



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE

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PRESS RELEASE

21 September 2015

NDRRMC TO HOST APEC 2015 – 9TH SENIOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS' FORUM

The Philippines through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) is hosting the 9th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF) of the 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) on 22-23 September 2015 at Iloilo City, Philippines.

The forum will be the venue for the discussion of various DRRM topics and the sharing of best practices of the various member-economies. Specialist topics will be presented by subject-matter experts on DRRM hailing from international DRR agencies such as the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

Addressing the **new normal** is the highlight of the 9th SDMOF, the proposed theme of which is **Whole-of-Economy Approach: A Paradigm Shift to Adapt to the New Normal**. This is in cognizance of the fact that climate change does not recognize national boundaries, or political or economic affiliations.

NDRRMC Executive Director and Civil Defense Administrator, Usec Alexander Pama reiterated President Benigno S Aquino III's call for unity and cooperation in facing and surmounting the challenges of disasters.

There really is a need for an inter-economy cooperation in dealing with disasters to ensure sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region and promote a holistic, comprehensive, integrated and proactive approach as a new paradigm in addressing disasters and managing risks, Usec Pama added.

The Philippines, as a member economy of APEC, advocates for stronger programs on disaster risk reduction and management that will make the economy more resilient and beneficial to the people.