

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**PDRF, NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS FOR  
STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE 2025 FORUM**

The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), in partnership with the New Zealand Embassy, convened key stakeholders for the second State of Climate Change forum at the Makati Diamond Residences.

This year's forum, themed "Advancing Private Sector Engagement and the National Adaptation Plan," focused on strengthening partnerships between the private sector, government, and civil society to build climate resilience in the Philippines. The event was made possible through the support of New Zealand Embassy, Aboitiz Foundation, Coca-Cola Philippines, First Philippine Holdings Corporation, and San Miguel Corporation — all of which have been strong advocates of climate action and disaster resilience.

In his keynote address, Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E.A. Borje underscored the vital role of collaboration in addressing climate challenges.

"Accelerating climate action and resilience demands the strong participation of the private sector and international partners," Secretary Borje remarked. "Preventing losses and damages starts with turning our adaptation plans into tangible solutions, with the private sector stepping up as a driving force in building a climate-resilient future"

The CCC is leading efforts to localize the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and update the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) — both key frameworks designed to strengthen the country's climate resilience and sustainable development efforts.

The forum also highlighted the growing partnership between the Philippines and New Zealand in tackling climate change. New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador H.E. Stuart Horne reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to supporting the Philippines in advancing climate solutions.

In November 2024, the Philippines and New Zealand signed a Joint Declaration on Climate Change Cooperation. This agreement outlines an 18-month plan to formalize a framework for deeper collaboration — with a focus on innovation, sustainable development, and economic growth.

"New Zealand is committed to working alongside the Philippines in building climate resilience," said Ambassador Horne. "Through cooperation and innovation, we can create solutions that not only protect communities but also drive economic growth and investment."

A panel discussion featuring Secretary Borje, Ambassador Horne, and San Miguel Corporation Foundation Chair Cecile Ang explored how businesses can drive climate action. The discussion highlighted successful private sector initiatives in climate adaptation, mitigation, and disaster resilience — with speakers emphasizing that climate action cannot succeed without business engagement.

"The private sector has the resources, expertise, and networks to make a significant impact," said Cecile Ang. "By investing in sustainable practices and supporting community resilience, businesses can help secure a safer, more sustainable future for everyone."

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The forum concluded with a renewed commitment from PDRF to continue working closely with the New Zealand Embassy, the Philippine government, and the private sector to accelerate climate resilience initiatives.

“We’re grateful for the continued support of our partners,” said PDRF Chief Resilience Officer Guillermo M. Luz. “By working together, we can create lasting solutions that protect vulnerable communities, drive innovation, and secure a more sustainable future for the Philippines.”

The State of Climate Change 2025 forum reinforced that climate resilience requires collaboration, shared responsibility, and sustained action — a challenge the Philippines, New Zealand, and the private sector are dedicated to addressing together.

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