

## Celebration of the 2021 Climate Adaptation Summit in the Philippines

Every 26th of January to March 2021

The Netherlands, supported by the Global Commission on Adaptation, is hosting the [2021 Climate Adaptation Summit \(CAS\)](#) which follows the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit (UNVCAS) and as a momentum for adaptation action towards a climate-resilience future through the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021 and beyond, by delivering an [Adaptation Action Agenda](#) for climate-resilient future by 2030. CAS 2021 focuses on eight action tracks fundamental to the adaptation action agenda: on food security and rural livelihoods, scaled-up finance for adaptation, resilient cities, climate-proof infrastructure investments, nature-based solutions, locally led action, water management, and disaster risk management.<sup>1</sup>

As part of the CAS 2021, the Netherlands Embassy in the Philippines in partnership with the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities will convene a **three-part series webinar** entitled "**“Climate Change and COVID-19: Adapting to Two New Normals”**". The three episodes will highlight key actors in the critical discourse of climate adaptation in the country, and the challenges we face in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through these events, we will achieve the following objectives:

- Localize international discourse on climate adaptation to inform and influence policies in Philippine context.
- Highlight existing climate mechanisms, challenges and opportunities that enable local climate action and showcase replicable and scalable climate actions and strategies from the Philippines
- Encourage discourse and collaboration between various stakeholders (government, community, academe) across different levels.
- Generate evidence- and context-based recommendations on climate policy and finance to enhance implementation and find opportunities for scaling up of adaptation.

### [EPISODE 1] Local voices and best practices: addressing climate change in the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic | January 26, 2021 | 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Ranking fourth among countries experiencing extreme weather events and fifth among countries with long-term vulnerabilities to climate change recorded from 1998 to 2017, according to the 2019 Global Climate Risk Index by Germanwatch. It is grappling with the creeping slow onset events such as the increasing temperature, rising sea levels, and reduced or prolonged rainfall on top of the typhoons and other extreme weather events. Local communities experience the adverse impacts of these climate events—including stronger storms and floods, salt water intrusion and contamination of water sources, and destruction of natural ecosystems. Despite these, communities and the local government units (LGUs) are at the frontlines in this fight. Furthermore, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to plague the Philippines. With the country-wide quarantine restrictions, local governments have been responsible in addressing the health and other needs of their constituents.

Both climate change and COVID-19 are two normal that the Philippines and the world are experiencing. While there are still no studies to show the direct relation of the pandemic and climate change, the climate crisis must be addressed with the same urgency as the pandemic. Both require heeding the science in order for actions and policies to be evidence-based and risk-informed.

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<sup>1</sup> Full information on CAS 2021, GCA and the AAA, and the Netherland's hosting can be read here: <https://www.cas2021.com/faq>

Episode 1 of the CAS 2021 webinar series seeks to discuss the current efforts of local governments and communities in responding to both the climate crisis and the pandemic. Highlighting the lessons learned and sustainable best practices that can be replicated and enhanced fitting for resilience building.

### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAM**

TIME	TOPIC AND KEY POINT	SPEAKER
8:45-9:00	Online Registration	Opening slide and reminders
9:00-9:05	Opening Preliminaries (Netiquette, Acknowledgement of Participants, Agenda overview)	Moderator
9:05-9:20	Welcome Remarks:  <i>Bringing the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021: Accelerating Adaptation Action to the Philippines</i>	<b>Pieter Terpstra</b> Deputy Head of Mission for the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, <i>Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands</i>

#### **Session 1: Stories of resilience - Local experiences on climate change planning**

9:20-10:15	Introduction to the discussion and speakers	Moderator 1: <b>Isabella Ann Mendoza</b>
	Community-based integrated watershed management and regional cooperation in Coron, Palawan	<b>Engr. Fernando Lopez</b> Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer <i>Local Government of Coron, Palawan</i>
	Urban resilience, natural resources and climate mitigation in Mandaue City	<b>Ar. Araceli Barlam</b> City Environment and Natural Resources Office and <b>Ar. Marlo Ocleasa</b> City Planning and Development Office <i>Local Government of Mandaue, Cebu</i>
	Local climate planning and the climate change adaptation framework of Guiuan, Eastern Samar	<b>Rectito Melquiades</b> Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan and Coordinator for Guiuan Recovery and Sustainable Development Group for Resilience (GRSDGR) <i>Local Government of Guiuan, Eastern Samar</i>
10:15-10:25	Video Showing of CAS21-ICSC introductory video on Climate Change and COVID-19: Adapting to Two New Normals	Moderators

#### **Session 2: Reflections on addressing climate change in the time of a pandemic**

10:25-11:15	Discussion with the Local Government Representatives	Moderator 2: <b>Francis Joseph Dela Cruz</b> <i>Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities</i>
11:15-11:30	Open Forum and Wrap-up	Moderators
11:30-11:45	Closing Remarks	<b>Renato Redentor Constantino</b> Executive Director, <i>Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities</i>

**Join us on the next episodes!**

**February 26, 2021** “Science and emerging areas of research for climate policy and development”

The discussion seeks to highlight better policy development grounded on science and evidence through relevant and emerging studies and multi-stakeholder collaboration that can capture current realities on climate change and the pandemic, with exchanges to be guided by the ff. questions:

- What are the interconnected concepts of each research, in terms of objectives and recommendations?
- How do we leverage country research in the regional and international discourse?
- As a country and as members of the scientific and community of experts, what could be our call for action?

The episode will feature experts in the fields of climate science, health, economics, and development; and the ambitious initiative of marrying science and development in the Eastern Visayas Region through the formulation of its regional development agenda.

**March 26, 2021** “Scaling up adaptation through cooperation: linking the discourse on climate finance and policy”

The last episode aims to examine available mechanisms and initiatives aiming to ensure the implementation and continuing progress in climate action mainstreaming across development policies and plans by securing access to various funding opportunities for resilience building that must be balanced with better accountability on climate tagging. The discussion will conclude the webinar series as well as provide build-up to COP26 with a call for more local and international cooperation through various platform to elevate the discussion of climate adaptation in the broader policy arenas.