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SENATE
P.S. RES NO. **289**

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Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MEASURES THAT CAN BE ENACTED TO ALLEVIATE THE SAME

WHEREAS, climate change is brought about mostly by human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuel, causing rising concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere;

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change are being experienced all over the world;

WHEREAS, according to the Fourth Assessment Report (2007) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global average surface temperature has increased by approximately 0.65°C over the last 50 years and that sea level rise has also accelerated in the recent decades;

WHEREAS, the IPCC has made projections that for the next century, mean surface temperature will rise by 1.1°-6.4°C, heat waves, heavy precipitation events, and other extreme events will become more frequent and intense, and sea level rise will continue at an accelerating rate;

WHEREAS, international experts monitoring the effects of climate change across the Arctic have discovered that the Arctic ice cap has shrunk by an area twice the size of France's land mass over the last two years, with the year 2008 promising to be a critical year on every level;

WHEREAS, climate change is a real cause for concern as its effects are being experienced firsthand by Filipinos, with extreme weather bringing about floods and droughts, food and water shortages, landslides and abnormal rise in sea levels, exposure to infectious diseases and other health problems, as well as other damages to our environment;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that La Nina, a weather phenomenon that brings above-normal rainfall, is forecast to last until June 2008 based on latest global data;

WHEREAS, the European Commission has recently made threats of imposing restrictions on imports from countries that fail to follow its lead in tackling global climate change;

WHEREAS, measures need to be adapted to ensure adequate adaptation, food security, and sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Philippines signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on June 12, 1992 and ratified it on August 2, 1994, and signed the Kyoto Protocol on April 15, 1998 and ratified it on November 20, 2003;

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol does not only call on developed countries but *developing countries* as well to take a number of steps to formulate national and regional programs to improve local emission factors, activity data, models, and national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions and sinks that remove these gases from the atmosphere, to formulate, publish, and update climate change mitigation and adaption measures, and to cooperate in the promotion and transfer of environmentally-sound technologies and in scientific and technical research on the climate system;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has passed some legislations to address climate change, namely, the Clean Air Act, the Solid Waste Management Act, and the Clean Water Act, but has yet to seriously enforce said laws;

WHEREAS, given these facts and reports, there is an urgent need to inquire on the *causes and effects of climate change in our country* and enact measures to mitigate its effects;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to inquire, in aid of legislation, on the effects of climate change in our country, as well as enact measures to alleviate the same.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator