutions. Among definitions on Green Jobs, a common thread runs though all these definitions which is aptly captured by the ILO/UNEP definition “...activities that contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality” (ILO/UNEP, Green Jobs Report, 2008). She emphasized that investments in transitioning the economy away from carbon-intensive energy, minimizing degradation of our natural resources, maximizing the efficient use of our natural capital and protecting humans and the planet from pollution and waste give rise to a new demand for labor or for certain types of labor.

These green investments as they are called are expected to create measurable impacts on employment as these now become the source of new green jobs. Climate solutions’ investments that give rise to new demand for labor or for certain types of labor to bring about measurable impacts on employment (whether on levels, quality or access).

Green jobs, she acknowledged, has several employment impacts: new jobs will be created; certain jobs may be eliminated; many jobs will be transformed and redefined. The Green Jobs Initiative seeks to co-produce solutions to realize benefits or reduce risk of harms associated with climate change as it affects employment. Climate change will affect employment in both positive and negative ways and the GJI initiative is seen as a measure to
solve that which requires solving and developing that which shows promise. Green jobs initiatives are inherently collaborative and will require DOLE to work to a large extent outside its organizational boundaries. DOLE’s role in this GJI is to collect and share within and across major program elements information on the climate change and employment link and pursue opportunities for sharing and coordination across within and outside government.

In conclusion she presented the action framework on the Green Jobs Initiative for the medium–term which includes 4 components:

**Building the knowledge base**
- This component involves building knowledge assets to create shifts in awareness, facilitate collaboration and fortify industries and communities pursuing social-environmental transformation.

**Planning for Restructuring**
- This component involves engaging key stakeholders on prevalent expectations and concerns on climate change and jobs. This also includes supporting the increased integration of green job options into national and regional development planning processes and practices; and promoting synergies and collaboration between various disciplines, groups of practitioners, sectors and regions through the above functions.
- Initiatives under this component include the following:
  - This 1st National Green Jobs Conference which serves as the initial information platform of all stakeholders
  - Call to Action which will lead to the formation of a GJ Leadership Team, Vision, Goals and Strategy Plan

**Three, Mainstreaming Across Government /Sectors**
- This component seeks to demonstrate a framework within which local policymakers and industry advocates can develop green jobs initiatives that responds to the realities of their local economies and communities
- Its support includes assembling and providing packages of services including knowledge, technology and capacity, to support green job options taken by governments, practitioners and communities.

**And Lastly, Resource Mobilization/ Generating Action**
- This component includes mobilizing knowledge and technology for green jobs by improving their availability, accessibility and usability for user communities at all levels.

**CCC UNDERSECRETARY NADEREV SANO: CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREEN JOBS, MANAGING THE LINK (OR HOW MANY FILIPINOS DO YOU NEED TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?)**

Undersecretary Saño started his speech by saying that climate change and green jobs go together since the latter serves as one of the solutions to the former. The world is one in trying to deal with the impact of climate change. The debate at the international level is focused on coming up with an agreement on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. There was significant progress in negotiations as Cancun last year in terms of coming up local and global actions. The challenge is in concretizing these actions in Durban,
South Africa this year. Climate change is the greatest challenge that humanity is facing right now.

He asserted that every natural living system in the world today is in decline. In the Philippines, as early as 15 years ago, only 2.5% of coral reefs were in excellent condition, while 90% of fish catch has been depleted as early as 13 years ago. Only 50% of mangrove areas remain, while only 22% of forests remain intact, with only 3% of that considered primary.

Climate change should be solved in a way that addresses poverty, inequity and unemployment.

Usec. Saño insisted that climate change needs innovations that stay away from the frame of mind that led to the problem in the first place. He raised the need to look at the developmental and environmental aspects of green jobs.

He then showed how the country is set at the epicenter of climate change and hit by the biggest storms for the last 60 years. He said that the hottest temperatures recorded are in the past decade. This underscores the need to understand the root causes of climate change before we can come up with appropriate solutions.

He explained that climate impacts are accelerating summed up in the conclusion that the world will be warmer by 4° Celsius that will result in irreversible changes such as crop failure, coral bleaching and glaciers melting—most of which affect productivity and the viability of our economy.

Survival is at the heart of climate change since it is affects any sector and any sector can contribute to it. Quoting a UN Social and Economic Unit Report on the World Social and Economic Survey, Usec. Saño said that “nothing short of technological revolution on the scale of the first industrial revolution will be required to meet the challenge of sustainable development.”

This has far-reaching implications since the global technological transformation required should happen in less than 40 years in order to address climate change. That is twice as fast as any of the technological transitions in the history of humanity.

While green jobs could be found in any sector he assessed that it will be seen more in the sectors of power, transport, energy efficiency, renewable energy, renovation of buildings and retrofitting, manufacturing, waste management, forestry, education and awareness, training and capacity-building, environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, marketing of green products and climate change adaptation activities. It is not only greening the supply chain, but building resilience especially for a country like the Philippines, which is very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Usec. Saño revealed that an emerging concept is blue carbon, which is basically protecting marine ecosystems like seagrass, corals and mangroves to prevent the release of greenhouse gases. This sector alone has a lot of potential green jobs.

He went on to share that the CCC together with many stakeholders has crafted the National Climate Change Action Plan, anchored on a vision for sustainable development based on the integrity of ecological systems and the creation and promotion of climate-smart industries and services.

Usec. Saño stressed that the country’s great people, abundant natural wealth and renewable resources will help solve climate change. He used Darna, the country’s first electric jeepney to illustrate this point. He believed that every renewable energy and energy efficiency technology that builds resilience for climate change adaptation creates green jobs.
He argued that innovation is not just about technology, but embracing inevitable change, involving the creation of jobs and redounding to societal well-being.

He reminded every one that the Stone Age did not end because we run out of stones. Thus, the fossil fuel age should not end until we have squeezed the last drop of oil. A red light is a universal sign that tells us to stop, yet in the Philippines, we have to be reminded of it in writing beside a stop light. This emphasizes his point about recognizing the signs of climate change, which should be recognized as an opportunity rather than a threat.

Before concluding, he described how the US economy boomed after it went to war during World War II. Manufacturers stopped making cars in favor of creating weapons. He used this to underscore that fighting climate change is like being at war. It is important to mobilize all resources for this war. Creating jobs is part of the strategies in the climate war. Finally, he assured the participants that with an empowered work force, and through green jobs we will win this war.

**ILO SENIOR SPECIALIST MR. VINCENT JUGAULT: GREEN JOBS: EMPLOYMENT & DECENT WORK IN A CLIMATE-CHALLENGED WORLD**

Mr. Vincent Jugault took off with a discussion on the second great transformation. This will cause profound shifts and transitions in economic sectors. New sectors will emerge e.g. renewables, while some sectors will decline (eg. Fossil fuels), and many jobs will be transformed towards more energy and resource efficiency and less environmental impact e.g. manufacturing.

He added that the transition will create pressure to reduce emissions as resource use will also imply a drive to improve resource productivity in addition to labor productivity.

Mr. Jugault elaborated on how understanding of the way green jobs affect labor markets needs to put them into perspective and consider the proportions; recognize the forward linkages of greening economic activity; take into account the interactions of new job creation, substitution, elimination and transformation; consider the often large effects via indirect and induced employment; and, recognize the potential of green jobs for development and poverty reduction.

Showing a chart that illustrates the carbon emissions of different sectors, he remarked that Energy intensive industries (EIIs) are the most exposed to change e.g. energy, transport, construction; even as natural resource management e.g. Forestry, agriculture is also affected. Green sectors with low emissions will of course expand e.g. recycling, water, sustainable tourism.

Quoting a UNEP report this year on the European Union-15, Mr. Jugault he pointed out that labor productivity has increased substantially but materials and energy productivity lag behind. At the same time, an analysis of prices, which are the key driver of first generation innovations, show that material and energy prices have declined over time until recently in 2000-2004, when many material costs increased rapidly.

He also asserted that high energy prices need not hurt the economy. Japan blossomed during the 15-year period between 1975-1990, when energy prices were high.

Employment will be affected in at least four ways as the economy is oriented toward greater sustainability. These are in the form of additional jobs that will be created e.g. manufacturing of pollution-control devices added to existing production equipment; jobs that will be substituted e.g. shifting from fossil fuels to renewables; jobs that will be eliminated without direct replacement e.g. (plastic) packaging materials are discouraged or
banned and production is discontinued); and, existing jobs that will be transformed and redefined e.g. skills sets, work methods and profiles of plumbers, electricians, metal workers, and construction workers greened to become more environmentally friendly.

Mr. Jugault posited that resource productivity will improve but thought twice on the impact on labour productivity. Most studies show that the overall impact of a transition to a green economy will be positive. He regarded the global transition to a low-carbon and sustainable economy will create many green jobs across many sectors of the economy, and can become an engine of development. Currently, he observed that green job creation is taking place in both the rich countries and in some of the major developing economies.

The UNEP/ILO Green Jobs report from 2008 estimated that current employment in renewable and supplier industries is around 2.3 million people worldwide - comprising around 1.2 million in biofuels, 300,000 in wind and 770,000 in solar (both photovoltaics and solar thermal).

Green investments more employment intensive, at least in the short to medium term.

He estimated that while winners are likely to far outnumber losers, some will be hurt by the economic restructuring toward sustainability. Companies and regions that become leaders in green innovation, design, and technology development are more likely to retain and create new green jobs. But workers and communities dependent on mining, fossil fuels, and smokestack industries, or companies that are slow to rise to the environmental challenge, will face adjustment costs. He believed that public policy should seek to minimize disparities among winners and losers and avoid these distinctions becoming permanent features.

Initial results from GHK in Bangladesh identified nearly 3.5 million core environment-related jobs in Bangladesh—where 800,000 of these jobs can be considered “green jobs” as they meet decent work standards. He estimated that China over the period 2005-2020 will create 30.76 million green jobs. France will most likely create almost 290,000 direct jobs and 3.5 million core environment-related jobs (growing at 13% per year in 2009). Brazil is set to create 2.65 formal green jobs.

Mr. Jugault identified key sectors for green jobs creation under the Green Economy such as agriculture, green buildings, cities, energy, finance, fisheries, forests, manufacturing, tourism, transport, waste and water. He said that opportunities exist for more green jobs, but the country needs to identify them by sector.

Meanwhile he shared that global market trends in food production particularly in Africa and Americas, have shown significant increase in the production and sale of sustainable forestry certification, certified sustainable coffee, sustainable tea production, sustainable banana and sustainable cocoa. Asia is lagging behind in this sector.

Eco-tourism and agro-tourism have also grown —three times faster than the global tourism industry in 2004. It could grow to 25% and has great potential for job creation among youth.

In building the policy framework, Mr. Jugault presented a gamut of areas where new policies could be put in place such as legislation and regulation, procurement, investments, skills, economic instruments, social protection, local initiatives and social dialogue.

He gave special mention to the Green Jobs Act 2007 enacted under the Energy Bill in the US, which assesses needs for green jobs and facilitates access to financial schemes for skills development in energy efficiency and renewable energy; and Fiji’s Centre and National Employment Fund to promote employment, productivity, green jobs and green industries.

He also noted mechanisms for social dialogue such as the Multi-stakeholders Task Force on Climate Change and Green Jobs (India, 2009); Grenelle Environment Round Tables (France, 2007); and the Green Pact signed by constituents (Philippines, Dec 2009).
In terms of skills, Mr. Jugault showcased the ILO’s G20 Training Strategy – A Skilled Workforce for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth that addresses the skills shortages that already pose a major barrier to green transitions and job creation, facilitates the adjustment of labour markets and coordinates policy to combine skills policies and environmental policies. It also seeks the Greening of existing Competency Standards versus new Green Competency standards, Greening C.S based vocational training policies and Youth Apprenticeship Programs for Green Jobs (Green Jobs Corps).

Mr. Jugault also gave premium to the need for policies to focus on green stimulus such as the Koran Green New Deal, which is a US$ 30.7 billion green package.

Mr. Jugault enumerated the achievements and lessons of the Green Jobs Initiative thus far:

1. Environment and job creation can be mutually supportive.
2. The role of the World of Work at all levels of decision-making and social dialogue.
3. Recognition of the Need for a Just Transition for workers and enterprises to adapt to a changing environment in the Cancun Agreement.
4. The green transition has started in the region and globally – great disparity in Asia and the Pacific between countries, sectors.
5. Green jobs is becoming central to the policy agenda in many countries
6. Challenges:
   - Identify opportunities in every country
   - Enhance capacity of the social partners
   - Address the gaps in green skills
   - Monitor green jobs creation
   - Create green jobs for youth
   - Enhance integrated policy making
   - Develop integrated services to sustain the development of green jobs

**OPEN FORUM**

**Green Jobs Roadmap**

Mr. Joey Molina of ECOP asked: Considering the enormity of Green Jobs, he asked if there is a particular road map that will help transform jobs into Green Jobs, considering that industries have different ways of greening.

Director Encabo noted that the PDP’s target is to generate a million jobs every year, but the challenge is greening these jobs. I think it would take a little while as expressed as Usec. Trasmonte since we are still in the stage of defining what green jobs are. But as mentioned in the PDP presentation, there are strategies and programs that somehow allude to the greening of jobs. I hope we get there before the administration ends. There is that initial thrust to go green.

Usec. Trasmonte shared that the shift from ordinary jobs to green jobs should look into the production, consumption and investment. In the end it would really be advantageous to our investors. At this time we have to look at initiatives and ways and means to create a demand
for green jobs, which are sustainable jobs, while looking at how to preserve jobs or employment. This should balance each other out.

Sec. Gozun added that the road mapping to be led by the DOLE will be done in a participatory manner with all stakeholders contributing. What is important is keeping in mind that it is not about creating new jobs only. The transport sector for instance would not to just keep importing vehicles. We could manufacture them here to create green jobs and more green opportunities. It is also about making use of our resources more efficiently and wisely. That would be greening it.

Green Supply and Demand

Mr. Snehal of Oxfam asked: While we are talking about the supply side of things, we are missing out on the demand side. We are talking about jobs. The stone age ended because there was a demand for technology to advance. It was driven by innovations and the innovations created the demand. So, is there a need to make an economic argument on the demand side? Isn’t it critical to link this to the economics of the demand side of things?

Undersecretary Saño acknowledged the need to look at the demand side. It is important to look at both consumption and production after all the ecological and financial crisis that we face today are both caused by unsustainable practices, short-sightedness and to a certain extent, market failure. Thus, the need to look seriously at the demand side.

Mr. Jugault added that an UNCTAD study last year revealed the Australian potential for growth in certified food. This is a booming sector where you have a large number of green jobs either in Africa or Latin America. It showed that Asia was lagging behind. So certainly, this is an area of potential for green jobs. The second example is sustainable eco-tourism. A couple of years ago, a regional conference in Lao said that by 2012 25 per cent of the market will go green. So, there is a demand.

Sec. Gozun relayed that efforts are also in line with Green Production, Green Procurement for a Green Philippines later in the week. We have to address this in a more comprehensive manner. It is not enough that there is production if there is no demand. At the end of the day we need both sustainable consumption and sustainable production. For the side of the people in government, there is such a thing as green procurement. This is an existing program and would just need wider implementation with more people becoming more conscious about it.

How to Green Jobs

Ms Edelyn Faderonga from a private company: How do we apply green jobs in a service-oriented company employing 7,000 employees such as ours?

Usec. Saño remarked that how the country would define green jobs is still in the works. The National Climate Change Action Plan mentions green jobs. It recognizes the collective and individual power of the workforce to make jobs green. All sectors can contribute to the green jobs discourse. In the meantime we can contribute as individuals by helping conserve resources. A company can reduce its environmental impact, reduce energy consumption and be more efficient in the use of water and paper. These are simple things that can help us go green. The manufacturing sector can contribute in more complex ways through the technology it uses.
**Education and Training for green jobs**

Director Libby Casco of the Maritime Training Council asked: Are there strategies on the linking of education and training to support green jobs promotion and climate change solutions?

Mr. Renato Orasco of Mindanao asked: After noting the need to transform jobs to green jobs, asked if there are steps being taken by NEDA, CHED or TESDA to train new skills for emerging green jobs. Are there courses on climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental engineering, etc?

