

## Inter-Faith Group Expresses Support To Philippine Carbon Emissions Reduction Target Ahead of Paris Climate Change Talks



Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, DENR Asst. Secretary and Concurrent EMB Director restates the importance of inter-faith unity in achieving the Philippine CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction target of 70%.

Weeks before the Paris Climate Convention, the National Conference of the Interfaith Dialogue on Climate Change convened the country's leaders, religious leaders, and experts to express in unison, their support on the Philippine target of 70% emission reduction as perceived on the submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) on October 1, 2015.

The conference entitled "Supporting the 70% Carbon Emission Cut" that was slated on November 12, 2015 at the Malacañang Palace was a two-day event which highlighted the assessment of the INDC goals, impacts of the National Greening Program, and IFD goals. Considering that climate change issue adds and enhances problems facing humanity such as food and water scarcity, disease, poverty, and disasters, the significance of setting an ambitious target was again reiterated in order

to articulate the urgency to address the pressing issue of climate change. This is one of the main points of the presentation delivered by Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, DENR Assistant Secretary and Concurrent EMB Director. In addition; Atty. Cuna also emphasized the key role of adhering to environmental laws on top of different programs and projects to help limit the global average temperature at 1.5°C.

It was also evident in his message that given the immense consequences of climate change, there is a uniquely spiritual atmosphere about this particular crisis being experienced not only by humanity but all life forms. In line with this perspective, Atty. Cuna mentioned the critical role of the support provided by different religious groups by pointing out that most of all the great spiritual traditions and teachings acknowledge the Earth, as well as all of its beings as sacred and a reflection of the divine creator. This means that despite the differences, all are responsible and accountable for the welfare of the planet. Moreover, he also referred to Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* to unite the Church and the government in acknowledging the necessity of addressing climate change and for everyone to embark on a more sustainable path towards development. This display of support shown by the religious groups provides more confidence and assurance that the realization of this ambitious target is very plausible and highly attainable.###

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