

Short Message
By

SECRETARY ANGELO T. REYES
Department of Energy, Philippines

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen “Gutten Tag” (good afternoon).

In behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, I wish to express our gratitude and full appreciation, to the Federal Republic of Germany thru its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in the Philippines, for having invited us during this Founding Conference of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). It is our honor that the Philippines can directly participate in the foundation and birth of IRENA.

The Philippines has miniscule finds of conventional energy resources compared with other countries. We are however blessed with renewable energy resources, particularly geothermal energy which contributes 22% in our primary energy mix and puts us second in the world in the production of geothermal steam. Last year (2008) our hydropower capacity stood at 3,370 MW while our wind power generation was increased to 33 MW (from 25 MW in 2007) making us the biggest wind power generator in the ASEAN region. We started our mandated use of biofuels in 2007. Moreover, our annual production of solar wafer for photovoltaic system has increased.

Located in the tropics, having more than 7,000 islands and being an agricultural country, the Philippines has vast potentials in renewable energy resources such as hydropower, biomass (including production of biofuels), solar, wind and ocean energy resources.

With these renewable resources and the combined thrust in energy security and environmental protection, we have developed our Renewable Energy Policy Framework with the aim of doubling our renewable energy capacity.

We, however, face lots of challenges in developing these resources, among which include: (1) the archipelagic nature of our country makes it difficult for us to have an integrated energy distribution; (2) mature technologies in harnessing our renewable energy resources are available but these are currently expensive technologies and we lack the necessary investments to proceed; and (3) we are acutely aware that the provision of sustainable energy services should be attuned with the preservation of our environment.

Accordingly, the executive and legislative branches of our government have joined hands in setting the policies towards sustainable energy goals. With the enactment of our Biofuels Law of 2006, we started our mandated use of biodiesel blend in May 2007. We likewise enacted the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 recently to create attractive investment opportunities in the development of our renewable energy resources.

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Our participation in this Founding Conference of and membership to IRENA is an added horizon to our overall cause for renewable energy development in our country. Thus, we wish to thank the organizers and host of this event for giving us the opportunity to shape the future of the energy sector towards a sustainable and greener world.

Your Excellencies, the Philippines is further committed to the success of this initiative of the Federal Government of Germany. The Philippine Republic is ready to sign the Statute of IRENA.

Thank you very much.