Director Encabo affirmed that there are efforts at mainstreaming climate change at various levels of education. The Greening the Millennium Development Goal Fund Project is being pilot-tested in Albay where the elementary and high school curriculum includes climate change. We are awaiting their assessment as to how effective the program has been. We are also partnering with SUCs where we are at the initial stage of looking into the capacities of our educator of how to climate-proof their lessons. We plan to come up with modules. The DAP is helping with sectoral modules on the subject. There are iterative efforts and NEDA shall share the results in due time.

Undersecretary Trasmonte related that the DOLE’s productivity programs includes measures on how to eliminate waste, introduction of work improvement in enterprises and quality service for restaurants and hotels where we want to have error-free workers to encourage tourists to visit the Philippines. Perhaps, in our respective workplaces we can identify what we can do to improve productivity and health and safety of workers.

There are initiatives in schools as mandated in the Climate Change Act to include climate change adaptation and mitigation in the curricula.

Sec. Gozun added that there is also a law on environmental education years before the Climate Change Act was enacted.

**ILO’s Green Jobs program**

Ms Flor Cabatingan of TUCP asked: if the ILO says there is a need for a paradigm shift in production, skills and employment, does the ILO already have a program or module dealing with paradigm shift? It is not only workers in the workplace that need to change in how to look at consumption, it is the community as well, and more importantly the first consumers of the community, who are women.

Mr. Jugault affirmed that there is such a program as TREE that targets women in the global context particularly to help them access new skills with the aim of reaching out to new types of livelihoods. It targets the same audience we are talking about in green jobs. So this is not entirely new. The other is in the context of the implementation of the Work Plus Policy in Indonesia, one of the pillars of the Convention to address deforestation and forest degradation. It has targeted forest areas in Kalimantan. It wants to improve access to livelihoods by the local community by building up their knowledge. The third in the ILO’s work in the Philippines to develop Climate Adaptation Programs and Policies, which target areas frequented by disasters. It serves the objective of income distribution, livelihood and poverty reduction.
Monitoring Green Jobs Promotion

Meanwhile, Mr. Tim Dejon of AWATU asked the panellists if people would immediately and eventually see the establishment of a Technical Working Group that would monitor and harmonize integrated efforts at green jobs promotion.

In response to the query, Usec. Trasmonte agreed that there is a need for monitoring and evaluation. She is entertaining the idea of having a tripartite body for the purpose. While Secretary Gozun acknowledged that there is a lot of “green washing” going around. Many people think that their products or practices are green. But there is a need to measure these efforts to determine if these are really green. She emphasized the importance of the Green Jobs Conference which is defining green jobs, strategizing green jobs and down the line implementing green jobs. Thus, the need to monitor and evaluate the efforts.
Mr. Fortunato Sibayan, Department of Energy

Mr. Sibayan presented the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) in the Philippines. Renewable Energy has long been a major contributor to the country’s primary energy consumption. In 2010, the country consumed a total of 40.7 metric tons of energy (MTOE). Of this amount, 23.4 MTOE was sourced locally, setting the energy self-sufficiency rate at 57.4% renewable energy resource.

Of the different energy sources, the biggest primary energy supply of our country as of 2010 came from indigenous energy, followed by imported oil, imported coal, and imported ethanol. According to him, the geothermal, biomass, hydroelectric, and other sources of renewable energy have no significant contribution in our supply of energy as of now.

Among the total primary renewable energy supply in the Philippines, a significant part of this supply came from geothermal, followed by biomass, hydroelectric and biofuels. Wind or solar energy has the least contribution in this supply. He indicated that one of the goals of the renewable energy policy framework is to improve the Philippines’ ranking as second largest geothermal producer.

He cited Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 which establishes necessary infrastructure and mechanisms to attain the country’s renewable energy goals. Section 27 (b) of the law and Section 31 (a) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations, mandate the DOE, in consultation with its stakeholders, to formulate and facilitate the implementation of the NREP.

The speaker presented a NREP Roadmap for 2010-2030 wherein by 2012, full implementation of RA 9513 shall be realized and before the end of 2030, the wind, hydroelectric, biomass, ocean, solar and geothermal energy as sources of renewable energy shall meet its target additional capacities. Mr. Sibayan also cited as an example the Bangui Windmills in Ilocos Sur which is the biggest in Asia.

Under the Philippine Energy Plan, 2009-2030, power plants running on renewable energy are expected to double within the next 20 years. Thus, there is a great potential to create green jobs in this sector.
Mr. Jerome Cainglet, First Gen Corporation

Mr. Cainglet started off by stating that “the grass is greener (and the oceans are bluer) on our side” in reference to how First Gen’s renewable energy plants and the communities where these are located have improved biodiversity. He said that First Gen is one of the biggest Independent Power Producers in the Philippines. Its affiliate, the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) is one of the recognized experts in geothermal energy worldwide, specializing in technical support.

First Gen is widely recognized by the industry as the leading clean and renewable energy company in the Philippines. It operates natural gas, geothermal and hydro power plants across the country and accounts for 18 per cent of the country’s total installed capacity. These include natural gas power plants in Santa Rita and San Lorenzo in Batangas that generate a combined 1,500 MW; geothermal power plants of EDC across the country that produce 1,199 MW; and, hydro power plants in Agusan and Luzon that generate 1.6 MW.

Cainglet pointed out that in a span of six years starting 2004, First Gen’s power plants have reduced its carbon intensity by almost 30 per cent while significantly increasing its power generation capacity by about 50 per cent simply by investing more in renewable energy. Overall, First Gen’s carbon intensity is on average 62 per cent lower than the Philippine average across the three main grids (Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao).

He added that First Gen is pursuing run-of-river small hydro projects that will generate 91 MW of power. Run-of-river redirects water instead of accumulating it as what dams do, thus preserving the forests and biodiversity more.

Based on industry estimates, if the Renewable Energy (RE) Law will be fully implemented without delay, the RE industry can generate up to 50,000 jobs over the next 20 years. This assumes that the other emerging technologies such as wind, solar, biomass are also developed.

Mr. Cainglet emphasized that generating renewable energy does not only produce clean energy from sustainable sources that will benefit the community through the protection of the environment, it also creates much needed green jobs for Filipinos: At the peak of the construction of a run-of-river hydropower plant, more than 100 skilled and unskilled workers are expected to be employed. Hydro power plants could take three years to construct.

Operation and maintenance of a hydropower plant has a manpower requirement of about 30 employees. This excludes those who will be employed from other economic or business activities that could sprout as a result of the construction and operation of the power plant. Green jobs include those in their operations and technical services, administrative works, repairs and maintenance, security, and other support services. Similar to what it did for its previous projects, Cainglet said that First Gen can partner with institutions such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to train residents in the communities hosting the projects to help them acquire the needed skills and qualifications for employment in the projects.

Mr. Cainglet stressed that they give back to the community by working with relevant government agencies to uplift the quality of life of the project’s host communities with activities such as the conduct of medical missions, livelihood and skills training, watershed management and environmental protection programs. First Gen has partnered with various non-profit institutions to develop and implement projects that have a significant impact in the fields of environmental conservation and education.
Another major benefit, according to Mr. Cainglet, is the additional revenues for both national and local governments that their renewable energy projects generate such as those from government taxes and permits—real property tax, business permit, mayor’s permit, government share and ER 1-94 funds.

Mr. David De Montaigne, Green Power Panay

Mr. De Montaigne began by providing a brief background about Global Green Power PLC Corporation ("GGPC") as a Philippine registered company. It is invested and 40% owned by Global Green Power PLC ("GGP") a UK-based unlisted Public Limited Company. He characterized GGPC as a company that was formed to do research, develop, own, acquire and operate Thermal Biomass, Renewable Energy projects within the Philippines and South-East Asia.

He stressed that GGPC only utilizes biomass that does not compete with the Human Food Chain. GGPC projects are being developed under the Renewable Energy Act or Republic Act No 9531. It mitigates climate change by abating greenhouse gas emissions by using agricultural waste that are either burnt in the field causing carbon dioxide or left to rot causing methane. The abundance of biomass in the Philippines is largely due its contribution of 13% to the country’s gross domestic product and 35% share in total employment based on 2008 data.

He explained that GGPC’s Agricultural Biomass Residues were sourced from rice straw, rice husk, corn straw, corn stover, bagasse, sugar cane trash, coconut husk, pineapple waste, banana waste, wood waste, etc. GGPC sources these raw materials across the country with 0.4m tons coming from Panay, 1.4m tons from Nueva Ecija, 0.33m tons from Bukidnon and 1.2m tons from Cagayan Valley for a total of 3.3m tons. They target 5.3m tons by the end of the year.

According to Mr. De Montaigne, their company is currently developing 12 Biomass Energy within the Philippines, some of which are located in Panay Island in the Visayas, Nueva Ecija and Cagayan that will generate 420 MW of clean energy in three phases.

As part of their projects’ socio-economic benefits, Mr. De Montaigne estimates that GGPC Thermal Biomass Power Plants include would provide from 3,400 jobs with a 35-MW power plant to about 40, 800 jobs with a 420-MW power plant over the next 25 years in the Philippines.

He credits the passage of the RE Act as instrumental in attracting investments with significant fiscal stimuli plus non-fiscal benefits such as priority access, distribution and dispatch; tax advantages including tax holidays for the first seven years of operation and a ten percent cap thereafter; Value added tax (12%)-free for ten years; duty free importation of equipment; accelerated depreciation of special equipment; sale of carbon credits; and, creation of RE portfolio standards and the introduction of feed-in tariff by the third quarter of this year.

Mr. Antonio Asper, Federation of Free Workers

Mr. Asper stated by saying that green jobs have a great impact on employment as certain jobs will be created, some of them will be eliminated and some will be transformed or redefined. Hence, he suggested that there must be identification and quantification of impacts. He held that green jobs may not be what we need because certain factors must be considered such as “how much shall the worker be paid?”, “is there security of tenure?”, “will duration of the project be long enough?”
Mr. Asper maintained that for a job to be green, it ought to be decent. He then proceeded by presenting the FFW’s Green Jobs Framework based on the policy and program of action of the just-concluded FFW 23rd National Convention, where green jobs was the central theme.

He stressed that there should be a balance in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. This should consider the impact on the world of work as to the workforce, the work organization and human resource development practices; its impact on jobs as to new jobs, eliminated jobs and redefined jobs; its impact on the nature and characteristics of work; and how all of these could be anchored on the decent work objectives of opportunities to decent and productive employment, rights at work, social protection for all and meaningful and effective social dialogue.

At present, FFW initiatives relating to green jobs include the promotion of occupational safety and health (OSH), waste management, energy conservation and tree planting.

FFW Officers sit as Board of Trustees in a Muscovado Plant in Batangas; advocates for organic agriculture; participates and supports the development and adoption of green training regulations on solar energy, vehicle conversion to CNG and LPG, greener agriculture skills; and, participates in the ILO Projects on Green Business Asia and Green Jobs.

Mr. Asper said that action should be done at the enterprise or community, sectoral and national levels. It will initiate or join programs for green social housing, urban organic vegetable gardening, campaigning for reducing, reusing and recycling materials and the greening of competencies and qualifications.

Among others, Mr. Asper emphasized that workers at this point should negotiate for recognition of workplace environmental representatives, whether as part of the occupational safety and health committee or through other bodies in the enterprise. It should also practice, initiate and sustain social dialogues that would lead to industry-wide and national energy planning and agreements on energy efficiency and the use of renewables; as well as in managing the supply- and demand- side of climate change adaptation and mitigation at the workplace, community, sectoral and national levels.

He prodded workers to advocate for new rights such as the right to information and whistle-blower protection. This particularly refers to the disclosure of a company’s operations to determine if it harms the environment; and security for employees who might discover anomalies in the process, such as possible violations of environmental laws.

He also advocated that workers should fight for the right to refuse dangerous work and the right to refuse work that is destructive to the environment.

**OPEN FORUM**

*How clean is renewable?*

Mr. Forter Fuguan of the Regional office of DOLE wanted to clarify if generating geothermal energy has totally no destructive effect on the environment and if it releases no carbon emissions to the air.

Mr. Cainglet clarified that geothermal energy still has carbon emissions but these are very minimal. Its Co2 emission is only 0.18 lbs/kWh compared to coal with 2.13 lbs/kWH and oil with 1.52 lbs/kWh, making geothermal energy cleaner. Natural gas also emits minimal CO2 at 1.03 lbs/kWh. Meanwhile, geothermal energy makes no Sox and Nox emissions. The other
types of fuel mentioned do. Hydro energy on the other hand is the cleanest as it emits neither CO2, Nox nor Sox.

He added that as part of its CSR, First Gen is engaged in re-forestation. For every tree that they inevitably cut for the construction of their power plants, 100 tress were being replanted to replenish the forest.

Effect of Green Jobs on labor

Mr. Jovit Santos from Interphil Laboratories Employees Union-FFW directed his question to Mr. Asper. He asked that if green jobs would push through, what would be its adverse effects to the labor sector. In response, Mr. Asper recapped what was said earlier that green jobs can help in creating jobs and generating employment and livelihood for the people. He said that if green jobs will be actively promoted, new jobs will be created, although he admitted that some jobs will be eliminated and some will be transformed or redefined.

What matters, however, according to Mr. Asper is the number of jobs and employment being created by green initiatives and what its impact would be on the employment status of workers in the Philippines. He said that green jobs that would be created or redefined might not necessarily give security of tenure to workers. He emphasized his point earlier point that green jobs should be decent.

Bio-mass energy

DOLE Region VI Asst. Regional Director Crispin Dannug Jr. asked if there has been any increase in the productivity due to the utilization of biomass energy in recent years. He also asked if contracts for the supply of agricultural waste for the generation of biomass energy are prejudicial to farmers supposing that there is crop failure or there are no wastes to be burned to supply biomass power plants.

Mr. Montaigne answered that there has been an increase in the utilization of biomass in recent years but did not comment on productivity. As for prejudice to farmers, he said that this event has not occurred since they are in partnership with communities that are really dedicated to their project, especially in helping farming communities.

To cap and close the session, the moderator ended the forum by narrating the advantages of solar energy in the households. According to him, there are many opportunities created by renewable energy projects. He encouraged the audience to develop indigenous renewable energy. He concluded that workers and students need training on renewable energy, as the concept is quite new to the country. He raised the need to improve the Philippine education system to cater to this new idea.
Ms. Adel Licos, Ayala Foundation

Ms. Licos introduced Ayala Foundation’s campaign “Greening the Brown” & “Be Smart, Get Globe.” What is a Green, Decent Job? According to her research, “recycling is done mostly by informal recycling groups, informal “backyard” recycling” and that “they do not have great capacity to do recycling totally.”

Ayala Foundation’s ‘greening’ program started in 1993 with the launch of the Zero Waste program in Ayala. The organizers initiated a trainer’s training on solid waste management where workers were required to perform Mandatory Segregation of Waste from the source. She then asked who works for offices (office setting environment) in the audience. This was to point out that janitors in similar environment throw garbage in one trash bag and send them out to be segregated by informal recyclers.

In comparison, in Ayala, janitors, crew men and other employees and specialists do the segregation at source in Ayala-owned buildings where waste buyers no longer need to segregate wastes anymore and recycling plants only need to collect and no longer segregate. She then proceeded to present documentations of projects previously done in companies like the Philippine Daily Inquirer including ‘green livelihood’ opportunities in transforming paper, plastics, other wastes into bags, arts and crafts. She concluded that waste segregation should be done at the source level, this can simply be done by simply doing this at home.

Col. Roberto Jaymalin, Payatas Alliance Recycling Exchange

Col. Roberto Jaymalin introduced and discussed his solid waste management initiatives and projects in the Payatas area in Quezon City. He said that they were able to establish the following groups and organizations in Payatas such as the Payatas Alliance Recycling Exchange (PARE), Buklod Lakas ng Scavengers Ini (BULASI) and the Payatas Alliance Recycling Exchange Multi-Purpose Cooperative. He also said that a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) project was established to provide livelihood training to the informal sector. He said that it is a program based on Republic Act 9003, also known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.”

He said that the program has two key initiatives the launching of the Used Tire Retrieval Project and the promotion of Plastic Densifier technology, which transforms plastics into useable materials with the use of technology.
Col. Jaymalin also narrated that they created the “Payatas Poverty Alleviation Foundation” which spearheaded “Project LIFE.” It aims to be a livelihood training in micro finance for residences in Payatas. The projects include: Balik Paaralan para sa mga Kabataan (graduate elementary to head to highschool), Vocational training in welding, carpentry, etc., Shelter program in cooperation with Gawad Kalinga and a Soccer Program “Payatas Pasaway Street Soccer Team” Jumper boys turned soccer players.

