

KEYNOTE SPEECH OF
HONORABLE SECRETARY ANGELO T. REYES
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
“Biomass; Tomorrow’s Energy Source Today”
3rd ASIA BIOMASS SEMINAR
Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City
November 5, 2007

TO OUR DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS FROM
MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, MYANMAR,
CAMBODIA, LAOS PDR, BRUNEI, VIETNAM AND
PHILIPPINES; GUESTS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,
GOOD MORNING.

IT IS MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO BE HERE
TODAY IN THE 3RD ASIA BIOMASS SEMINAR WITH OUR
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS WITH DIVERSE
PERSPECTIVES BUT HAVING A COMMON GOAL OF
ACCELERATING THE UTILIZATION OF RENEWABLES.
IN PARTICULAR, BIOMASS IN THE ASEAN REGION. I
WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE PRIME MINISTER ABE
OF JAPAN BECAUSE HE PIONEERED THE
COOPERATION INITIATIVES FOR CLEAN ENERGY AND
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH THRU THE PROMOTION OF
BIOMASS ENERGY. I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY
PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO THE INSTITUTE OF

ENERGY ECONOMICS OF JAPAN (IEEJ) AS THE MAIN IMPLEMENTERS OF THE BIOMASS ENERGY SEMINAR AND OUR VERY OWN DOE STAFF WHO HELPED IN THE REALIZATION OF THIS EVENT. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE DELEGATES WHO CAME ALL THE WAY FROM THEIR HOME COUNTRIES TO ATTEND. I AM SURE THAT YOU HAVE MADE INITIATIVES REGARDING THE USE OF BIOMASS IN YOUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND I LAUD YOU FOR THIS.

TO START, WE KNOW THAT CHALLENGES CONCERNING ENERGY AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL. THESE COVER VARIOUS ASPECTS SUCH AS ACCESS, AVAILABILITY, QUALITY, EFFICIENCY, AND SUSTAINABILITY. THESE CHALLENGES CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE BROADER DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, WHICH INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY.

WE ALL NEED CLEAR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO DEVELOP CLEAN, EFFICIENT, AFFORDABLE, SUFFICIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY. IN 1990, THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE. AND THIS WAS MADE TO ADDRESS CONCERNS ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG) HAVE BEEN LINKED TO HUMAN ACTIVITIES AS A RESULT.

THE KYOTO PROTOCOL, ADOPTED BY A CONSENSUS AT THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP3), TOOK EFFECT ON 16 FEBRUARY 2005 WHEN 55 COUNTRIES, WHO WERE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR 55% OF THE WORLD'S 1990 CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS. THESE 55 COUNTRIES ALSO RATIFIED THE TREATY. THE PHILIPPINES, AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND A NON-ANNEX I STATE PARTY TO THE

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, IS COMMITTED TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (CDM) IS A SYMBOL OF COMMITTED COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN MITIGATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TOWARD THE PREVENTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE. IT IS A FLEXIBLE MECHANISM DEVELOPED UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL INVOLVING THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO MEET THEIR EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. UNDER THE CDM, A DEVELOPED COUNTRY CAN INVEST IN VARIOUS ABATEMENT PROJECTS IN A HOST DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND IN SO DOING SHALL RECEIVE CREDITS FOR THE RESULTING EMISSION REDUCTIONS FROM THE PROJECT. THE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS ELIGIBLE IN THE ENERGY SECTOR INCLUDE RENEWABLE ENERGY, ALTERNATIVE FUELS UTILIZATION, AND

ENERGY EFFICIENCY. THESE ACTIVITIES WILL PROVIDE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE.

WE IN THE ASEAN SHALL CONTINUOUSLY CARRY OUT WHAT WE HAVE AGREED INTERNATIONALLY. PARTICIPATION IN THE CO₂ TRADING MARKET UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL'S CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM, PROMOTES CLIMATE-FRIENDLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE ASEAN.

