

Background Information on World Bank Assistance on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Philippines under its new Country Assistance Strategy FY 2010-2012

The Philippines is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly weather-induced disasters such as floods, typhoons, and drought. This inherently high disaster risk is likely to be exacerbated by the effects of global climate change, making climate change adaptation particularly important for the country.

In response, the Philippines is currently developing a more in-depth strategy for addressing disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. These strategies include the following:

- Strengthening preparedness and adaptation at the local level focused on planning and capacity, knowledge, and understanding of measures to reduce disaster risk,
- Reducing vulnerability of farmers through support for innovative solutions such as weather risk insurance schemes for assisting small farmers to cope with the economic losses stemming from disasters, and
- Improving risk financing strategy at the national and local level through appropriate financial instruments and new financing windows for preparedness, response, and recovery.

According to **World Bank Country Director Bert Hofman**, World Bank support for these initiatives, under its new Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), will be through a combination of technical assistance and lending operations supported by several climate change facilities. Some of these are the **Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery** (GFDRR), which will provide technical assistance to enhance the development of disaster risk management and climate change strategies, the **Global Environment Facility**, which will provide grant-funding to support climate change and environment activities, and possible **Disaster Risk Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation Projects**, which will support the government's efforts to integrate disaster risk and climate risk management in national and local development planning in areas such as agriculture and natural resource management.

“These measures could be expanded to other vulnerable sectors or regions such as the coastal areas where an integrated coastal zone management approach could contribute to reducing vulnerability to natural disasters and other hazards while promoting sustainable livelihoods and reducing poverty,” said **Mr. Hofman**.

The Philippines accounts for only 0.27 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, it is committed to pursue cost-effective solutions to reducing emissions. The emergence of new financing instruments—particularly the Carbon Partnership Facility and the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), a joint initiative of the WB, the International Finance Corporation and the Asian Development Bank—opens up the

potential for developing broader mitigation programs in areas such as sustainable transport, renewable energy, and waste management. The government has expressed interest to tap the CTF. ADB and WB/IFC have jointly mobilized to coordinate with and assist the government as it prepares its Country Investment Proposal for the CTF.

Building on the experience of ongoing projects such as geothermal, wind, and wastewater projects, the Bank will also support government programs and projects in power, transport, and waste management sectors.

“In cooperation with other development partners, the World Bank is committed to assist the Philippines in mobilizing existing and future sources of international financing assistance,” said **Mr. Hofman**.