

Centrist Parties Discuss Environment, Energy and Climate Change Issues with a German Expert

"Environment is not around us, it is part of us," said Prof. Dr. Christian Juckenack.

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Philippines Office conducted a workshop entitled "Addressing Climate Change, Environmental & Energy Policies in Political Platforms: *Dialogue with Centrist Democratic Parties and Movements in the Philippines*" for members of political parties in the Philippines and other Environment experts and heads of related organizations. The workshop was spearheaded by our Climate Change Expert, Professor Dr. Christian Juckenack, a professor at University of Applied Sciences from Erfurt, Germany. The event was held at Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City last October 27-28, 2012.

On the first day of the event, Dr. Peter Koepfinger, Resident Representative of KAS Philippines opened the session by welcoming all the participants. This was followed by the Introduction Lecture about Climate Change by Dr. Juckenack. In his discussion, he emphasized that environment is more than climate and energy. He shared some of the energy policies of Germany, EU Environmental policy and best practices in analyzing and developing environmental policies. He also gave a meaningful acronym that suits in the topic of the workshop and that is "LIFE Individual.Decentral.Easy.Each.Daily (I.N.D.E.E.D)." This acronym basically says that every individual has his role over the environment; all aspects in our daily living are interconnected with nature.

There was also a chance for the 2 political parties, Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) and Centrist Democratic Party (CDP) to present their political platforms, views and opinions towards environmental, climate and energy issues. For PDP-Laban, Ms. Astravel Naik explained that their focus to address these issues is continuing education and information dissemination about the effects of Climate Change. She also discussed about Disaster Risk Reduction saying that people are most affected by floods and other natural disasters. On the other hand, Mr. Rejene Lakibul discussed the Environmental platform of CDP. He pointed out that their main focus is to protect and advance the right of the people to a healthful and balanced ecology. CDP as he said, believes that people are responsible in protecting and maintaining what has been given to them. He talked about the current situation of the Climate Change in the Philippines followed by the actions that CDP plans to take then ended his discussion by stressing that we are the stewards of the Earth. After the presentation of political platforms, an open forum was conducted and different ideas and suggestions were forwarded and discussed.

On the second day, Prof. Juckenack presented them a new tool in analyzing environmental policies, derived from the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis, he used the "A-List (Pressure, Driver and Chance) and the "B-List Drivers + Solutions (How, Who, When, Where). The participants were divided into groups and were given time to synthesize their ideas to complete the A and B-Lists in addressing environmental, Climate Change and energy issues. In their discussion, they have shared their local issues. After all groups were done, there was a plenary discussion facilitated by Prof. Dr. Juckenack. The results of the plenary discussion will be translated into action plans that will be implemented by the Centrist Parties.