In closing, Col. Jaymalin said that the residents need to earn a living in order to give them a chance at life because the people have lost hope. This is why Col. Jaymalin is striving for the alleviation of Payatas Residence and that for Col. Jaymalin, “rather a decent worker than a criminal”.

**Ms. Eileen Sison, Eco-Waste Coalition**

Ms. Sison presented the Solid Waste Management National Framework Plan, which she emphasized, provided a wide range of green jobs in the areas of solid waste management, from source separation, door to door collection, composting, recycling, waste reduction initiatives, reuse, repair & deconstruction (e.g. umbrella repair man who extends the life and use span of probable wastes).

In developing these green jobs, she underscored the importance of economic incentives the government should provide incentives to expand assistance in residual separation and research center – in need of technical and scientific knowledge in further expanding possibilities in waste management. Likewise better industrial design need to be instituted that will facilitate the creation of products meant for recycling from point of production.

Further, Ms. Sison said that the National Framework Plan for the Informal Sector in Solid Waste Management aims to eliminate wastepicking, mixed waste collection, informal recycling etc. Quoting Republic Act No. 9003, she said that the law among others, declares that dumpsites should be closed, that child labour is illegal and that burning of certain waste is also illegal.

To promote green solid waste management, she proposed the following actions and steps: Primary door-to-door waste collection in segregated form (which creates an opportunity in integrating the informal waste sector). She cited examples of such initiatives already existing in Clark, Pampanga, and the Mandaue Disposal Facility in Mactan, Cebu. She also said that informal waste sector workers need unionized similarly to that of India.

Despite the potentials in the solid waste management sector, she noted that several challenges and policy gaps exist in RA 9003 that deter its implementation. In view of this, she said that policy advocates need to convince local governments to integrate informal waste sector groups, identify and organize for training, develop extensive documentation and dissemination of informal sector waste management to mainstream practices and for implementation of a recycling plan.

**OPEN FORUM**

At the start of the open forum, a question was asked regarding the status of the solid waste management program in the country vis-à-vis the practice in Taiwan where there is a schedule for waste collection and that the wastes collected are segregated properly.

In response to the question, Ms. Sison said that there are laws that enforce segregation of waste at source and segregated collection. She said that some local government units apply a no segregation, no collection policy. However, she said that there are those who implied
that there are impracticalities and improbabilities of segregation at source and most of the problems come from the enforcement of the law. As such, guidelines have still to be passed after 10 years of redrafting requirements of segregation.

On the part of Col. Jaymalin, he cited Quezon City as having strict local government laws regarding the need to segregate wastes before collection. He said that most of the wastes are in the form of plastics. He also noted that Payatas has a compost electricity production. He also said that pamphlets are given out to increase information awareness about segregation.

**Ban on Plastic Use**

Further, a question was asked on what should be the approach in dealing with manufacturers that produce plastics. In response to the question, Ms. Sison said that there are bills in the Senate that are being discussed on the regulation of plastic production. These moves, she said, have met resistance from the plastic industry. However, there are plastic companies that are setting up a system where they purchase used plastics. In other cases there are also companies that will buy mixed plastic waste and melt them into liquid fuel.

In closing, Ms. De la Cruz explained said that to date there are a lot of efforts being done in but much work still needs to be done by the private sector, the government, students and the NGOs to improve solid waste management in the country.
Mr. Lorenzo Tan, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

A green job is a clean job. It is a sustainable job. It is a living job. Green jobs come about as part of a change process. This is not a simple thing. This process starts with an individual which expands to a team, then to an organization. From one organization, this change process expands to a community of organizations, local governments, then on to an ecosystem.

To realize this, he emphasized the need for collaboration. He emphasized that there is a need to work together among stakeholders and concerned sectors for the betterment of the environment. He also said that more than using renewable energy and conserving energy, green jobs is also about how one takes care of water systems, natural resources and ecological balance and biodiversity.

He cited the case of the Coca-Cola plant in Sta. Rosa Laguna which he narrated that the Sta. Rosa watershed sheltered by Coca-Cola does not only extend to Sta. Rosa but to other municipalities as well because the water flows to their places as well. Hence, according to him, the caring for Sta. Rosa watershed shall not only include Sta. Rosa but also every affected area where the water flows.

The creation of green jobs he asserted starts with the commitment to a process. These processes start today, but must continue tomorrow. They start with one decision, but they do not happen overnight. They are a “living” process. A job that is green today may no longer be green tomorrow. Hence, it is important that green jobs are founded within a system that commits to and encourages re-invention.

At the very base of the commitment to the change process, is the recognition that our planet stands at a tipping point. Things are not going well, he said and before us, we see a clear imperative to commit to change. In a sense, this is what people call adaptation. He asserted that it is also important to assess the impacts of environmental problems to the
economy. He noted the need to measure the impact of climate change to the banana industry, for example in Davao.

The commitment to a green job, is a commitment to addressing supply and demand, to managing source and use, production and consumption, both today and tomorrow. It is like a stairway, with steps that we must take, if we are to get to the top.

Starting locally, its components are site appropriate, time appropriate and community appropriate. A green job in one place, may not necessarily be a green job elsewhere. To remain viable and competitive, the process of creating green jobs must be founded on evolving market realities in a fast-growing and fast-changing world. Essentially, this process focuses on the identification and acquisition of market niches that show the potential for sustainable growth. The key is to create that chain of links that ties up market demand with sustainable sources. A green job, he noted must be a competitive job, must make money and will generate higher tax collection. He mentioned that there must be a commitment to supply and demand, today and tomorrow.

A green job, he concluded, must address reality and not just a viable concept. A green job is committed not just to the conservation of the environment but also to the wise and efficient management of resources.

**Ms. Annie Guerrero, Author of A-Z Guide to a Greener Pinoy**

Ms. Annie Guerrero is founder of Cravings Food Services. The said company is currently working on a project called “Cravings Group Goes Green” or “CG³”, a commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. Accordingly, the Cravings Group envisions that they become a leader in the area of environmental management systems in the Philippine food service industry and a steward of the environment.

Ms. Guerrero also shared several activities that she and her organizations have been involved in. She said that they have also been active and supportive of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which she said can help in contributing to the promotion of Green Jobs. She emphasized that revenue generation is also important to ensure sustainability of green initiatives and projects. Further, she proudly announced that their company won the Zero Basura Olympics, and is currently observing and practicing the Earth Hour every day and that they had successfully economized their electric bill by up to P200,000.00 a month. Being a culinary expert herself, Ms. Guerrero also said that their Green Chefmanship program, which aims to promote efficient cooking, seeks to teach other people how to achieve 0% waste in cooking.

**Ms. Veronica Victorio, SEED Institute, City of Puerto Princesa, Palawan**

Ms. Victorio introduced the City of Puerto Princesa as the only earth-quake-free, mining-free, and typhoon-free city in the country. The City of Puerto Princesa heavily promotes Tourism and Agriculture. She narrated that Puerto Princesa was not born with the glory that it enjoys nowadays. Puerto Princesa was very different in the past years. Before, there were uncollected garbage, dirty streets, illegal loggings, cyanide fishing, etc. She stated that the make-over happened during the year 1992 when Mayor Hagedorn was elected as the mayor of the city. There were several programs created to protect the city such as the Bantay-Puerto Programs which combats illegal loggers, Bantay-Gubat, and Bantay-Dagat.
She told audience about the “Pista Y Ang Kagueban” which means the Feast of Forest, wherein about two million trees were planted since 1992; Mangrove Reforestation celebrated on every February 14th, wherein the city of Puerto Princesa sponsors the expenditures of a couple who seeks to marry provided that the couple plant a mangrove; “Tricycle sa Kabuhayan at Ekolohiya Project” in which the 50-50 traffic scheme was being implemented as the tricycle drivers only operates three times a week to lessen air and noise pollution, and aids in traffic decongestion; and the E-trikes and E-vehicle program; the solar turbine lamp post.

She cited a study by the University of the Philippines, which showed that Puerto Princesa residents have one of the highest environmental awareness in the country. Ms. Victorio noted that partly this consciousness can be attributed to the eagerness of the administration of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn in mainstreaming environmental responsibility and accountability among the residents of Puerto Princesa.

She also takes pride of their famous underground river as UNESCO’s World Heritage Site and is currently the Number 1 candidate to the New Seven Wonders of Nature. She stated that the City of Puerto Princesa has dramatically increased its tourism from the yearly 12,000 tourists in 1992 to 425, 000 tourists 2010.

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There was a question posed by a member of the audience on how Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn was able to encourage the citizens of Puerto Princesa to accept the “walis-tingting” project to clean up their community. Ms. Victorio responded that Mayor Hagedorn stood as an example to the people in their city. The moderator, Assistant Secretary Marllo Mendoza, who was also a witness to that happening, also replied that Mayor Hagedorn has employed an iron hand in implementing the laws in Puerto Princesa, especially those protecting the environment and natural resources.

Mr. Nori Palarca, a U.P. Professor and who works with the ILO inquired about the situation of Southern Palawan explained that he observed that Southern Palawan is the complete opposite of Puerto Princesa in terms of environmental health. Ms. Victorio responded to the question by saying that the City of Puerto Princesa recognized that other parts of Palawan is very different from their city considering that they belong to the same island. However, the rest of Palawan is not under the leadership of Mayor Hagedorn.

For his part, Mr. Tan of WWF added that the environmental situation in the rest of Palawan mostly depends on political issues, especially; it depends on the leadership. As Mr. Tan said, using a popular quote, “masalimuot ang politics sa Palawan” (Politics in Palawan is complicated).

Due to its rich and diverse natural resources, Mr. Tan revealed that he considers the City of Puerto Princesa as “the last frontier” of the Philippines. He further stated that they have a very active NGO in the province of Palawan. However, he explained that in the end it is up to the citizens of this province as to which way they want to go in terms of protecting and preserving the environment. He commented that compared to others, Puerto Princesa is really an exception to the rule when it comes to environmental protectio
DAY 1

Parallel Session 2.2 : THE GREEN SHIFT OF TECHNOLOGY, SKILLS and BOTTOMLINES IN BASIC INDUSTRIES

CHAIR

DR. RENE E. OFRENEO, UP School of Labor and Industrial Relations

PRESENTERS

ANNIE GARCIA, President & CEO, World Wildlife Fund, Philippines
ARCH. CHRISTOPHER DE LA CRUZ, President, Philippine Green Building Council
DIRECTOR JEANNETE TANA-DAMO, National Wages and Productivity Commission
VICTOR PERSIUS CHAN, Corporate Social Responsibility, Globe Telecom
RAFAEL MAPALO, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines

Ms. Annie Garcia, SM Supermalls

In her talk, Ms. Garcia told the audience of the green corporate practices and standards that are being observed and implemented by SM Supermalls, especially in infusing environment-friendliness and awareness and responsibility in the commercial operations of their businesses and in the consumption patterns and activities of their clients and customers.

This is embodied in the SM Green Retail Agenda. According to her, the SM Green retail Agenda aims to: raise awareness to various environmental concerns, take active steps to sustainability, combat climate change in the long run and disseminate information on the green jobs sector.

The Green Retail Agenda, a program implemented by SM Supermalls in partnership with government agencies and NGOs is directed to make green businesses possible through discussions on new trends, materials, policies, and energy efficient practices. SM hopes that retailers would start taking the initiative to transform their businesses and establishments with eco-friendly and energy efficient designs. Ms. Garcia said that SM believes in the capacity of Filipinos to change their behavior towards climate change and other environmental issues.

SM acknowledges that more businesses look for more profitable and efficient ways to 'turn green' so it helps its tenants and retailers establish a more environment friendly business but still profitable at the same time. SM continuously encourages mall tenants and concessionaires to create a greener future with the use of environment friendly materials and other 'green strategies' that promote environmental sustainability through mall, tenant and community endeavors while simultaneously combining going green with good business.

Among others, SM has implemented programs such as the Trash to Cash recycling market and the SM Supermalls Green Bag which provides discounts for shoppers who won’t ask for plastic bags with their purchases. SM has also sponsored a Green Film Festival in its cinemas.
where selected award-winning documentaries and notable films were screened for free to students.

*Architect Christopher De La Cruz, Philippine Green Building Council*

In his presentation, Architect De La Cruz emphasized the need for green-collar jobs in the country. As such, he said that there is a need to facilitate the transition from blue-collar jobs to green-collar jobs. In particular, he said that sustainability should be incorporated into the building and construction sector and that the industry should take into consideration what would be left to the future generations since meeting the needs of the present should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In terms of potential, he noted that based on the World Green Building Council’s figures, Asia’s firms that are dedicated to green building is expected to jump from 36% today to 73% in 2013.

With these changes, transitions and potential, there would be a need for green buildings and even green housing projects and initiatives. He added that it is not enough to simply know about the environment, he said what is more important actually is to understand the environmental virtues of going green.

With that, Arch. Dela Cruz foresees that construction workers and builders would be required to integrate clean production in green building designs. However, he admitted that people have yet to see the connection of green building towards multiple driving sectors of society and that there is lack of understanding of how these are linked to green jobs.

Based on the PGBC’s study which Arch. Dela Cruz quoted, training that would lead to the creation of green jobs include utilization of green building technologies for building professionals; effective environmental communication for marketing professionals; crafting of effective green building policy; skills upgrade for construction workers; and green building certification using the PGBC’s Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence or BERDE.

Arch. Dela Cruz perceives that Green Jobs that will be in demand as the demand for Green Building increases would be those in the fields of architecture, engineering, energy management, professional marketing, education and (skills) assessment and certification.

What could possibly deter the full development of green jobs are the following challenges that he identified: high up-front costs for more efficient equipment, lack of access to financing, absence of energy subsidies, and lack of full understanding of the environmental, health and other external costs related to green building.

Training presents particular challenges as enumerated by Arch. Dela Cruz: most of the trainings are only available in Metro Manila and not available in other regions of the country; skilled and semi-skilled workers still lack technical know-how on more complex green building related work (i.e. solar technology, HVAC, energy management etc.; costs of trainings associated with high quality trainings; and, lack of government support.

In conclusion, Arch. Dela Cruz, stressed the need for appropriate skills training response coupled with an increase in environmental awareness and sustainable development. It is necessary that there be coordination, management, business skills and most importantly, innovation in promoting green jobs and a greener future.
Director Jeanette Tana-Damo, Director, National Wages and Productivity Commission

In her presentation on the DOLE’s green productivity program and contributions to greener jobs, NWPC Director Jeanette Tana-Damo discussed the green advocacy and initiatives launched by the Department. Director Damo said that global efforts for greener jobs have been incorporated into the DOLE’s green productivity framework. According to her the Framework balances environmental protection, which is anchored on sustainable development with productivity enhancement in the workplace that is anchored on continuous improvement that is imbued cost-efficient strategies. Green Productivity serves as the link to both.

She then proceeded to present and discuss the DOLE’s “Green My Enterprise Program,” a program which concretizes the DOLE’s Green Advocacy Framework. The GreenME program, a workplace greening initiative, focus on plant-level interventions, which sends a message that productivity starts within the enterprise itself. The program also envisions employees to have concern about the company’s techniques and operations and that through the GreenME program, they would be able to apply and employ “green techniques” in waste prevention, reduction, and control.

She then said that the GreenME program could lead to higher productivity, safer workplaces and higher profits in green community belts and zones. As such, she said that strategies to be taken in the implementation of the program would require advocacy/partnership, training, consulting, monitoring and evaluation.

She said that the program is open to micro, small and medium enterprises that have basic systems in place, that will commit the participation of their workforce to the program; and that are willing to undertake productivity and improvement initiative in the company.

The program shall also enlist the support of the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards for capacity building.

Finally, Ms. Damo said that the long term strategy is to expand the green sectors at the plant level. Should the project prove successful, the project would provide greener opportunities, greener projects and more green jobs available for workers.

Mr. Victor Chan, Globe Telecohs

Mr. Victor Chan introduced “Globe Goes Green” as an integrated environmental sustainability campaign that seeks to integrate key environmental initiatives to Globe’s business strategy. Globe’s environmental objectives revolve around move towards the continuous reduction of energy, water, and solid waste footprints in its operations; encourage and training of employees and business partners to help reduce the company’s environmental impact; partnering with organizations which share the same environmental values and; reporting the company’s environmental performance to stakeholders.

