

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public school students to study climate change

Lessons on climate change will soon be incorporated in elementary and high school curricula to raise awareness on global environmental issues among public school students.

This was contained in a memorandum of agreement signed recently by the Department of Education (DepEd), the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change (PTFCC) and the National Power Corporation (NPC).

"Our children will inherit the earth from us," Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said. "We must make sure that this inheritance is in great shape for them to cherish."

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, Chairman of PTFCC, signed the MOA with Lapus. Also present during the signing is NPC Senior Vice President. Silvano Zanoria.

"This joint initiative," according to Lapus, "will make our public school students realize that they have a vital role to play in the fight against environmental degradation."

DepEd and PTFCC, with funding from NPC, will develop training modules and lesson guides for public school teachers. The teachers will also undergo training on the use of these modules. A web portal is likewise planned to provide both students and teachers access to relevant information on environmental issues around the globe.

Lapus reiterated the role of "intergovernmental cooperation in averting the adverse effects of climate change." He also said that "critical to the success of our efforts is the support from other agencies that share the same objective."

Miriam College's PEACE (Public Education and Awareness Campaign for the Environment) and the Manila Observatory of the Ateneo de Manila University are also on board the project.

"We at DepEd look forward to working with these two reputable academic institutions in making the education of our public school students attuned to the needs of the times," Lapus said.

Climate change is increasingly being viewed worldwide as a primary concern. It is caused by several factors, foremost of which is the increasing emission of greenhouse gases. Among these gases are carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbon. Some of the historic agreements on the fight against global warming and climate change include the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia in 2007 and the Bangkok Climate Change Talks held from March 31 to April 4, 2008 in Thailand.

"This is but one of the many efforts of our government to combat climate change," the Education Chief said. He added that "this is part of our international commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gasses among other environmental concerns."

The Philippines was among the first countries to sign the protocol on April 15, 1998. The Philippines joined the rest of the world last Saturday March 29 at 8:00 pm in turning off house and street lights for one hour. Participants to this event, dubbed Earth Hour, were able to contribute in a symbolic way to the reduction of harmful gas emission coming from different lighting fixtures.

END

Photo shows (L-R) Department of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, National Power Corporation Senior Vice President Silvano Zanoria and Energy Secretary and Presidential Task Force on Climate Change Chairman Angelo Reyes.

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