



Dev Buzz

Youth ask

‘What can I do to address climate change?’



Youth in three major universities recently explored what they can do to address climate change, something that experts in a knowledge-sharing forum in Silliman University in Dumaguete City say is already at Filipinos' doorsteps.

The forum showed that the youth can do something about climate change by observing changes in nature like the rise in sea level, documenting local best practices in climate change adaptation and telling others about them, measuring electricity consumption at home, among others.

Organizers of the forum, namely the Knowledge for Development Centers (KDC) in Silliman University, University of San Carlos, and the Central Philippine University; the World Bank, and Smart Communications, hope that the discussion will spark flickers of ideas among the youth so they can submit proposals on household responses to climate change.

Winning ideas will get P25,000 each from Smart.

“Don’t be overwhelmed by all the information; don’t be distracted; get involved,” said Jan Bojo, sector leader for social, environment and sustainable development in East Asia & the Pacific Region at the World Bank.

Ramon Isberto, head of public affairs at Smart, said solutions for climate change make good sense for companies and individuals. Ben Malayang III, Silliman president and one of the panelists, reminded the youth: **“The depths of our humanity will be measured by how we care for each other and the world.”** Around 220 representatives from civil society, students, and local government units attended in Silliman. The forum was webcast to the KDC of University of San Carlos in Cebu where around 30 representatives from students, faculty, civil society, national and local government units participated.

“QUOTABLE QUOTES”

“We have no need for leadership of the moment, but leadership that will look after the long-term well-being of society.” -- Ben Malayang III

*“Climate change is no longer just an environment issue, it’s a development issue.”
-Ulrich Lachler,
World Bank*



HIGHLIGHTS

- The overarching development challenge for the Philippines is achieving more inclusive growth.
- Climate change makes fighting poverty in the Philippines much more challenging.
- The country is becoming more vulnerable to typhoons and rising sea level, unprecedented flooding, and massive landslides which hurt the poor much more than the rest of the population.
- The Philippines now faces the challenge of finding the right balance between efforts to hammer down poverty and at the same time protect against the effects of climate change.
- Climate change is already happening, there is no question about it. Recent typhoons cost Luzon \$4 billion (P180 billion).
- Sea level is rising, affecting more than 60% of cities and municipalities in the country that are located near the sea.
- Climate change will also impact agriculture, which employs a lot of Filipinos, raise the emission of greenhouse gases, and make rainfall more difficult to predict.
- Creating the compulsion in people to do something requires showing them how to decode the messages on climate change and asking them to get involved. It will require creating a demand for supply of good leaders, people

who wish to have a better world, and an informed society that is willing to work together.

- People need compulsion to change. They need to understand that they have to do something now to avoid something that will happen in 10-50 years.

OPEN FORUM

Many poor people think they don't have to get involved in climate change action. How can we convince them otherwise?

Engage communities in climate change action by showing them how climate change affects their lives. Farmers will be affected by floods and fisherfolk will be hurt by rising sea level. Show them that during disasters, it is the poor that suffer the most.

As World Bank, what are the things that you are doing that are related to giving social justice to people like farmers and fisherfolk affected by climate change?

Developed countries contribute the most to climate change while poor countries are the ones that are most affected.

The WB is involved in the transfer of resources from the rich countries to the poor by managing funds that will be given to developing countries.

“QUOTABLE QUOTES”

“Understanding climate change is crucial to our survival as a species.”
 – Hilconida Calumpang

“Preparedness is the name of the game.”
 – Joe Tuyor, World Bank

If you change your lifestyle, you will affect how businesses act, or how governments act.”
 – Ramon Isberto, Smart Communications

“We at the World Bank are working on transfer of resources from the rich to the poor to address climate change issues.”
 -- Jan Bojo, World Bank