Globe Goes Green partners with its own employees, where Mr. Chan recognized the support of the Globe Telecoms Workers Union; its millions of subscribers; its host communities, where its cell sites are located; and, relevant government agencies.

Mr. Chan shared the creative advocacies within its campaign that take its lead from the telecom company’s own promos like its unlimited call and texting service. This included ads that say “If only this globe were unli” printed below a picture of the globe (earth) with a “low battery” indication on it. This in particular was Globe’s participation in the annual Earth
Hour Campaign that called for everyone to switch off their lights and turn off all their appliances for one full hour to emphasize that the earth resources are not unlimited.

Mr. Chan also presented a campaign entitled “Lifeboats and Lifelines” that aims to raise employee awareness on how to respond and cope up with disasters in the Philippines. The campaign spearheaded projects such as the “Globe cordillera challenge” (a bike run) to raise awareness on trees and natural flora of the cordillera region.

Globe also launched an environmental hotline called Green Line, a dedicated 24-hour call and text facility where residents and other concerned parties can report violations of environmental laws and policies.

It has expanded this to a mobile take back program that recycles old, defective and non-functioning cellphones. Globe places recycle bins in their offices, some municipal offices and universities that collect these phones to either repair them or donate to a facility that will turn them into products such as plates, umbrellas and jewelries.

**Mr. Rafael Mapalo, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines**

Mr. Rafael Mapalo of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) focused on the “Just transition” framework in the contexts of decent work and green jobs. According to him, the just transition in the workplace is the change of environment towards greener practices. He explained that just transitions can create the “process aimed at transforming the economic sector to a sustainable one”.

According to Mr. Mapalo, just transition contains important components such as: early social and employment vulnerability assessment; social protection of workers in the transformation of traditional sectors to “greener” ones; decent work, particularly with respect to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998); investing for “just transition policies” and education and training for workers to manage change towards green jobs and practices; measure for communities; and equitable sharing of gains derived from the transition.

Furthermore, Mr. Mapalo illustrated and showcased some trade union initiatives and projects that integrate decent work and green jobs. Among these are: socio-economic programs that include organic fertilizer production and castor bean production using sustainable farming practices; capability-building, training and education; and the setting up of guidelines such as those on decent work, green jobs and sustainable workplaces; the Trade Union Action Checklist, Efficiency in the energy use, transportation, manufacturing, building, materials, environmental protection etc.; Legislative and policy advocacy; negotiation of green provisions in collective bargaining agreements; and reproductive health at the workplace.

He concluded by saying that the trade union movement is committed to supporting ambitious actions towards a truly sustainable development, where social dimensions and broader environmental challenges are also addressed.

**OPEN FORUM**

**Cost of Green Building**

A conference participant from Miriam College asked how we could build green houses that are cheap and affordable to common people.
Arch. Christopher de la Cruz answered that commercial buildings are necessarily more costly because of some parameters needed. However, the country has reduced costs of expert skills to half that of the cost in the US. The cost for having a digital copy of the process of greening is free. Residential sector rating scheme principles are low cost in nature except for the technology part. Finally, he said that “green is just a matter of perspective.”

**Cost of shift to Green Jobs**

Mr. Julius Cainglet of the Federation of Free Workers asked if companies are ready to spend for the conversion or shift to green jobs. He also asked if the transformation would require the skills of foreign experts, thus adding to the dollar or euro expenses of local industries.

Arch. Dela Cruz reiterated that there are already local experts, especially in the area of green building. Investment in training would add more to the local pool of experts that Philippine industries can tap.

As to the cost of going green, Director Ester Guirao of the NWPC answered that it’s just common sense. It’s not that expensive. Besides, there are many different ways to go green. The biggest challenge as she sees it, is the growing need for qualified and skilled (green) workers. She added that enterprises can study “Republic Act 6971, “An Act to Encourage Productivity and Maintain Industrial Peace by Providing Incentives to Both Labor and Capital.”

She said this law allows special tax breaks for enterprises that go into productivity improvement. It’s a simple way of circumventing the cost.
Mr. Sibayan presented the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) in the Philippines. Renewable Energy has long been a major contributor to the country’s primary energy consumption. In 2010, the country consumed a total of 40.7 metric tons of energy (MTOE). Of this amount, 23.4 MTOE was sourced locally, setting the energy self-sufficiency rate at 57.4% renewable energy resource.

Of the different energy sources, the biggest primary energy supply of our country as of 2010 came from indigenous energy, followed by imported oil, imported coal, and imported ethanol. According to him, the geothermal, biomass, hydroelectric, and other sources of renewable energy have no significant contribution in our supply of energy as of now.

Among the total primary renewable energy supply in the Philippines, a significant part of this supply came from geothermal, followed by biomass, hydroelectric and biofuels. Wind or solar energy has the least contribution in this supply. He indicated that one of the goals of the renewable energy policy framework is to improve the Philippines’ ranking as second largest geothermal producer.

He cited Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 which establishes necessary infrastructure and mechanisms to attain the country’s renewable energy goals. Section 27 (b) of the law and Section 31 (a) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations, mandate the DOE, in consultation with its stakeholders, to formulate and facilitate the implementation of the NREP.

The speaker presented a NREP Roadmap for 2010-2030 wherein by 2012, full implementation of RA 9513 shall be realized and before the end of 2030, the wind, hydroelectric, biomass, ocean, solar and geothermal energy as sources of renewable energy shall meet its target additional capacities. Mr. Sibayan also cited as an example the Bangui Windmills in Ilocos Sur which is the biggest in Asia.

Under the Philippine Energy Plan, 2009-2030, power plants running on renewable energy are expected to double within the next 20 years. Thus, there is a great potential to create green jobs in this sector.
Mr. Jerome Cainglet, First Gen Corporation

Mr. Cainglet started off by stating that “the grass is greener (and the oceans are bluer) on our side” in reference to how First Gen’s renewable energy plants and the communities where these are located have improved biodiversity. He said that First Gen is one of the biggest Independent Power Producers in the Philippines. Its affiliate, the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) is one of the recognized experts in geothermal energy worldwide, specializing in technical support.

First Gen is widely recognized by the industry as the leading clean and renewable energy company in the Philippines. It operates natural gas, geothermal and hydro power plants across the country and accounts for 18 per cent of the country’s total installed capacity. These include natural gas power plants in Santa Rita and San Lorenzo in Batangas that generate a combined 1,500 MW; geothermal power plants of EDC across the country that produce 1,199 MW; and, hydro power plants in Agusan and Luzon that generate 1.6 MW.

Cainglet pointed out that in a span of six years starting 2004, First Gen’s power plants have reduced its carbon intensity by almost 30 per cent while significantly increasing its power generation capacity by about 50 per cent simply by investing more in renewable energy. Overall, First Gen’s carbon intensity is on average 62 per cent lower than the Philippine average across the three main grids (Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao).

He added that First Gen is pursuing run-of-river small hydro projects that will generate 91 MW of power. Run-of-river redirects water instead of accumulating it as what dams do, thus preserving the forests and biodiversity more.

Based on industry estimates, if the Renewable Energy (RE) Law will be fully implemented without delay, the RE industry can generate up to 50,000 jobs over the next 20 years. This assumes that the other emerging technologies such as wind, solar, biomass are also developed.

Mr. Cainglet emphasized that generating renewable energy does not only produce clean energy from sustainable sources that will benefit the community through the protection of the environment, it also creates much needed green jobs for Filipinos. At the peak of the construction of a run-of-river hydropower plant, more than 100 skilled and unskilled workers are expected to be employed. Hydro power plants could take three years to construct.

Operation and maintenance of a hydropower plant has a manpower requirement of about 30 employees. This excludes those who will be employed from other economic or business activities that could sprout as a result of the construction and operation of the power plant. Green jobs include those in their operations and technical services, administrative works, repairs and maintenance, security, and other support services. Similar to what it did for its previous projects, Cainglet said that First Gen can partner with institutions such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to train residents in the communities hosting the projects to help them acquire the needed skills and qualifications for employment in the projects.

Mr. Cainglet stressed that they give back to the community by working with relevant government agencies to uplift the quality of life of the project’s host communities with activities such as the conduct of medical missions, livelihood and skills training, watershed management and environmental protection programs. First Gen has partnered with various
non-profit institutions to develop and implement projects that have a significant impact in the fields of environmental conservation and education.

Another major benefit, according to Mr. Cainglet, is the additional revenues for both national and local governments that their renewable energy projects generate such as those from government taxes and permits—real property tax, business permit, mayor’s permit, government share and ER 1-94 funds.

**Mr. David De Montaigne, Green Power Panay**

Mr. De Montaigne began by providing a brief background about Global Green Power PLC Corporation (“GGPC”) as a Philippine registered company. It is invested and 40% owned by Global Green Power PLC (“GGP”) a UK-based unlisted Public Limited Company. He characterized GGPC as a company that was formed to do research, develop, own, acquire and operate Thermal Biomass, Renewable Energy projects within the Philippines and South-East Asia.

He stressed that GGPC only utilizes biomass that does not compete with the Human Food Chain. GGPC projects are being developed under the Renewable Energy Act or Republic Act No 9531. It mitigates climate change by abating greenhouse gas emissions by using agricultural waste that are either burnt in the field causing carbon dioxide or left to rot causing methane. The abundance of biomass in the Philippines is largely due its contribution of 13% to the country’s gross domestic product and 35% share in total employment based on 2008 data.

He explained that GGPC’s Agricultural Biomass Residues were sourced from rice straw, rice husk, corn straw, corn stover, bagasse, sugar cane trash, coconut husk, pineapple waste, banana waste, wood waste, etc. GGPC sources these raw materials across the country with 0.4m tons coming from Panay, 1.4m tons from Nueva Ecija, 0.33m tons from Bukidnon and 1.2m tons from Cagayan Valley for a total of 3.3m tons. They target 5.3m tons by the end of the year.

According to Mr. De Montaigne, their company is currently developing 12 Biomass Energy within the Philippines, some of which are located in Panay Island in the Visayas, Nueva Ecija and Cagayan that will generate 420 MW of clean energy in three phases.

As part of their projects’ socio-economic benefits, Mr. De Montaigne estimates that GGPC Thermal Biomass Power Plants include would provide from 3,400 jobs with a 35-MW power plant to about 40,800 jobs with a 420-MW power plant over the next 25 years in the Philippines.

He credits the passage of the RE Act as instrumental in attracting investments with significant fiscal stimuli plus non-fiscal benefits such as priority access, distribution and dispatch; tax advantages including tax holidays for the first seven years of operation and a ten percent cap thereafter; Value added tax (12%)-free for ten years; duty free importation of equipment; accelerated depreciation of special equipment; sale of carbon credits; and, creation of RE portfolio standards and the introduction of feed-in tariff by the third quarter of this year.

**Mr. Antonio Asper, Federation of Free Workers**

Mr. Asper stated by saying that green jobs have a great impact on employment as certain jobs will be created, some of them will be eliminated and some will be transformed or redefined. Hence, he suggested that there must be identification and quantification of
impacts. He held that green jobs may not be what we need because certain factors must be considered such as “how much shall the worker be paid?”, “is there security of tenure?”, “will duration of the project be long enough?”

Mr. Asper maintained that for a job to be green, it ought to be decent. He then proceeded by presenting the FFW’s Green Jobs Framework based on the policy and program of action of the just-concluded FFW 23rd National Convention, where green jobs was the central theme.

He stressed that there should be a balance in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. This should consider the impact on the world of work as to the workforce, the work organization and human resource development practices; its impact on jobs as to new jobs, eliminated jobs and redefined jobs; its impact on the nature and characteristics of work; and how all of these could be anchored on the decent work objectives of opportunities to decent and productive employment, rights at work, social protection for all and meaningful and effective social dialogue.

At present, FFW initiatives relating to green jobs include the promotion of occupational safety and health (OSH), waste management, energy conservation and tree planting.

FFW Officers sit as Board of Trustees in a Muscovado Plant in Batangas; advocates for organic agriculture; participates and supports the development and adoption of green training regulations on solar energy, vehicle conversion to CNG and LPG, greener agriculture skills; and, participates in the ILO Projects on Green Business Asia and Green Jobs.

Mr. Asper said that action should be done at the enterprise or community, sectoral and national levels. It will initiate or join programs for green social housing, urban organic vegetable gardening, campaigning for reducing, reusing and recycling materials and the greening of competencies and qualifications.

Among others, Mr. Asper emphasized that workers at this point should negotiate for recognition of workplace environmental representatives, whether as part of the occupational safety and health committee or through other bodies in the enterprise. It should also practice, initiate and sustain social dialogues that would lead to industry-wide and national energy planning and agreements on energy efficiency and the use of renewables; as well as in managing the supply-and-demand side of climate change adaptation and mitigation at the workplace, community, sectoral and national levels.

He prodded workers to advocate for new rights such as the right to information and whistle-blower protection. This particularly refers to the disclosure of a company’s operations to determine if it harms the environment; and security for employees who might discover anomalies in the process, such as possible violations of environmental laws.

He also advocated that workers should fight for the right to refuse dangerous work and the right to refuse work that is destructive to the environment.

OPEN FORUM

How clean is renewable?

Mr. Forter Fuguan of the Regional office of DOLE wanted to clarify if generating geothermal energy has totally no destructive effect on the environment and if it releases no carbon emissions to the air.
Mr. Cainglet clarified that geothermal energy still has carbon emissions but these are very minimal. Its CO2 emission is only 0.18 lbs/kWh compared to coal with 2.13 lbs/kWh and oil with 1.52 lbs/kWh, making geothermal energy cleaner. Natural gas also emits minimal CO2 at 1.03 lbs/kWh. Meanwhile, geothermal energy makes no SOx and NOx emissions. The other types of fuel mentioned do. Hydro energy on the other hand is the cleanest as it emits neither CO2, NOx nor SOx.

He added that as part of its CSR, First Gen is engaged in re-forestation. For every tree that they inevitably cut for the construction of their power plants, 100 trees were being replanted to replenish the forest.

Effect of Green Jobs on labor

Mr. Jovit Santos from Interphil Laboratories Employees Union-FFW directed his question to Mr. Asper. He asked that if green jobs would push through, what would be its adverse effects to the labor sector. In response, Mr. Asper recapped what was said earlier that green jobs can help in creating jobs and generating employment and livelihood for the people. He said that if green jobs will be actively promoted, new jobs will be created, although he admitted that some jobs will be eliminated and some will be transformed or redefined.

What matters, however, according to Mr. Asper is the number of jobs and employment being created by green initiatives and what its impact would be on the employment status of workers in the Philippines. He said that green jobs that would be created or redefined might not necessarily give security of tenure to workers. He emphasized his point earlier point that green jobs should be decent.

Bio-mass energy

DOLE Region VI Asst. Regional Director Crispin Dannug Jr. asked if there has been any increase in the productivity due to the utilization of biomass energy in recent years. He also asked if contracts for the supply of agricultural waste for the generation of biomass energy are prejudicial to farmers supposing that there is crop failure or there are no wastes to be burned to supply biomass power plants.

Mr. Montaigne answered that there has been an increase in the utilization of biomass in recent years but did not comment on productivity. As for prejudice to farmers, he said that this event has not occurred since they are in partnership with communities that are really dedicated to their project, especially in helping farming communities.

To cap and close the session, the moderator ended the forum by narrating the advantages of solar energy in the households. According to him, there are many opportunities created by renewable energy projects. He encouraged the audience to develop indigenous renewable energy. He concluded that workers and students need training on renewable energy, as the concept is quite new to the country. He raised the need to improve the Philippine education system to cater to this new idea.
Ms. Adel Licos, Ayala Foundation

Ms. Licos introduced Ayala Foundation’s campaign “Greening the Brown” & “Be Smart, Get Globe.” What is a Green, Decent Job? According to her research, “recycling is done mostly by informal recycling groups, informal “backyard” recycling” and that “they do not have great capacity to do recycling totally.”

Ayala Foundation’s ‘greening’ program started in 1993 with the launch of the Zero Waste program in Ayala. The organizers initiated a trainer’s training on solid waste management where workers were required to perform Mandatory Segregation of Waste from the source. She then asked who works for offices (office setting environment) in the audience. This was to point out that janitors in similar environment threw garbage in one trash bag and send them out to be segregated by informal recyclers.

