

## Joint Press Release on the First Philippines-Japan Environmental Policy Dialogue



The Philippines and Japan, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), jointly convened for “The First Philippines-Japan Policy Dialogue” on January 13, 2025, at the DENR compound in Quezon City, Philippines.

This significant meeting builds upon the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in the Field of Environmental Protection, signed on December 17, 2023, by DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and former Minister of the Environment Shintaro Ito.

The policy dialogue, led by DENR Undersecretary Atty. Jonas R. Leones and MOEJ Deputy Director General Ogawa Masako of the Global Environment Bureau, provided a platform for both parties to share updates on their environmental initiatives and reaffirm their commitment to addressing pressing environmental challenges through mutual cooperation.

Highlights of the discussions during the dialogue include enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience through advanced environmental monitoring technologies (Early Warning System (EWS)); strengthening transparency and innovation under the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI); promoting decarbonization technologies to support climate action (Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) projects); promoting sustainable electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) management and recycling; and advancing decentralized wastewater treatment solutions to improve water quality (Johkasou systems). The DENR also highlighted the initiatives to drive climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies such as the National Adaptation Plan and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan, as well as efforts and regulatory framework on the management of electronic wastes, and biodiversity conservation and marine science.

The DENR and MOEJ also emphasized their collaboration through the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Program for Japan Climate and Environment (SPACE) and outlined plans to deepen cooperation in the aforesaid key areas.

During the dialogue, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to JCM, cooperation on sustainable e-waste management and recycling including formulation of the five-year plan for cooperation on e-waste and emphasized continuous collaboration between the DENR and MOEJ.

Key recommendations to bolster sustainable development and address global environmental challenges, include the following:

**On Climate Change Mitigation:**

- Development of a more robust Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System
- Strong private sector partnership and continuous capacity building.
- Scaling and speeding up JCM to cover other sectors, such as agriculture including Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), forestry, transport and energy.
- Assessment and integration of policies from national to local to ensure institutionalization of learnings.
- Public awareness and stakeholder engagement to support low carbon economy.
- Engagement of other National Governmental Agencies (NGAs) and institutions (e.g., Climate Change Commission and Securities Exchange Commission) to ensure alignment of efforts.
- Ensuring harmonization of support and approach in GHG inventory and reporting.
- Streamlining processes and the communication channels in the JCM Committee.

**On Climate Change Adaptation and Loss and Damage:**

- Enhancing public-private partnerships on early warning systems including use of available resources
- Engagement at the local level in the implementation of adaptation strategies
- Regular updating of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- Development of project proposal on loss and damage for ASEAN, with DENR as lead

**On Waste Management:**

- Advancing regulatory frameworks and the enhancement of e-waste management
- Enhancing public awareness and involvement on the effective management of electronic wastes
- Ensuring sustainability of project initiatives and the empowerment of the Local Government Units (LGUs) and waste recyclers.
- Capacity building for both governments including LGUs and the business sector under the 5-year workplan on e-waste.

**On Biodiversity Conservation:**

- Exploring biodiversity conservation cooperation highlighting support to the implementation of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP).

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