

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 14

Resolution No. 487

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN CONVENING THE ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND URGING THE SENATE TO SUPPORT THE HOSTING OF THE CONFERENCE IN MANILA IN NOVEMBER 2008 BY ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND A CONTRIBUTION OF P2 MILLION FROM THE SENATE PRESIDENT'S FUND

*WHEREAS*, the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines declares it a policy of the State to "promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

*WHEREAS*, the Constitution also declares that "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;"

*WHEREAS*, the Philippines as a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol has adopted various policies for compliance with its commitment to the Convention;

*WHEREAS*, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the scientific body of the UNFCCC, asserts in its Fourth Assessment Report that climate change is "unequivocal" and that it is "projected to impinge on sustainable development of most developing countries of Asia as it compounds the pressures on natural resources and the environment associated with rapid urbanization, industrialisation, and economic development";

*WHEREAS*, the same report states that small islands like the islands of the Philippine Archipelago are "especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea level rise and extreme events" and that the erosion of coastlines and coral bleaching will affect fisheries and tourism in particular;

*WHEREAS*, the report asserts that "sea level rise is expected to exacerbate inundation, storm surge, erosion and other coastal hazards, thus threatening vital infrastructure, settlements and facilities that support the livelihood of island communities";

**WHEREAS**, a recent study in a Philippine watershed shows that climate variations have significant impact to crop yields, ranging from water scarcity that affect yield to strong winds and floods that destroy crops;

**WHEREAS**, the first National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation, convened by the Province of Albay on October 22-24, 2007, adopted the Albay Declaration on Climate Change Adaptation as a framework for the mainstreaming of global warming concerns into the national and local planning, accounting and budgeting systems and to support local government, private and civil society initiatives for climate change adaptation;

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the need for local government units to address the urgent, life-threatening risks posed by climate change, the Department of Interior and Local Government issued Memorandum Circular No. 2008-69 duly signed by the Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo V. Puno, Jr. encouraging all local chief executives and sanggunians to implement climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures;

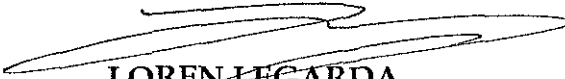
**WHEREAS**, local government units nationwide have joined together under the leadership of Hon. Jose Sarte Salceda, Governor of Albay, to convene the first ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION with the theme "Local Governments Take the Lead" in November 2008 in Manila in order to forge an Asia Pacific network and cooperation framework on Climate Change Adaptation for local governments;

**WHEREAS**, the APCCCA convenors look forward to exchanges with counterpart decision makers in the region and the forging of consensus among Asia Pacific nations on various climate change issues to further speedier negotiations towards a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol during the major UNFCCC negotiating session to be held in Poland in December 2008;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for the Senate of the Philippines to recognize and support all efforts, especially of the local government units and communities who are facing the extreme threats to the population, economy, and environment of climate change impacts;

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the Philippines commend the exemplary leadership of the local government units of the Philippines in convening the Asia Pacific Conference on Climate Change Adaptation and support the hosting of the Conference in Manila in November 2008 by active participation and a contribution of P2 Million from the Senate President's Fund.

Adopted,

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator