

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Fourteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 134

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE FILIPINO SCIENTISTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BALIK-SCIENTIST PROGRAM FOR SHARING THEIR EXPERTISE AND REMAINING COMMITTED TO OUR COUNTRY THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO THE INITIATIVES AND EFFORTS IN ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROMOTING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "The State shall protect and promote the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, Section 10, Article XIV of the Constitution states that "Science and technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life";

WHEREAS, global climate change is threatening to cause unprecedented global warming as well as elevations in sea levels;

WHEREAS, because of its geographical location and archipelagic nature, the Philippines has been scientifically determined to be "one of the biggest victims" of climate change;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is home to skillful and talented scientists and experts now working in different fields of physical and natural sciences in various parts of the world where they are making an impact in the preservation of the environment;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes that the utilization of the expertise of expatriate Filipino scientists and technologists is a vital component of the nation's political, economic and social efforts in preserving the country's natural resources;

WHEREAS, the State encourages Filipino scientists and experts who are now in different parts of the world to return to the Philippines and share their expertise in the preservation of the environment and in the minimization of the adverse consequences of climate change and global warming;

WHEREAS, the Balik-Scientist Program is being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in order to encourage foreign-based scientists, professionals, technicians, and person with special skills or expertise who are of Filipino descent to practice their profession or expertise in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, in response to the program, four Filipino-American scientists, namely: Dr. Jose Comiso of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Dr. Lino Blanche of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Dr. Terry Sarigumba and Dr. Guillermo Mendoza, are in the country;

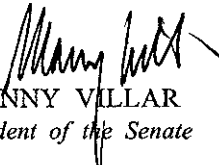
WHEREAS, the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Climate Change Program, led by the UPLB School of Environmental Science and Management, convened a roundtable discussion on natural resources and climate change as part of its program of monitoring the climate;

WHEREAS, at the roundtable discussion, Dr. Jose "Joey" Comiso of NASA, Dr. Lino Blanche of USDA, Dr. Terry Sarigumba and Dr. Guillermo Mendoza presented studies and theories and related these to the global phenomenon of climate change and global warming that is foreseen to have grave impacts on the Philippines in the next three decades;


WHEREAS, the aforementioned scientists have expressed their wish to assist Philippine initiatives to address gaps in technological resources for research and application through direct participation and/or facilitation of the projects as they are able to access certain sources like the USDA, NASA, other government agencies, international financing institutions, American universities, professional groups, colleagues and donor foundations in various areas of climate change research and application: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, That the Senate of the Philippines commend Dr. Jose Comiso, Dr. Lino Blanche, Dr. Guillermo Mendoza and Dr. Terry Sarigumba for sharing their expertise with and showing commitment to the country under the Balik-Scientist Program thereby contributing to the initiatives and efforts in adapting to climate change and promoting a healthy environment for the Filipino people.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on October 9, 2008.


EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate
