

## CLIMATE CHANGE – COP21

- BACKGROUND

For several decades climate change is the urgent and pressing problem of all nations – global warming brought about by greenhouse gas emissions. Because of this problem on climate change, finally In 1997 during the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, the United Nation adapted the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), setting the framework for efforts to tackle climate change particularly on the reduction on GHG emissions and undertaking adaptation measures. This agreement became effective on March 21, 1994, now ratified by 196 states who are called “State Parties”.

- COP21 – Conference of the Parties (COP) is the UNFCCC’s supreme decision making body, composed of all “State parties”, having a global session every year with the main objective of combating climate change. The session to be

held this year in Paris will be the 21<sup>st</sup> session, hence the code name COP21

In preparation for COP21, each country is being required by UN to submit and publish its national contributions to the global effort against climate change. All these national contributions are being collated by the UNFCC Secretariat.

In the Philippines, and most probably in all member-countries, the efforts to combat climate change are being done by the local governments, and therefore the data being submitted by the national government to the UN really came from local authorities.

- VIEWPOINTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE
  - Local authorities – the most heavily impacted government sector by climate change issues being on the forefront in the delivery of public services on all aspects – health, education, housing, food, peace and security

- Challenges/Actions to be taken
- More enhancement/collaboration effort between and among CSO's, EU and LA's is needed to address the problems of climate change
- UCLG – ASPAC of which LMP is a member fully supports the following initiatives:
  - Shift to renewable energy sources – ASPAC Region has abundant renewable energy sources to be tapped in order to avoid and /or lessen fossil-fuel imports, thus increasing energy security of each country. With this paradigm shift ASPAC Region needs the assistance of EU, as to experience, technology, and participation of multinational companies from their member-countries. Local authorities are ready to collaborate with them.

- Synchronization of climate change plans and programmes sponsored by international funding agencies – there are quite a number of international funding agencies whose objective is to assist local authorities on matters related to climate change. We have USAID, EC, JICA, AUSAID, and other funding organizations from developed countries. While the LA do appreciate their contributions on programs related to climate change issues, their program intervention would be more lasting and sustainable in case a more comprehensive collaborations among funding agencies is undertaken every time a project is implemented at the local level. In the accomplishment of this objective, the LA's are urging the EC to convince other funding agencies to have collaboration effort with respect to program relating to climate change.

- Development Aid of developed countries to poor countries – by way of reference to development justice paradigm already presented in the plenary, where it had been presented that for every dollar given by way of aid by developed countries to poor countries IS25 are being sent back to developed countries as debt repayment.

To give poor countries opportunity to amply adapt to climate change effects, It is being suggested that poor countries be given ample flexibility in terms of debt payment, if they could not avail of debt condonation as suggested by more progressive sector.

On this score, the Las are requesting EU to convince its members to give poor countries especially within the ASPAC region more flexibility and elbow room on debt payment, so that more resources can be channeled to projects aimed at combating climate change.

- Donation / Rehabilitation Aid in time of natural disaster- While the local authorities do appreciate the role being played by their respective national government in receiving donations/aid from international funding agencies , and eventually in the distribution of these donations to the affected localities , the objective of relief and rehabilitation would be better achieved should the donation/aid be coursed directly to LAs, with the participation of reputable CSOs. Through this approach, the problem on expediency and transparency can be better addressed. This approach is in accord with decentralization plan espoused by EU.
- Highest European standards employed by European companies within Europe must be practiced also outside Europe – presumably . European standards to combat climate change is better , higher and advance compared to the

standards being implemented in the poor countries within the ASPAC region.

On this aspect , EU can require their multi national companies operating in the ASPAC region to observe the European standards with respect to environment protection , making climate change mitigation and adaptation in the forefront of their corporate social responsibilities