In comparison, in Ayala, janitors, crew men and other employees and specialists do the segregation at source in Ayala-owned buildings where waste buyers no longer need to segregate wastes anymore and recycling plants only need to collect and no longer segregate. She then proceeded to present documentations of projects previously done in companies like the Philippine Daily Inquirer including 'green livelihood' opportunities in transforming paper, plastics, other wastes into bags, arts and crafts. She concluded that waste segregation should be done at the source level, this can simply be done by simply doing this at home.

Col. Roberto Jaymalin, Payatas Alliance Recycling Exchange

Col. Roberto Jaymalin introduced and discussed his solid waste management initiatives and projects in the Payatas area in Quezon City. He said that they were able to establish the following groups and organizations in Payatas such as the Payatas Alliance Recycling Exchange (PARE), Buklod Lakas ng Scavengers Ini (BULASI) and the Payatas Alliance Recycling Exchange Multi-Purpose Cooperative. He also said that a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) project was established to provide livelihood training to the informal sector. He said that it is
a program based on Republic Act 9003, also known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.”

He said that the program has two key initiatives the launching of the Used Tire Retrieval Project and the promotion of Plastic Densifier technology, which transforms plastics into useable materials with the use of technology.

Col. Jaymalin also narrated that they created the “Payatas Poverty Allegation Foundation” which spearheaded “Project LIFE.” It aims to be a livelihood training in micro finance for residences in Payatas. The projects include: Balik Paaralan para sa mga Kabataan (graduate elementary to head to highschool), Vocational training in welding, carpentry, etc., Shelter program in cooperation with Gawad Kalinga and a Soccer Program “Payatas Pasaway Street Soccer Team” Jumper boys turned soccer players.

In closing, Col. Jaymalin said that the residents need to earn a living in order to give them a chance at life because the people have lost hope. This is why Col. Jaymalin is striving for the alleviation of Payatas Residence and that for Col. Jaymalin, “rather a decent worker than a criminal”.

Ms. Eileen Sison, Eco-Waste Coalition

Ms. Sison presented the Solid Waste Management National Framework Plan, which she emphasized, provided a wide range of green jobs in the areas of solid waste management, from source separation, door to door collection, composting, recycling, waste reduction initiatives, reuse, repair & deconstruction (e.g. umbrella repair man who extends the life and use span of probable wastes).

In developing these green jobs, she underscored the importance of economic incentives the government should provide incentives to expand assistance in residual separation and research center – in need of technical and scientific knowledge in further expanding possibilities in waste management. Likewise better industrial design need to be instituted that will facilitate the creation of products meant for recycling from point of production.

Further, Ms. Sison said that the National Framework Plan for the Informal Sector in Solid Waste Management aims to eliminate wastepicking, mixed waste collection, informal recycling etc. Quoting Republic Act No. 9003, she said that the law among others, declares that dumpsites should be closed, that child labour is illegal and that burning of certain waste is also illegal.

To promote green solid waste management, she proposed the following actions and steps: Primary door-to-door waste collection in segregated form (which creates an opportunity in integrating the informal waste sector). She cited examples of such initiatives already existing in Clark, Pampanga, and the Mandaue Disposal Facility in Mactan, Cebu. She also said that informal waste sector workers need unionized similarly to that of India.

Despite the potentials in the solid waste management sector, she noted that several challenges and policy gaps exist in RA 9003 that deter its implementation. In view of this, she said that policy advocates need to convince local governments to integrate informal waste sector groups, identify and organize for training, develop extensive documentation and dissemination of informal sector waste management to mainstream practices and for implementation of a recycling plan.

OPEN FORUM
Legislation on Waste Segregation

At the start of the open forum, a question was asked regarding the status of the solid waste management program in the country vis-à-vis the practice in Taiwan where there is a schedule for waste collection and that the wastes collected are segregated properly.

In response to the question, Ms. Sison said that there are laws that enforce segregation of waste at source and segregated collection. She said that some local government units apply a no segregation, no collection policy. However, she said that there are those who implied that there are impracticalities and improbabilities of segregation at source and most of the problems come from the enforcement of the law. As such, guidelines have still to be passed after 10 years of redrafting requirements of segregation.

On the part of Col. Jaymalin, he cited Quezon City as having strict local government laws regarding the need to segregate wastes before collection. He said that most of the wastes are in the form of plastics. He also noted that Payatas has a compost electricity production. He also said that pamphlets are given out to increase information awareness about segregation.

Ban on Plastic Use

Further, a question was asked on what should be the approach in dealing with manufacturers that produce plastics. In response to the question, Ms. Sison said that there are bills in the Senate that are being discussed on the regulation of plastic production. These moves, she said, have met resistance from the plastic industry. However there are plastic companies that are setting up a system where they purchase used plastics. In other cases there are also companies that will buy mixed plastic waste and melt them into liquid fuel.

In closing, Ms. De la Cruz explained said that to date there area lot of efforts being done in but much work still needs to be done by the private sector, the government, students and the NGOs to improve solid waste management in the country.
Mr. Lorenzo Tan, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

A green job is a clean job. It is a sustainable job. It is a living job. Green jobs come about as part of a change process. This is not a simple thing. This process starts with an individual which expands to a team, then to an organization. From one organization, this change process expands to a community of organizations, local governments, then on to an ecosystem.

To realize this, he emphasized the need for collaboration. He emphasized that there is a need to work together among stakeholders and concerned sectors for the betterment of the environment. He also said that more than using renewable energy and conserving energy, green jobs is also about how one takes care of water systems, natural resources and ecological balance and biodiversity.

He cited the case of the Coca-Cola plant in Sta. Rosa Laguna which he narrated that the Sta. Rosa watershed sheltered by Coca-Cola does not only extend to Sta. Rosa but to other municipalities as well. Hence, according to him, the caring for Sta. Rosa watershed shall not only include Sta. Rosa but also the every affected area where the water flows.

The creation of green jobs he asserted starts with the commitment to a process. These processes start today, but must continue tomorrow. They start with one decision, but they do not happen overnight. They are a “living” process. A job that is green today may no longer be green tomorrow. Hence, it is important that green jobs are founded within a system that commits to and encourages re-invention.

At the very base of the commitment to the change process, he noted, is the recognition that our planet stands at a tipping point. Things are not going well and before us, we see a clear imperative to commit to change. In a sense, this is what people call adaptation. He asserted that it is also important to assess the impacts of environmental problems to the economy. He noted the need to measure the impact of climate change to the banana industry, for example in Davao.
The commitment to a green job, is a commitment to addressing supply and demand, to managing source and use, production and consumption, both today and tomorrow. It is like a stairway, with steps that we must take, if we are to get to the top.

Starting locally, its components are site appropriate, time appropriate and community appropriate. A green job in one place, may not necessarily be a green job elsewhere. To remain viable and competitive, the process of creating green jobs must be founded on evolving market realities in a fast-growing and fast-changing world. Essentially, this process focuses on the identification and acquisition of market niches that show the potential for sustainable growth. The key is to create that chain of links that ties up market demand with sustainable sources. A green job, he noted must be a competitive job, must make money and will generate higher tax collection. He mentioned that there must be a commitment to supply and demand, today and tomorrow.

A green job, he concluded, must address reality and not just a viable concept. A green job is committed not just to the conservation of the environment but also to the wise and efficient management of resources.

Ms. Annie Guerrero, Author of A-Z Guide to a Greener Pinoy

Ms. Annie Guerrero is founder of Cravings Food Services. The said company is currently working on a project called “Cravings Group Goes Green” or “CG³”, a commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. Accordingly, the Cravings Group envisions that they become a leader in the area of environmental management systems in the Philippine food service industry and a steward of the environment.

Ms. Guerrero also shared several activities that she and her organizations have been involved in greening industries. She said that they have also been active and supportive of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which she said can help in contributing to the promotion of Green Jobs. She emphasized that revenue generation is also important to ensure sustainability of green initiatives and projects. Further, she proudly announced that their company won the Zero Basura Olympics, and is currently observing and practicing the Earth Hour every day and that they had successfully economized their electric bill by up to P200,000.00 a month. Being a culinary expert herself, Ms. Guerrero also said that their Green Chefmanship program, which aims to promote efficient cooking, seeks to teach other people how to achieve 0% waste in cooking.

Ms. Veronica Victorio, SEED Institute, City of Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Ms. Victorio introduced the City of Puerto Princesa as the only earth-quake-free, mining-free, and typhoon-free city in the country. The City of Puerto Princesa heavily promotes Tourism and Agriculture. She narrated that Puerto Princesa was not born with the glory that it enjoys nowadays. Puerto Princesa was very different in the past years. Before, there were uncollected garbage, dirty streets, illegal loggings, cyanide fishing, etc. She stated that the make-over happened during the year 1992 when Mayor Hagedorn was elected as the mayor of the city. There were several programs created to protect the city such as the Bantay-Puerto Programs which combats illegal loggers, Bantay-Gubat, and Bantay-Dagat.

She related to the audience about the “Pista Y Ang Kagueban” which means the Feast of Forest, wherein about two million trees were planted since 1992; Mangrove Reforestation celebrated on every February 14th, wherein the city of Puerto Princesa sponsors the expenditures of a couple who seeks to marry provided that the couple plant a mangrove; “Tricycle sa Kabuhayan at Ekolohiya Project” in which the 50-50 traffic scheme was being
implemented as the tricycle drivers only operates three times a week to lessen air and noise pollution, and aids in traffic decongestion; and the E-trikes and E-vehicle program; the solar turbine lamp post.

She cited a study by the University of the Philippines, which showed that Puerto Princesa residents have one of the highest environmental awareness in the country. Ms. Victorio noted that partly this consciousness can be attributed to the eagerness of the administration of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn in mainstreaming environmental responsibility and accountability among the residents of Puerto Princesa.

She also takes pride of their famous underground river as UNESCO's World Heritage Site and is currently the Number 1 candidate to the New Seven Wonders of Nature. She stated that the City of Puerto Princesa has dramatically increased its tourism from the yearly 12,000 tourists in 1992 to 425,000 tourists 2010.

OPEN FORUM

There was a question posed by a member of the audience on how Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn was able to encourage the citizens of Puerto Princesa to accept the “walis-tingting” project to clean up their community. Ms. Victorio responded that Mayor Hagedorn stood as an example to the people in their city. The moderator, Assistant Secretary Marlolo Mendoza, who was also a witness to that happening, also replied that Mayor Hagedorn has employed an iron hand in implementing the laws in Puerto Princesa, especially those protecting the environment and natural resources.

Mr. Nori Palarca, a U.P. Professor and who works with the ILO inquired about the situation of Southern Palawan explained that he observed that Southern Palawan is the complete opposite of Puerto Princesa in terms of environmental health. Ms. Victorio responded to the question by saying that the City of Puerto Princesa recognized that other parts of Palawan is very different from their city considering that they belong to the same island. However, the rest of Palawan is not under the leadership of Mayor Hagedorn.

For his part, Mr. Tan of WWF added that the environmental situation in the rest of Palawan mostly depends on political issues, especially; it depends on the leadership. As Mr. Tan said, using a popular quote, “masalimuot ang politics sa Palawan” (Politics in Palawan is complicated).

Due to its rich and diverse natural resources, Mr. Tan revealed that he considers the City of Puerto Princesa as “the last frontier” of the Philippines. He further stated that they have a very active NGO in the province of Palawan. However, he explained that in the end it is up to the citizens of this province as to which way they want to go in terms of protecting and preserving the environment. He commented that compared to others, Puerto Princesa is really an exception to the rule when it comes to environmental protection.
Ms. Annie Garcia, President, SM Supermalls

In her talk, Ms. Garcia told the audience of the green corporate practices and standards that are being observed and implemented by SM Supermalls, especially in infusing environment-friendliness and awareness and responsibility in the commercial operations of their businesses and in the consumption patterns and activities of their clients and customers.

This is embodied in the SM Green Retail Agenda. According to her, the SM Green retail Agenda aims to: raise awareness to various environmental concerns, take active steps to sustainability, combat climate change in the long run and disseminate information on the green jobs sector.

The Green Retail Agenda, a program implemented by SM Supermalls in partnership with government agencies and NGOs is directed to make green businesses possible through discussions on new trends, materials, policies, and energy efficient practices. SM hopes that retailers would start taking the initiative to transform their businesses and establishments with eco-friendly and energy efficient designs. Ms. Garcia said that SM believes in the capacity of Filipinos to change their behavior towards climate change and other environmental issues.

SM acknowledges that more businesses look for more profitable and efficient ways to 'turn green' so it helps its tenants and retailers establish a more environment friendly business but still profitable at the same time. SM continuously encourages mall tenants and concessionaires to create a greener future with the use of environment friendly materials and other 'green strategies' that promote environmental sustainability through mall, tenant and community endeavors while simultaneously combining going green with good business.
Among others, SM has implemented programs such as the Trash to Cash recycling market and the SM Supermalls Green Bag which provides discounts for shoppers who won’t ask for plastic bags with their purchases. SM has also sponsored a Green Film Festival in its cinemas where selected award-winning documentaries and notable films were screened for free to students.

*Architect Christopher De La Cruz, President Philippine Green Building Council*

In his presentation, Architect De La Cruz emphasized the need for green-collar jobs in the country. As such, he said that there is a need to facilitate the transition from blue-collar jobs to green-collar jobs. In particular, he said that sustainability should be incorporated into the building and construction sector and that the industry should take into consideration what would be left to the future generations since meeting the needs of the present should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In terms of potential, he noted that based on the World Green Building Council’s figures, Asia’s firms that are dedicated to green building is expected to jump from 36% today to 73% in 2013.

With these changes, transitions and potential, there would be a need for green buildings and even green housing projects and initiatives. He added that it is not enough to simply know about the environment, he said what is more important actually is to understand the environmental virtues of going green.

With that, Arch. Dela Cruz foresees that construction workers and builders would be required to integrate clean production in green building designs. However, he admitted that people have yet to see the connection of green building towards multiple driving sectors of society and that there is lack of understanding of how these are linked to green jobs.

Based on the PGBC’s study which Arch. Dela Cruz quoted, training that would lead to the creation of green jobs include utilization of green building technologies for building professionals; effective environmental communication for marketing professionals; crafting of effective green building policy; skills upgrade for construction workers; and green building certification using the PGBC’s Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence or BERDE.

Arch. Dela Cruz perceives that Green Jobs that will be in demand as the demand for Green Building increases would be those in the fields of architecture, engineering, energy management, professional marketing, education and (skills) assessment and certification.

What could possibly deter the full development of green jobs are the following challenges that he identified: high up-front costs for more efficient equipment, lack of access to financing, absence of energy subsidies, and lack of full understanding of the environmental, health and other external costs related to green building.

Training presents particular challenges as enumerated by Arch. Dela Cruz: most of the trainings are only available in Metro Manila and not available in other regions of the country; skilled and semi-skilled workers still lack technical know-how on more complex green building related work (i.e. solar technology, HVAC, energy management etc.; costs of trainings associated with high quality trainings; and, lack of government support.

In conclusion, Arch. Dela Cruz stressed the need for appropriate skills training response coupled with an increase in environmental awareness and sustainable development. It is
necessary that there be coordination, management, business skills and most importantly, innovation in promoting green jobs and a greener future.

**Director Jeanette Tana-Damo, Director, National Wages and Productivity Commission**

In her presentation on the DOLE’s green productivity program and contributions to greener jobs, NWPC Director Jeanette Tana-Damo discussed the green advocacy and initiatives launched by the Department. Director Damo said that global efforts for greener jobs have been incorporated into the DOLE’s green productivity framework. According to her the Framework balances environmental protection, which is anchored on sustainable development with productivity enhancement in the workplace that is anchored on continuous improvement that is imbued cost-efficient strategies. Green Productivity serves as the link to both.

She then proceeded to present and discuss the DOLE’s “Green My Enterprise Program,” a program which concretizes the DOLE’s Green Advocacy Framework. The GreenME program, a workplace greening initiative, focus on plant-level interventions, which sends a message that productivity starts within the enterprise itself. The program also envisions employees to have concern about the company’s techniques and operations and that through the GreenME program, they would be able to apply and employ “green techniques” in waste prevention, reduction and control.

She then said that the GreenME program could lead to higher productivity, safer workplaces and higher profits in green community belts and zones. As such, she said that strategies to be taken in the implementation of the program would require advocacy/partnership, training, consulting, monitoring and evaluation.