IN THE PHILIPINES, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS DIRECTED TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ENERGY-RELATED CDM PROJECTS. TO DATE, DOE HAS ENDORSED TEN PROJECTS UNDER THE CDM, AND THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE FOUR (4) BIOMASS PROJECTS, ONE (1) WIND PROJECT, TWO (2) WASTE TREATMENT PLANTS, TWO (2) HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS, AND ONE (1) GEOTHERMAL PROJECT. TOTAL GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FOR THE TEN PROJECTS WAS ESTIMATED AT 682,130 TONS CO₂

THE GHG REDUCTION MAY NOT BE SUBSTANTIAL, BUT GRADUALLY WE ARE GAINING MOMENTUM AND WE WANT TO MAXIMIZE THE FULL BENEFITS OF SUCH IMPLEMENTS AND THE GREATER USE OF SUCH A MECHANISM HAS THE POTENTIAL OF GENERATING SOME OF THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO DEVELOP CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN THE COUNTRY. WHILE DEVELOPING CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOURCES, WE ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY WINNING THE WAR AGAINST POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION.

ENERGY CONCERNS MAY LEAD TO GOVERNANCE PROBLEMS AS IT AFFECTS THE ECONOMY IN GENERAL. TODAY, THE WORLD'S OIL CONSUMPTION IS FASTER THAN THE DISCOVERY OF OIL ITSELF. ESTABLISHED OIL AND GAS FIELDS ARE MATURING OR PRODUCTION IS DECLINING. IF THERE ARE NEW DISCOVERIES, THESE RESERVES ARE TECHNOLOGICALLY CHALLENGED, IN INACCESSIBLE

AREAS LIKE THE ARCTIC OR IN VERY DEEP WATERS. SOME OF THESE RESOURCES ARE LOCATED IN POLITICALLY UNSTABLE COUNTRIES SUCH AS NIGERIA, VENEZUELA, RUSSIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

EFFECTS OF THE ESCALATING COST OF OIL IMPOSES ECONOMIC BURDENS IN THE ASEAN AND GLOBALLY. MEETING THE GLOBAL ENERGY DEMAND IS A VERY CHALLENGING TASK AND WE SHALL FIND WAYS TO FACE THIS CHALLENGE. ECONOMICS, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND POLITICS POINT TO THE AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS SUCH AS RENEWABLES AND BIOFUELS.

THE PHILIPPINES HAS HIGH REGARD FOR BIOFUELS AS IT WILL BE PART OF OUR ENERGY SUPPLY MIX. WE ARE GEARED TOWARD RESHAPING OUR ENERGY INDUSTRY FROM BEING IMPORTATION DRIVEN TO AN INDIGENOUS ENERGY DRIVEN SECTOR. TAPPING

OUR INDIGENOUS AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES LIKE BIOFUELS IS ONE MAJOR STRATEGY OF THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY LEVEL TO 60% BY 2010. IT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT MADE DOE EMBARK ON THE PHILIPPINE ALTERNATIVE FUELS PROGRAM WHICH AIMS TO ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND FUEL DIVERSIFICATION WHILE MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF BIOFUELS.

RELATIVELY, A LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT IN THE ENERGY SECTOR WAS THE PASSAGE LAST JANUARY 17, 2007 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9367, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BIOFUELS ACT OF 2006, DIRECTING THE USE OF BIOFUELS. THIS INCLUDES THE MANDATE FOR BIODIESEL BLENDING OF A MINIMUM OF ONE PERCENT (1%) WITHIN THREE MONTHS BY VOLUME IN ALL DIESEL ENGINE FUELS SOLD IN THE COUNTRY. THE FEEDSTOCKS TO BE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF BIOFUELS WILL BE FROM LOCALLY GROWN AGRICULTURAL CROPS.

I KNOW THAT THIS FIVE-DAY EVENT WILL PROVIDE ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION THAT WILL DEAL WITH BEST PRACTICES CONCERNING POLICY METHODOLOGIES AND TECHNOLOGIES IN RELATION TO THE PROMOTION OF BIOMASS ENERGY UTILIZATION. PARTICIPANTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE OPTIMISTIC ON THE NEAR-TERM AND LONGER-TERM PROSPECTS OF BIOMASS.

THIS FIVE-DAY EVENT ENVISIONS THE FURTHERANCE OF BIOMASS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE PROMOTION AND UTILIZATION OF BIOFUELS. THE SEMINAR SHALL NOT ONLY EXPLORE THE ELEMENTS OF SOUND ENERGY STRATEGIES, BUT ALSO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT WHICH INVOLVES, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, INCOME GENERATION, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE SAVINGS POTENTIAL OF

BIOFUELS. FOR SURE, THE SEMINAR WILL BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATIONS AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS AND RESOURCE SPEAKERS TO ACCELERATE THE EXPANDED DEVELOPMENT OF BIOFUELS ON A COST-EFFECTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE BASIS.

THANK YOU AND MABUHAY!