



CONVERGENCE FOR 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY PHILIPPINES

A Symposium on Challenges Faced by Stakeholders in Advancing Renewable Energy in the Philippines

July 18, 2018, SEDA Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines

Concept Note

It has been almost a decade since the enactment of the Renewable Energy Act, where the Philippines declared as policy the acceleration of the exploration, development, and utilization of renewable energy resources. Last 2015, the Philippines also joined the rest of the world in adopting the Paris Agreement, which affirms the urgent need to respond to climate change, and the corollary need to transition away from fossil fuels for our energy needs.

Despite these policies and commitments in place, coal still dominates our power and energy mix. At present, there are 28 new coal plant projects with 14,423MW, with 7 proposed coal projects in Luzon alone will increase the share of coal in the country by 3.5 GW. If approved, these coal projects tie the Filipino people to increasing electricity costs for the next two decades.

Meanwhile, global trends show that renewable energy technologies are developing faster than fossil fuels, and its costs are deflating more than that of fossil fuels. Renewable energy companies and financial institutions are also offering innovative and affordable business models, which are increasing access to affordable electricity for all.

Moreover, renewable energy technologies can be even more resilient and affordable through distributed systems. Unlike large-scale power plants and transmission lines that may be damaged during strong typhoons and storms, distributed renewable energy systems like micro-grids, are resilient to storms and are easily repaired. Thus, for the Philippines, which is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, distributed renewable energy systems is a key alternative.

Despite these setbacks and hindrances, a number of local government units have taken initiative and resolve in both rejecting coal projects in their area, and exercising their will to pursue renewable energy systems. Civil society organizations continue to equip host communities with the knowledge and capacity to stop the proliferation of coal, and to develop reliable and sustainable alternatives. At the same time, Renewable Energy Providers and Electric Cooperatives are also expressing interest in heeding the call to pursue cleaner and cheaper alternatives to coal.

The Power for People (P4P) Coalition—the widest network of power consumers, civil society organizations, coal-affected communities, and power cooperatives in the Philippines, united towards the goal of pursuing clean, affordable, and safe energy for all Filipino—recognizes the many national and local efforts that are being taken to increase renewable energy's share in our energy mix and to maximize its capacity to deliver clean, affordable, and safe energy for all.

In view of the foregoing, the P4P Coalition aims to provide a space of convergence among LGUs, CSOs, RE Providers and Electric Cooperatives in order to bridge existing initiatives and efforts, and to open new opportunities for partnership.

Objectives:

1. To provide a space for convergence of local governments, civil society organizations, people's organizations, and renewable energy companies towards the promotion of 100% renewable energy in the Philippines;
2. To surface the different challenges faced in opposing new coal projects, retiring existing coal plants and establishing renewable energy systems; and
3. To bridge national and local efforts in the promotion of clean, affordable, and safe energy for all, and to open new opportunities for partnerships.

Program:

Welcome Address

Gerry Arances, Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) and P4P Coalition

9:00am – 9:15am

Keynote Address

Sen. Loren Legarda, Senate of the Philippines

9:15am – 9:45am

10 years of Renewable Energy Law in the Philippines: Energy Landscape in the Country

Panel Guests: *DOE Usec. Fuentesbella (tbc), Dr. Lawrence Delina of Boston University, Renewable Energy Industry representative, and Atty. Aaron Pedrosa of Sanlakas*

9:45am to 10:30am

Host: *Atty. Avril de Torres of CEED and Atty. Gia Ibay of World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)*

Coffee Break

10:30am to 10:45am

Voices from the ground: The Resistance Against Coal in the Philippines

Panel Guests: *Mindanao, Bataan and Atimonan Community Representatives, Ian Rivera of PMCJ, and Fr. Edu Gariguez, CBCP-NASSA*

10:45am to 12:15nn

Host: *Mr. Glenn Ymata of PMCJ and Kimberly Arriola of CEED*

Lunch Break

12:15nn to 1:15pm

Beyond Coal: Local Governments Challenging Coal Projects and For Renewable Energy

Panel Guests: Hon. Girlot Luansing – Mayor of *Ozamis City*, Hon. *Easther Marin Catorse* – South Cotabato Provincial Board Member, *Bohol LGU*, *Negros LGU*, *Quezon City LGU (tbc)*, *Bangui LGU (tbc)*, with *Atty. Dan Gatmaitan UP Law Center*

1:15pm to 2:30pm

Host: *Ms. Tina Pimentel, Bantay Kita (tbc)* and *Khevin Yu, Green Peace Philippines*

Coffee Break

2:30pm to 2:45pm

Ways forward to 100% Renewable Energy in the Philippines

Panel Guests: *Leandro Leviste of Solar Philippines*, *EDC representative*, *Ayala Energy representative*, *BPI or BDO representative*, *Mr. Clint Pacana of Mindanao University of Science and Technology (MUST)*, *Gerry Arances of CEED*

2:45pm to 4:15pm

Host: *Norie Garcia of CEED* and *Atty. Gia Ibay of WWF*

Awarding of Gawad REsponsableng Lokal na Pamahalaan

Power for People Coalition

4:15pm – 4:45pm

Closing Remarks

Sec. Manny de Guzman, Climate Change Commission (tbc)

4:45pm – 5:00pm

Overall Host:

Atty. Avril De Torres of CEED and *Glenn Ymata of PMCJ*