She said that the program is open to micro, small and medium enterprises that have basic systems in place, that will commit the participation of their workforce to the program; and that are willing to undertake productivity and improvement initiative in the company.

The program shall also enlist the support of the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards for capacity building.

Finally, Ms. Damo said that the long term strategy is to expand the green sectors at the plant level. Should the project prove successful, the project would provide greener opportunities, greener projects and more green jobs available for workers.

**Mr. Victor Chan, Globe Telecoms**

Mr. Victor Chan introduced “Globe Goes Green” as an integrated environmental sustainability campaign that seeks to integrate key environmental initiatives to Globe’s business strategy. Globe’s environmental objectives revolve around move towards the continuous reduction of energy, water, and solid waste footprints in its operations; encourage and training of employees and business partners to help reduce the company’s environmental impact; partnering with organizations which share the same environmental values and; reporting the company’s environmental performance to stakeholders.

Globe Goes Green partners with its own employees, where Mr. Chan recognized the support of the Globe Telecoms Workers Union; its millions of subscribers; its host communities, where its cell sites are located; and, relevant government agencies.
Mr. Chan shared the creative advocacies within its campaign that take its lead from the telecom company’s own promos like its unlimited call and texting service. This included ads that say “If only this globe were unli” printed below a picture of the globe (earth) with a “low battery” indication on it. This in particular was Globe’s participation in the annual Earth Hour Campaign that called for everyone to switch off their lights and turn off all their appliances for one full hour to emphasize that the earth resources are not unlimited.

Mr. Chan also presented a campaign entitled “Lifeboats and Lifelines” that aims to raise employee awareness on how to respond and cope up with disasters in the Philippines. The campaign spearheaded projects such as the “Globe cordillera challenge” (a bike run) to raise awareness on trees and natural flora of the cordillera region.

Globe also launched an environmental hotline called Green Line, a dedicated 24-hour call and text facility where residents and other concerned parties can report violations of environmental laws and policies.

It has expanded this to a mobile take back program that recycles old, defective and non-functioning cellphones. Globe places recycle bins in their offices, some municipal offices and universities that collect these phones to either repair them or donate to a facility that will turn them into products such as plates, umbrellas and jewelries.

Mr. Rafael Mapalo, Director for Education Trade Union Congress of the Philippines

Mr. Rafael Mapalo of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) focused on the “Just transition” framework in the contexts of decent work and green jobs. According to him, the just transition in the workplace is the change of environment towards greener practices. He explained that just transitions can create the “process aimed at transforming the economic sector to a sustainable one”.

According to Mr. Mapalo, just transition contains important components such as: early social and employment vulnerability assessment; social protection of workers in the transformation of traditional sectors to “greener” ones; decent work, particularly with respect to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998); investing for “just transition policies” and education and training for workers to manage change towards green jobs and practices; measure for communities; and equitable sharing of gains derived from the transition.

Furthermore, Mr. Mapalo illustrated and showcased some trade union initiatives and projects that integrate decent work and green jobs. Among these are: socio-economic programs that include organic fertilizer production and castor bean production using sustainable farming practices; capability-building, training and education; and the setting up of guidelines such as those on decent work, green jobs and sustainable workplaces; the Trade Union Action Checklist, Efficiency in the energy use, transportation, manufacturing, building, materials, environmental protection etc.; Legislative and policy advocacy; negotiation of green provisions in collective bargaining agreements; and reproductive health at the workplace.

He concluded by saying that the trade union movement is committed to supporting ambitious actions towards a truly sustainable development, where social dimensions and broader environmental challenges are also addressed.

OPEN FORUM

Cost of Green Building
A conference participant from Miriam College asked how we could build green houses that are cheap and affordable to common people.

Arch. Christopher de la Cruz answered that commercial buildings are necessarily more costly because of some parameters needed. However, the country has reduced costs of expert skills to half that of the cost in the US. The cost for having a digital copy of the process of greening is free. Residential sector rating scheme principles are low cost in nature except for the technology part. Finally, he said that “green is just a matter of perspective.”

**Cost of shift to Green Jobs**

Mr. Julius Cainglet of the Federation of Free Workers asked if companies are ready to spend for the conversion or shift to green jobs. He also asked if the transformation would require the skillsof foreign experts, thus adding to the dollar or euro expenses of local industries.

Arch. Dela Cruz reiterated that there are already local experts, especially in the are of green building. Investment in training would add more to the local pool of experts that Philippine industries can tap.

As to the cost of going green, Director Ester Guirao of the NWPC answered that it’s just common sense. It’s not that expensive. Besides, there are many different ways to go green. The biggest challenge as she sees it, is the growing need for qualified and skilled (green) workers. She added that enterprises can study “Republic Act 6971, “An Act to Encourage Productivity and Maintain Industrial Peace by Providing Incentives to Both Labor and Capital.”

She said this law allows special tax breaks for enterprises that go into productivity improvement. It’s a simple way of circumventing the cost.
DAY 2

Session 1: GREENERATIONS: Leading the Path to a Greener Future

Atty. Gia Ibay, World Wildlife Fund

In opening the session, Atty. Gia Ibay began to define what “greeneration” is and how the green generation are the youth who are well educated, have the desire to gain new knowledge and how these are geared towards the brighter future. She asked key questions like what opportunities in the “green market” will be available for the Filipino youth and if green jobs would be available to them when they finish their education, training and schooling. She also asked if the new mediums would be accessible to the young people.

Further, she explained that World Wildlife Fund Campaign is composed of 3 I’s, which is to “Inform, Invite and Inspire.” She said that this initiative aims to call out to the youth to be empowered and give opportunities for them in order that they can have a better future. She also cited cases and instances where in the youth’s role was evident and much felt. She said that one of the stories of empowerment in which the youth played a vital role was exemplified by their involvement in the annual Earth Hour campaign, which encourages every homes and buildings to turn off their lights for at least one hour at a given time to help conserve energy and the environment. She said that the Earth Hour campaign, in this case, has encouraged many young people to organize their own youth events and communicate among themselves in utilizing various forms of media to promote environmental awareness.

Hon. Raymond Palatino, Representative, Kabataan Party-list

Kabataan Party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino opened his speech by recalling that the common expression “weather-weather lang ‘yan” was first popularized by Former President Joseph “Erap” Estrada. He said that at this time, the threat of global warming first came to the attention of many people. But since the dawning of climate change and the rampant occurrence of natural calamities in the recent years, Rep. Palatino said that many people have awakened and acknowledged that climate change is a reality that cannot be denied. He also said that as a result of this, many people, particularly the youth, have become more aware and conscious of environmental challenges and problems like climate change.

According to Rep. Palatino, the coming of age of the “Greeneration” was influenced by great political events and destructive environment disasters. To stress out his point, he used the lack of clean water services from Nawasa as an example to illustrate the apparent disconnect towards the practical everyday solutions to the wrong problems, especially with environmental conservation issues.
Further, in his talk, Rep. Palatino called on the integration and mainstreaming of green courses in the educational system to realize the dream of promoting green jobs. This dream, however, as lamented by the young congressman, is created backwards in our educational institutions that courses offered are those that are popular and not those that are required to “green courses” that would lead to establishments of green opportunities and other topics to teach the youth that saving the environment is more than planting trees, separating garbage, buying green bags.

As such, he called on the Filipino youth to learn from what scientists call renewable energy whose widespread application will alleviate the dire state of the environment. However, he said that despite this awareness, there is no political will and sustained public support in mobilization of this initiative.

In closing, he concluded in believing that the youth is more than gossipers and showbiz talk rather that they have the potential to be tapped in action towards a greener tomorrow.

Ms. Anna Oposa, Laws of Nature Foundation

For her part, Ms. Oposa said that she has her own theory of love, which translated into her love for the environment. She said that when you love someone, you have the natural instinct to protect it. With that, she said she has also come up with “The Blue and Green Checklist” which contains list of possible simple actions and steps that can be taken to show love for the country and the environment:

- Checklist 1: Get to know your country. – The Philippines is where the action is where it is one of the most diverse and is considered the “Center of Biodiversity” But what has happened then? Resource depletion.
- Checklist 2: Change your lifestyle and mindset by doing and observing the following: reading and learning about the world, going paper-less and plastic-less, avoid using straws, approach issues by believing the best in people and being proactive and by seeing the government not as enemy.
- Checklist 3: Join existing environmental project programs by knowing what you love most about the environment and what makes you mad about environmental neglect and ecological degradation, gaining access to information and keeping and observing dates or events like Earth Hour and International Environment Day.
- Checklist 4: Create your own environmental projects because small things matter and that you don’t just clean up coasts, you clean up minds; and don’t just plant trees, plant the world with hope.
- Checklist 5: Spread the word that it’s not enough to practice what you preach but preach what you practice; follow these and change will happen.

OPEN FORUM

During the open forum, Mr. Ralph Tan, a representative from the UST Political Science Forum, asked a question as to what steps can students make to stop restaurants from using styrofoams. In response, Ms. Oposa encouraged students to write to those who manage those restaurants. She also said that students can create a campaign to “bring your own “baonan” and similar projects like “discount from the baonan” projects.

For his part, Rep. Raymond Palatino said that change can “start with one stall, if the others don’t follow, start a campaign to patronize that stall that don’t use styro. Then spread it out.”
Meanwhile, another question was asked as to how vendors can be prevented from using plastics in their business operations. Rep. Palatino said that people can ask local government sto ban them. But he said that concentrating on small scale is not enough since these small vendors are only pushing through for livelihood. He added that people should think bigger and target firms like those that produce the plastics themselves and encourage them to change their methods and with that, maybe people can change everything.

Atty. Ibay asked the panel as to what is the one thing that they are doing for the campaign that they are practicing. As for her part, Ms. Oposa said that she had been preaching what she has been practicing and that she has been also blogging about it in order to tell everyone her passion and advocacies for the environment.

As for Congressman Palatino, he said that he will commit the last year of his term devoted to environmental advocacy. He even said that his office has actually gone “soft” in terms of reducing wastes by using soft copies and online subscriptions to avoid paper wastes. He also said that he asks at times young people to turn of gadgets for a few hours at a time to “fast” from the use of technology because people can survive for one day without it. He encouraged the participants to try it for some time.
Assistant Director Jerry Clavesillas, BSMED-DTI

In his presentation, Assistant Dir. Clavesillas revealed that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) plans to push through with a plan of action for launching and promoting fair and green trade in the Philippines.

According to Assistant Dir. Clavessilas, the Trade Department’s plan aims to enable the business environment, provide access to finance, access to market and the productivity and efficiency enhancement for the promotion of Green Jobs.

DTI initiatives include the following business development projects and activities such as:

- Raw Materials promotion and development that show various raw materials and all the possible creations that can be made with e.g. Water Hyacinth Development Project (things that can be made from Water Hyacinth)
- The Bayong project that promotes the use of the basket or its various uses and to a certain extent, ban the use of plastics in certain locations.

Engr. Franklin Bunoan, Cottage Industry Technology Center

In his presentation entitled, “Greening the SME, Greening the Micro Enterprises”, Engr. Bunoan said that the line that divides the line of what is green is still not yet defined clearly. Engr. Bunoan stated that many people, if not most, are still using non-renewable means of resources. According to him, this kind of business process and activity comes with big economic costs with little economic gains. However, he said that what many people fail to realize and overlook is that many of the raw materials utilized are renewable. As a result of recognizing this as well based on his personal experience, Engr. Bunoan shared that he began to utilize bamboo as alternative to certain types of wood and shifted towards this in order to promote other means of the economic process to sustainable forms.

He also lamented how some people are still unaware of environment-friendly business processes, particularly in manufacturing. He said that some areas in business that need to be greened include research and development, raw materials, manufacturing process and the market. He also called for the shift to renewables and sustains and the shift to low value
items and other alternative processes. He also called for the adoption of less degrading extraction and refining technologies.

With that, he ended his presentation by saying that Green Microenterprises are possible and what are needed for its success and realization are commitment and involvement of stakeholders in green jobs: entrepreneurs, workers and government.

**Mr. Rommel Juan, Binalot Fiesta Foods, Inc.**

For his part, Mr. Juan shared the story of how he and his family built what is now one of the most successful and environment-friendly business in the country: Binalot Fiesta Foods. Binalot is a popular food chain which instead of using plastics and styros uses banana leaves as plates for the food products that they sell. He also shared his life stories on his journey towards going green where he realized his potentials in the capabilities of using Banana leaves as a means to “balot” (package) the food.

Further, he related to the audience that it took a long struggle and slow growth to where Binalot stands right now. He said that as a result of the Asian Crisis, the demand for delivery went down and thus, their business was affected. However, through hard work and perseverance, Binalot continued its operations, albeit slowly. He said that from the year 1996-2003, Binalot had a very slow growth with only branch expansion per year during this period. Nonetheless, Binalot’s efforts bore fruits as today, it is now one of the fastest growing food chains in the countries and that it has even gone to franchising to encourage other Filipinos to become entrepreneurs themselves.

With their vision of a food restaurant business that promotes Filipino culture and sustains the environment, Mr. Juan said that Binalot has engaged itself not only in purely business operations but also in corporate social responsibility advocacies and activities. He said that Binalot promotes eco-friendly packaging of their products, e-bike delivery services, and more importantly, they established the **DAHON Program or Dangal at HanapbuhaysaNayon** which helps poor communities to find a living by re-planting banana trees and reforesting activities.

He also said that though they use banana leaves, they also carry out banana re-planting activities so that Banana Trees would still be preserved, conserved and allowed to multiply and exist, which would sustain eco-friendly businesses like Binalot. Mr. Juan said that this is their way of replacing the banana leaves that they use for their business while at the same time providing livelihood for poor communities and preserving the environment. He said that as of now, the DAHON Program is supporting 30 families in Laguna and Zambales.

**Mr. Jose Sales De Villa, GIGA Enterprises**

In his opening talk, Mr. Sales De Villa said that GIGA Enterprises is a business enterprise that has always been and always will be “GREEN-MINDED.” He also sought to correct the “wrong notion” that a green or natural product doesn’t work and is more expensive. Mr. De Villa emphasized on challenging synthesized products by creating “natural products that work” to gain all benefits without the environment harming costs of synthetic products.

With that, Mr. Sales De Villa shared and explained how all the products GIGA enterprises uses only natural raw materials with the least amount of production costs and pollution. He also said that green businesses operate in ways that solve, rather than cause both environmental and social problems.
He also shared the Green Practices of GIGA Enterprises which include the following: use natural-based-products, waste-free soap production, paper-based recycling and packaging and paperless record-keeping. Aside from these green business practices, GIGA is also involved with social advocacies such as greening communities like sourcing raw materials from farming communities, use of soap trimmings, and jobbing out labor to depressed communities.

Ms. Jeanie Javelosa, Echo Store

For her part, Ms. Javelosa introduced to the audience the profile of her company, ECHO Store. She said that ECHOSTore stands for a sustainable lifestyle. She explained what Echostore stands for and the goals and achievements attained thus far. She said that Echo Store was a green retailer which she emphasized stands for sustainability. She said that going green in business means going back to the basics that make things greener. She explained that going green is about respecting the earth and everything that lives in it.

Throughout the speech, she emphasized on where Echostore has been and directions it is taking. Emphasis was brought on the partnerships Echostore has forged that would create green jobs with other companies. She said that in the course of their business, they have met artisans and craftsmen who make handicrafts made of natural materials, products made of waste natural materials and products from recycled natural, industrial, post-consumer waste materials. She also said that they have networked with farmers and producers who produce green food products. In addition, Echo Store has also widened its network by dealing with architects and interior designers whose focus is to design for sustainability and development and to help create enterprises and jobs that produce green construction materials.

Further, Ms. Javelosa also said that Echo Store has dealt with CEOs of various companies who she said are driving forces toward greening companies. She also said that companies that have CSR Programs can generate green jobs (e.g. zero-waste recycling, clean-up drives, tree-planting and post-consumer waste gathering. More importantly, she shared that Echo Store has also constantly kept in touch with students and entrepreneurs and provide them business opportunities to become social entrepreneurs with a green heart. She also said that Echo Store plans to network with writers to promote awareness of green advocacies and with LGUs to challenge them in creating self-sustaining communities. Ms. Javelosa also said that Echo Store hopes not only to advocate and mentor but also to help create more green jobs by engaging the publics through Green producers, Green Retailers, Jobs in Sustainable Farms, Green Designs and Green Packaging.

In her closing speech, she said that if people and businesses will go back to basics, everyone will become green and this can be done by supporting farmers’ markets that generate more green farm jobs, buying sustainable products that create more green producers and green retailers and planning and building sustainability with recycled construction materials and generate green jobs.

OPEN FORUM

During the open forum, Mr. Joey Molina of Echo Store asked how SMEscan influence the large industries in terms of going green.

As a reply, Ms. Javelosa said it is important to show customers the bigger picture and generate all the noise that one can and make people aware. In the end, she said, the consumers themselves would want to shift down shaking the larger companies. She said it is in that way that green MSMEs can have the larger companies listen.
In support, Mr. De Villa said it for businesses being natural makes people want to shift down to MSMEs' level and the bigger businesses.

Sharing his experience, Mr. Juan said that because of its guerilla brand, many companies have approached Binalot and asked them about their green practices because they were using plastics. He said that the shift for the big boys (referring to bigger corporations) is and will be harder but once people become aware the shift will happen.
Hon. Joey Salceda, Governor, Province of Albay

During his talk, Governor Salceda, discussed the challenges of climate change, the potentials of green jobs and the experience of Albay in responding to climate threats. According to him, out of the 19 to 21 typhoons that visit the Philippines, 3 to 5 of which hit Albay. As such, about 198,000 houses and 350,000 people are being constantly threatened by wind destructions, 127 villages, which is comprised by 12,000 families, are being threatened by landslides, 300,000 people, out of the province’s total 1.2 million population, are being threatened by tsunami and 8 municipalities and 2 cities are being threatened by severe floodings. Add to this is another possible eruption from Mayon Volcano can threaten 3 cities and 5 municipalities in Albay.

In view of these harsh realities, Governor Salceda outlined his vision for Albay which includes building better and safer lives, making Albay as the most liveable province in the region known for good schools, good hospitals and good environment to secure safe and shared development. He also said that he aims for Albayenos who are healthy, happy, well-educated and well-trained people. He also incorporated in his overall vision for Albay his goal of making it a province that has low-rise, low-intensity and low Greenhouse Gas emissions and a province that preserves biodiversity and builds resources for the future. He said that this is the green development model that he he hopes to make out of Albay. In his discussion, Governor Salceda discussed what a “green job” is. For him, he said that a green job is equitably fair to all those concerned, preserves biodiversity, and promotes well-being, among other things.

Governor Salceda also presented the accomplishments and completed goals of Albay Province under his watch and administration. He discussed the strategic actions taken by the Province in responding to climate change. He also said that the Province achieved some of the goals set by MDG ahead of its 2015 target date of achievement. He added that Albay created more jobs than others in the region through the promotion of green jobs. He said that as a result of these policies that were carried out by his administration, Albay experienced surge in private investments, had the fastest growth in the Bicol Region and achieved the MDGs ahead of 2015. He also said two nationals were enacted using the Albay Model. He also relayed that for 16 years, Albay had zero casualties in disasters until the recent typhoon that struck it this year. He said that the success of these policies can be attributed to the following strategies: geos-strategic intervention, relocation, engineering interventions, risk-mapping, social preparations, capacity build-up and effective disaster response.
MMDA Deputy Chairman Alex Cabanilla

In his presentation which showed diagrams and pictures of disaster prone zones in Metro Manila and problems the MMDA faces, MMDA Deputy Chair Cabanilla pointed out that Manila has very weak warning systems and coordination when it comes to flood-related concerns. There are three major river systems in Metro Manila and these are Tenejeros River, Malabon River and Pasig River (with tributaries in San Juan River and Marikina River). He said that water discharged from these had levels exceeding 600 m3/s that would inundate low-lying areas of Manila and that continuous heavy rainfalls for two hours would flood these areas. He said that most of those living in the floodplains of these rivers are poor communities.

He also said that the major causes of flooding in Metro Manila include rainfalls, river overflows and excessive rainfalls induced by typhoons. Aside from these natural causes, he also said man-made activities which aggravate the consequences of natural hazards also contribute to flooding in Metro Manila such as human settlements along and on top of waterways resulting to drainage congestion, violation of urban planning standards, dam failure and watershed and deforestation activities. He also raised some alarming trends in flooding in Metro Manila such as the increasing number of areas that experienced flooding and the narrowing of the widths of river channels from 12 to 20 to about 3.6 meters.

He also said that among the concerns and issues of the MMDA now include concentration of urban poor communities in floodplains, encroachment to river banks to residential and commercial constructions, cultural mentality of living and adapting with floods for a long time, structural and engineering issues, weak database in flood control, among others.

He revealed that there is a Metro Manila Flood Control Project which is composed of various approaches of flood control, relocation, housing and garbage collection. He also discussed different approaches taken by the MMDA in flood control e.g. river basin approach, evacuation strategies and tree-planting activities. As a result, MMDA has computerized its monitoring system for integrated communication and action. It has also implanted “flood markers” to indicate the progress/lack of in a certain area depending on the increase/decrease of flood levels. In closing, he said there are no universal remedies to floods and that specific local efforts are necessary and that disaster conscious and prepared communities will accelerate flood protection and proofing activities.

Architect Felino Palafox, Palafox and Associates

In one of his discussions during his talk, Architect Palafox shared a story of how his company spent $100M to save a 360 hectare-land, which is home to hundreds of more than seventy year-old trees.

He also said that he realized that his lifestyle in the past had a very large carbon footprint that was even computed by a friend. With that realization, he said that he decided to finally change that by adapting a more conservative means of transport and by advocating for green standards and practices in his industry and field of expertise.

Dr. Lurraine Baybay-Villacorta, International Labor Organization

Ms. Baybay-Villacorta discussed the financial mechanisms developed and currently being tested by the ILO together with DOLE through its Caraga Regional Office, with DTI and the Province of Agusan del Norte under the MDG-F Joint Programme on Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change.
According to Ms. Baybay-Villacorta, climate-related disasters represent a major source of risks for the poor, particularly, for the farmers who are dependent on “good weather” for their survival and livelihood. The unpredictable weather patterns it brings, the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like floods, droughts and typhoons, affect a wide range of sectors, urban or rural, and a wide range of assets, human and physical. Rural farming communities, their agricultural assets, along with rural infrastructures, are particularly vulnerable so are essential intangible assets like public services.

While it can be argued that costs and impacts of climate change can be significantly reduced by “risk reduction measures” like the building of flood control structures; or by traditional measures for “resilience-building” like setting-up of information systems and diversification of crops, residual financial risks remain. These risks present another hurdle to overcome for poor farming communities, who commonly do NOT have Capital nor savings. When farms get hit by drought, or when crops get damage by floods, farmers often do not have savings to use for replanting or venture into other activities, she explained.

She also shared the Risk Transfer Mechanism applied for farmers in Agusan Del Norte where climate-related disasters create major risks. However, she expressed that the risks are more emphasized to those that cannot re-plant after a disaster. The system fails to understand that the poor simply cannot afford regular system mechanisms.

Dr. Baybay-Villacorta also cited the example of the success of application of Risk Transfer Mechanism where the farmers get alleviated after going to informal money lenders because of the minimal to no requirements of presenting of documents. With the previous problem, they created three different mechanisms via Local Government loan project.

OPEN FORUM

Disaster Training for Workers

During the open forum, Mr. Julius Cainglet from the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) asked if there are standards for workers who help or respond during disasters and if they undergo training and do other work when it comes to disaster relief operations.

In response to the question, Gov. Salceda said that when it comes to training of workers for disaster relief, even with limited budget, Albay is used to give 13 month pay and even bonuses for the workers because he believes that the government should give the best compensations. He also said that Albay is training other provinces for disaster risk control and management. He added that as governor of Albay, he gives workers the benefits they can get.

For their part, MMDA Deputy Dir. Cabanilla said that their workers are very well-trained and that the MMDA tries to compensate their workers by giving them necessary training and benefits like medical care even if they are constrained by their limited budget.

Green Jobs Resource Desk

Meanwhile, Ms. Ensha Ancheta, from Miriam College, asked the panelists if people can expect a unifying body or organization to put the minds of all those present in the conference like having a universal resource or library about green jobs.

Usec. Sano of the Climate Change Commission immediately responded and clarified that there is no intention to centralize anything. But he assured that the members of the joint
Green Jobs Conference will continue to join hands and continue to work even after the forum. He also said that individual resource persons and various government agencies and organizations are very open and free to be contacted by people.
CLOSING SPEECHES

MR. EDGARDO LACSON
President, Employers Confederation of the Philippines

Mr. TEMISTOCLES DEJON
Vice President, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines

Atty. JOSE SONNY MATULA
President, Federation of Free Workers

MS. SACHIKO YAMAMOTO
International Labor Organization

UNDERSECRETARY LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Department of Labor and Employment
MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

MR. EDGARDO LACSON
President, Employers Confederation of the Philippines

Green jobs are not just about reducing, reusing and recycling. It’s also about using renewable energy, exploring alternative fuels, patrolling our territorial waters for maritime protection, creating green products and services, building green facilities and greening technologies, among others. These are activities and initiatives that can actually produce and result into tangible jobs and real opportunities for many of our workers.

To our co-convenors for this Conference – the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the International Labor Organization (ILO); our friends in the labor sector and the business community; young people and advocates for the environment; to my colleagues in the government; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: A good and pleasant morning to all of you!

In behalf of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), I am honored and glad to welcome you all to the first-ever National Conference on Green Jobs! This Conference, which is the fruit of our efforts in the Department to promote and integrate environment-friendly labor policies and practices, serves as an opportunity for us to discuss new ideas and offer new policy paradigms and directions for the promotion of Green Jobs not only in our workplaces but also in our country, as a whole.

The Conference gathers not only representatives and leaders from various government departments, trade unions and business organizations but also those from the academe, the civil society, the environment sector and the young people. This Conference is not just a gathering of different personalities but more importantly, a meeting of bright and brilliant minds in the country.

I am very optimistic that throughout this two-day event, all of us here will not only learn new information but also come up with new ideas; not just listen to the talks but also engage in policy discussions and conversations. This is the main reason why this Conference is being held and offered to the public: to dialogue so we are pushed to act towards the promotion of green jobs.

At this time of inconvenient truths about the state of our planet today, we cannot afford to simply sit down and ignore this phenomenon that casts a shadow of anxiety over our existence and survival. For us in the DOLE, responding to the challenge of climate change should be more about tapping opportunities and that is through the promotion of green jobs and the greening of industries.

Along this track, we have Conference topics that would make us more informed and knowledgeable of the nature, goals and directions of Green Jobs. We are blessed to have
speakers and panelists who are the leading experts and pioneers on various environment issues.
MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Mr. TEMISTOCLES DEJON, Vice President, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines

If communities and workers at the enterprise levels do not see any improvement in the protection of the environment, and do not feel any positive improvement in their lives, including their basic human and workers’ rights, then we cannot claim any achievement at all.

MAGANDANG UMAGA!

For two days and after a series of commendable efforts, we have collectively tried to understand and appreciate the meaning and principles of Green Jobs and Decent Work. We shared good practices, we argued and raised issues, we clarified queries and shared answers to nagging questions.

At kami ay natutuwa, dahil sa pagtitipong ito, lumikha tayo ng oportunidad upang mapabuti ang kalagayan at itaguyod ang kaunlaran at kagalingan ng mga manggagawa, ng negosyo, at likas na yaman ng bayan.

Hence, on behalf of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, I express full support to the Call to Action to advance Green Jobs and Decent Work towards Inclusive Growth. To achieve the desired results of this conference, we believe that the following should be put in place:

1. Carry-out a CONTINUING DIALOGUE between and among tripartite partners and stakeholders to create greater appreciation of the issues, and find better and acceptable strategies to implement corresponding measures and programs.

2. ACCELERATE LOCALIZATION of program implementation in the regions, in the provinces, at the enterprise, and community levels. If communities and workers at the enterprise levels do not see any improvement in the protection of the environment, and do not feel any positive improvement in their lives, including their basic human and workers’ rights, then we cannot claim any achievement at all.

3. Set up a TRIPARTITE GREEN JOBS TEAM to monitor, harmonize, integrate, and assess, on a regular basis, the implementation of the call to action. As we say: “We are only as good as the results of our efforts

Magandang hapon at mabuhay tayong lahat!
MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Atty. JOSE SONNY MATULA, President, Federation of Free Workers

We do not need our kids to sue us in history’s tribunal for irresponsibility! Today, climate change has been drastically affecting our lives and livelihoods. It’s time to get our acts together and fight back to save our jobs as we save the environment and our children’s future.

As a responsibility to the future generation we have to support all green initiatives! The Federation of Free Workers (FFW) supports the 1st Philippine GreenJobs Conference!

We have a responsibility to our children. We have a responsibility to the future! We have a responsibility to ourselves!

When 44 children filed a case to save their future, they invoked their right to a balanced and healthful ecology. The minors invoked the protection of the State in its capacity as guardian of the people (parentes patriae). The kids claimed that the DENR Secretary's refusal to cancel the TLAs and to stop issuing them was "contrary to the highest law of humankind - the natural law. The children argued that TLAs are violative of their right to self-preservation and perpetuation." [2]

If you still remember eighteen (18) years ago, the Supreme Court granted their petition and ruled that the children had the legal standing to file the case based on the concept of “intergenerational responsibility”. [3] The court said that their right to a healthy environment carried with it an obligation to preserve that environment for the succeeding generations. [4]

In this 1993 case, the highest Court recognized the legal standing of the kids to sue on behalf of future generations. Also, it was also ruled that the law on non-impairment of contracts must give way to the exercise of the police power of the state in the interest of public welfare. [5]

"Every generation has a responsibility to the next to preserve that rhythm and harmony for the full enjoyment of a balanced and healthy ecology", Justice Hilario Davide added. [6]

We do not need our kids to sue us in history’s tribunal for irresponsibility! Today, climate change has been drastically affecting our lives and livelihoods. It's time to get our acts together and fight back to save our jobs as we save the environment and our children’s future.

Workers are at the forefront of production. We are the unwilling victims if industry and agricultural processes and practices are destructive, hazardous and dangerous to workers, the community and mother earth.

We are one with the GreenJobs Conference objective of spreading awareness on the positive and green changes in the workplace as a result of climate change.
FFW welcomes initiatives that will improve the health and safety conditions of workers while ensuring that enterprises become more sustainable and environment-friendly. The Federation of Free Workers (FFW) successfully held its 23rd National Convention in Baguio City in June with a strong resolve to "scale up social movement unionism through green jobs and decent work."

The FFW National Convention, held once every five years, gathered in Baguio City some 200 delegates from FFW member trade unions and sectoral organizations across the country. Promoting green jobs is part of its five-year Policy and Program of Action.

Currently, FFW is involved with two NGOs promoting green businesses: the first, where FFW officers sit as members of the Board of Directors, involves setting up a Muscovado Plant in Batangas, now under test run, that is up to the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Standards. This NGO is also producing organic rice, vinegar and red sugar. In this project, FFW is likewise linked to a farmers association composed of sugar tenants, lessees and small landowners who supply the sugar cane and who would eventually become co-owners of the plant. Muscovado products target the export market but it would also be sold locally.

The other links FFW to efforts by another NGO to propagate organic agriculture and to propose legislative bills that would promote these efforts. FFW’s more direct involvement in this effort in the future would be to help create markets for products produced under these schemes among its members specifically and workers generally. We are thinking, in particular, of promoting “urban vegetable gardening” on a purely organic basis where seeds, organic fertilizer and organic technology would be sold to workers’ families and homes who can then plant their own vegetables in pots in their residences.

At TESDA, FFW has also supported the development of training regulations on the installation and repair of devices producing solar energy for remote villages in Mindanao, and the conversions and retrofitting of gasoline and diesel engines into LPG and CNG using ones.

Several of the FFW local affiliates are involved jointly with their managements, in tree planting operations and programs as part of corporate social responsibility programs.

Also, the FFW is active in establishing Safety and Health Committees with management in workplaces where its local unions and affiliates are based.

The Federation of Free Workers is honored to be part of this conference. We support the green initiative!

Mabuhay angating kabataan at angkanilangkinabukasan! Mabuhay angmangamanggawa! Mabuhay angsambayanang Pilipino!

[1] Brief Statement of Atty. Sonny G. Matula, National President of the Federation of Free Workers on The 1st Philippine GreenJobs Conference, a gathering of government, the private sector, workers, employers, entrepreneurs, and the youth that seeks to develop and enhance information links to identify new jobs, skills and competencies that should be acquired to ensure a just transition toward employment-friendly resources. It is held on Aug. 15-16, 2011 at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Ibid.
MESSAGES OF SUPPORT
MS SACHIKO YAMAMOTO
Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific and Assistant Director-General
International Labour Organization

An enabling environment is required to accompany those who will suffer most from these changes, develop the required skills to sustain the green economy, improve working conditions at work and create new opportunities for workers and population.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon to you all!

It gives me great pleasure to address you all today at the first Philippines Green Jobs Conference, and to express ILO’s continued support to the commitment of the Philippines Government, of workers and employers organizations, and of civil society, in the promotion of green job opportunities towards sustainable development that provides decent work in the Philippines.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Department of Labour and Employment, the Philippines Climate Change Commission, and the National Youth Commission for its spirit of cooperation in co-convening the first Philippines Green Jobs Conference, with the support of the ILO, and the Government of Australia for their partnership in promoting Green Jobs in Asia.

This cooperation is part of the ILO Green Jobs Initiative which is being piloted in eleven countries in Asia and the Pacific. The activities aim to create a knowledge base on green jobs potential in each country, identify possible policy approaches, and demonstrate innovative measures for job creation and enterprise upgrading.

The ‘Green Jobs Initiative’ was launched in 2007 by the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Organization of Employers. This initiative was the missing link that addresses the two defining challenges of today: namely to create millions of quality jobs and decent work, in particular in developing Asia, while at the same time generating less carbon and adapting the economy and making the people’s livelihood more resilient to climate change.

In this context, the Green Jobs Initiative has already achieved three important results.

Firstly, the demonstration that the pursuit of environmental outcomes on the one hand, and social and employment outcomes, on the other hand, are not necessarily contradictory. There are opportunities in every country for the creation of green jobs which can be clearly identified and their potential exploited to the full extent through well designed policies and programs.

1 Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
Secondly, the recognition of the need of a Just Transition for workers, enterprises and employers to adapt to a changing work environment. An enabling environment is required to accompany those who will suffer most from these changes, develop the required skills to sustain the green economy, improve working conditions at work and create new opportunities for workers and population.

It is important to note that the message of the ILO Green Jobs Initiative has been reinforced at the UN Climate Change Conference that took place in Cancun December 2010 and its role further defined in the context of the UN systems concerted efforts to facilitate inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The Document on the Shared Vision, endorsed by the conference now makes a clear reference to decent work and quality jobs and the need for a just transition as essential conditions for achieving a paradigm shift towards a low carbon society that offers substantial opportunities, ensures continued high growth and sustainable development, based on innovative technologies and more sustainable production and consumption and lifestyles. Investments in building the green economy must be socially fair, introduce technical and technological upgrading that improve working conditions, and create decent work and quality jobs.

Third, the transition to a low carbon, environmentally friendly economy will take place only through dialogue and the involvement of the workers & employers representing real economy. Social dialogue is critical and must be strengthened at all levels of decision-making.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The timing to host the Philippines Green Jobs Conference and the call for action for green jobs in the Philippines to engage actively towards this endeavor could not have been more suitable. The vision of an “inclusive growth” for the Philippines, as stated in its Development Plan 2011-2016, includes substantial employment creation opportunities whilst ensuring ecological integrity and mitigating climate change and climate related risk measures, amongst others. Furthermore, with the support and input of the ILO, the National Labour and Employment Plan 2011-2016 and the Climate Change Commission Action Plan, have included green jobs promotion in their strategies by addressing the linkages of climate change, the environment and employment with the promotion of green job opportunities and skills, support for green industries and services in its move towards a greener economy.

The ILO Philippines Country Office is actively supporting our constituents and partners in this endeavor. It is currently implementing numerous green jobs initiatives, which include

- Innovative financial and insurance schemes have been developed for farmers in Agusan del Norte, through the Climate Change Adaptation Project, a joint MDG Project of the United Nations Philippines.
- In Eastern Samar and Iloilo, typhoon victims were able to rebuild their community, while earning and enhancing their construction skills through community contracting and labor intensive infrastructure.

Paragraph 10 of the chapter, reads as follows: “The Conference of the Parties, Realizes that addressing climate change requires a paradigm shift towards building a low-carbon society that offers substantial opportunities and ensures continued high growth and sustainable development, based on innovative technologies and more sustainable production and consumption and lifestyles, while ensuring a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs”. 
- At the enterprise level, the Greener Business Asia Project helps in developing and promoting approaches to improve productivity and contribute to “greening” the economy in the automotive sector and parts supplier

- Lastly, The Green Jobs in Asia-Philippines, funded by the Government of Australia, works to deepen the understanding and commitment of government, employers’ and workers’ organizations on the promotion of green jobs and a just transition to address environmental and climate-related challenges and to contribute to sustainable development. It is under the purview of the project, that this national conference is supported. Furthermore, through the project’s demonstration project green social housing and the construction sector has been selected, with possible partnership with National Housing Authority and private developers.

Over the last two days, you have discussed policy initiatives and looked at relevant sectors and measures for the promotion and potential of green jobs - and how these can be strengthened and scaled up to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon, environmentally-friendly economy for enterprises and workers in the Philippines.

Integral to this is the role of the youth - a large delegation of the youth officials today sends a strong message that it is the next generations which should take the lead in transforming existing challenges into opportunities towards further pursuit of greener consumption and production patterns, and more concrete actions to promote green jobs, together with the government, employers, workers and civil society. National training programs could be strengthened to enable young people to gain job-ready skills, training and hands on experience in promotion of sustainable production and business options. The experience of other countries in setting up Green Jobs Corps (such as in Australia) could be an asset.

Through ILO scoping studies, certain sectors have been identified as having a strong potential for the promotion green jobs. For example organic agriculture: agriculture accounts for 28% of total employment, the second highest share after services. With the 2010 Act which grants tax incentives and subsidies for organic certification and support services for SMEs and farmers engaged in purely organic agriculture, there is the potential for more jobs to be created in sustainable agriculture - such as organic sugar production and banana production.

Other sectors, in which high growth is envisaged with large potential for sustainability is construction. The establishment of the Green Building Council in 2006 and the release of BERDE (Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence) in 2010 – the new national green building rating system – is expected to boost the demand for environmentally-friendly building products. Furthermore the Department of Labour recently embarked on a programme to upgrade skills of construction workers in preparation for the upcoming demand for greener buildings⁵. ILO, through its Green Jobs in Asia project, will support these endeavors.

In closing, I would like to reiterate ILOs continued support to the Philippines, in its call for action for the promotion of green job opportunities. The last two days have demonstrated the achievements the Philippines have made thus far in its transition to a low carbon, climate resilient, environment friendly economy and your expressed commitment build a solid framework for future collaboration in moving forward in this endeavor. Thank you very much!

⁵ Philippines Green Building Council (2010), ‘Green Building Revolution in the Philippines’
KEYNOTE SPEECH

UNDERSECRETARY LOURDES M. TRASMONTE,
Chairperson, Green Jobs Conference
Department of Labor and Employment

Green jobs are not just about reducing, reusing and recycling. It’s also about using renewable energy, exploring alternative fuels, patrolling our territorial waters for maritime protection, creating green products and services, building green facilities and greening technologies, among others. These are activities and initiatives that can actually produce and result into tangible jobs and real opportunities for many of our workers.

Introduction

First and foremost, I would like to recognize the active participation you have all given for the first-ever National Conference on Green Jobs in the Philippines. We highly value your support, especially because this is the first time that green jobs as a matter of policy consideration is being given a serious look by the government, especially at this point in our history in which climate change poses serious threats and challenges to humanity’s survival.

Allow me then to take this opportunity to acknowledge the roles of our co-convenors who helped us in organizing this event, namely, the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) and our implementing partners from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA). Without their valuable help, this event would not have been possible.

This Conference, which has gathered not just the tripartite partners of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) but also young leaders, social entrepreneurs and environmental advocates throughout the country, gave us the opportunity to learn new information and absorb new ideas and insights. More importantly, it allowed us to sit down together, talk to one another and come up collectively with new policy directions and goals towards the promotion of green jobs.

Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities for the Philippines

As we have learned from all the sessions that we have attended in this Conference, the threats of climate change are more real and haunting than ever. Although the Philippines does not contribute significantly to the total emission of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the world as compared to our neighboring countries and the developed nations, this does not deny or erase the fact that our country faces a lot of environmental problems and challenges. In fact,

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in the recent days and weeks, we have heard and saw bad news about the sad and dire state of environment such as how our coral reefs have been destroyed mercilessly in the name of money that would someday run out, how constantly changing weathers can affect our farming outputs and how our kababayans in Albay have been hit hard by the typhoons that struck the country just recently. As such, climate change, aggravated by human folly and neglect, is an inconvenient truth that we must accept and recognize.

Aside from its obvious environmental consequences, climate change also has negative impacts to economic life and activities. As indicated in a study entitled *Greener Business Asia* conducted by the DOLE’s Institute for Labor Studies (ILS) submitted to the ILO, citing a paper by the National Statistical Coordination Board (Virola, 2009), climate change has negative consequences and impacts to the economy. This reminds us of the traumatic typhoons of Ondoy and Pepeng in 2009, which took a significant toil on the already-contracting Philippine economy due to the height of the Global Financial Crisis at the time.7

In other words, climate change is a global phenomenon that affects every nation, every society in the world, albeit in various and different ways. As stated by the said ILS Study, “climate risks may intensify not only according to a country’s intrinsic conditions and physical environs (e.g. geographical positions) as discussed earlier, but also because of economic and social barriers. In particular, vulnerability will exacerbate among the poor who either like economic security or derive it primarily from found resources in the environment.”8

**Green Jobs as a Key to Inclusive Growth**

That is why we at DOLE, together with our Conference Partners, are very much into promoting green jobs. We believe that our businesses, our workplaces and our economy as a whole will not survive unless we adapt and respond effectively to the challenges of climate change. Promoting green jobs not only secures a person’s survival but also his or her sustainability, viability and vitality.

As such, I see this Conference as another response by the DOLE to President Benigno S. Aquino III’s clarion call for the pursuit and attainment of an inclusive economic growth for all Filipinos. Inclusive Growth is very much at the heart and center of the DOLE’s Green Jobs Agenda. As a matter of fact, the President’s *Social Contract with the Filipino People* gives premium to environmental concerns by changing the national paradigm “from a government obsessed with exploiting the country for immediate gains to the detriment of its environment to a government that will encourage sustainable use of resources to benefit the present and future generations.”9

For growth to be inclusive, it should be sustainable. Our growth must be a green growth – an economy that not only grows and protects trees, forests and minerals but also one that greens our offices, factories, businesses and industries. With Green Jobs at the table of national policy discussions, I believe that the goals of the Aquino Administration’s Socio-Economic Agenda are well within our hands’ reach.

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8 Ibid.
As for us in the DOLE, we deem this 1st Philippine Green Jobs Conference as one of our contributions in promoting not just a green workplace but a green economy, as well. Just to inform you and give you a concrete example of green efforts and programs, before we organized this Conference, the DOLE has implemented the Green Our DOLE Program within the Department. We did this by conducting an assessment of the workplace conditions of various offices and bureaus of the DOLE in order to assess their efficiency and preparedness in times of emergency and disasters. But more importantly, we did this because we in the Department believe that we must practice what we preach. Otherwise, promoting green jobs outside while being environmentally-insensitive inside defeats our mission, our purpose.

By setting an example, I could only hope that others would follow suit. This is the reason why the DOLE has launched this Green Jobs Initiative. We aim to contribute in the national – and international – efforts toward adapting to the effects of climate change by crafting policies and programs that seek to “green” our businesses and our workplaces. We believe that those of us in the economic sector – labor, business, consumers, entrepreneurs – are somehow responsible for the environmental mess that the world is in right now. The products and services that we have created in the name of short-term profit have created long-term problems for us. We are now paying the price for the environmental neglect we have tolerated in the past decades. And whether we like it or not, climate change is changing not only our weather but also the way we used to do things, including the way we do business. But with the Aquino Administration’s socio-economic vision of inclusive growth for all, we seek to arrest the tide and reverse this situation.

With the specter of climate change lurking in our midst, it cannot be business as usual, especially when our government’s agenda is to attain inclusive economic growth and promote sustainable development. Something must be done – and the promotion of green jobs and green businesses is surely the right thing to do to arrest and defeat climate change.

Yes, the DOLE is very much into green jobs because green jobs are decent jobs. And we see the generation of green decent jobs as a vital factor to the achievement of inclusive growth in the country. We know that these are decent jobs because many employment and livelihood opportunities for our people are waiting in often-overlooked but budding industries and fields such as natural resource management, environmental protection, ecological preservation, biodiversity conservation, animal care, solid waste management, greening technologies, recycling businesses, green cooperatives, organic food processing, natural health and herbal medicine processing, and urban farming and vegetation, among others.

Stakeholders’ Role in Promoting Green Jobs

As I have said just a while ago, the DOLE is very much into green jobs. However, the promotion – and the success – of green jobs rests not only upon our shoulders. Labor, business, environment advocates and even the youths have a part and role to play in this endeavor. Each of us has a responsibility to Mother Earth.

If you are a young person, you have a duty to your schools and communities by making sure that you contribute towards greening your schools and communities. If you are a worker, you must be aware that what you do at work has an effect to the environment. That is why, as a worker, be sure that you make wise and efficient use of your company’s resources because that in turn would lessen operation costs and would mean more profits and savings,
which through collective bargaining, or better yet, through the generosity of your employers, might yield to higher incomes and even bonuses for you.

In the case of employers and business owners, you also have a responsibility not just to your companies and stockholders but more importantly, to your ultimate shareholders: the consumers and the environment. You can do so by making it sure that your businesses follow environmental standards and observe green sensitivity at work.

The Conference today serves as a reminder of our shared responsibilities to the environment. In connection to this, I would like to renew my call and urge our businessmen to go green and invest in green because green is good for business. You can start right away after this Conference once you get back to your respective offices and buildings by instituting policies and programs that will promote a culture of environmental sensitivity and responsibility in your offices by going back to the basics of environmental conservation: recycling, reducing and reusing. Further, going green also opens up opportunities for investment and expansion in venturing in natural resource exploration, maintenance and conservation, developing new green products and goods. This way, we are helping create opportunities and jobs.

In the same vein, I also call on workers and employees throughout the country to observe green practices in your work stations and offices. After all reducing environmental and energy costs will benefit you in the end. It could mean not just increases in your pay, benefits and bonuses, it could also mean your job security because you helped your company reduce its financial costs, thereby ensuring its profitability, stability and viability. The success of greening businesses and industries largely rests on your shoulders.

Actually, the success of creating, promoting and sustaining green jobs and green businesses largely depends on each one of us and the commitment that we will make today to ensure the survival and continued existence of our planet and mankind.

**Next Steps**

With this, guided by the pillars of decent work and the principles of inclusive growth, the DOLE seeks not only to promote green jobs but also to push for sustainable development. We hope to enjoin all stakeholders to link arms in making sure that green jobs will truly benefit our people.

That is why I am very much happy to hear and listen to all the messages of support for the Green Call to Action from various sectors of our society, particularly the labor unions and the private sector. The messages of support for Green Jobs serve as a testament to our aim and efforts of building, fostering and strengthening public-private partnerships in areas where government, business and civil society can link arms in solving our problems, particularly in the areas of environment and sustainable development.

As such, green jobs is the new name for promoting sustainable development because it is sustainable development in action. Thus, it is my hope and prayer that this Conference, under a climate of shared responsibility and common vision for a better and greener future, will eventually bear good fruits and rich harvests for our country, our economy and our planet.
The Green Call to Action, which sums up all our hopes for a better environment and greener future, serves as our guiding light as we take the Green Jobs Agenda to further heights through our commitments and pledges to observe green practices at home and at work, shift to green technologies, invest in new green products and open more opportunities for green employment.

Today, at this Conference, as mirrored in our Green Call to Action, we have planted the seeds of a new green revolution, from which a Green Economy will sprout and grow. Tomorrow, we will reap its good fruits and yield us harvests of good tidings for our country and our people.

With that, I would like to express my gratitude and gladness in seeing and being with you all for the 1st Philippine Green Jobs Conference! Thank you very much and Mabuhay!