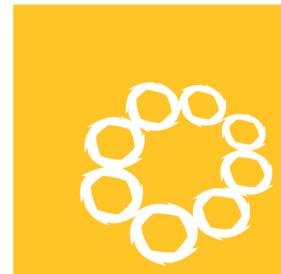


# Message



Oscar M. Lopez Center

Science for Climate Resilient Communities

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to humanity today. The Philippines is no stranger to its impacts, and is in fact, consistently listed among the top countries most at risk to climate-related disasters. Its rich biodiversity resources are among the most threatened areas. Philippine mangroves, our coastal communities' first line of defense against storm surges and sea level rise, are not spared of the devastation brought by changing climate conditions.

Two years ago, the Oscar M. Lopez Center partnered with Ateneo de Manila University to support the project **"A Comparative Analysis Among Disturbed, Restored and Natural Mangrove Stands in the Vulnerability and Adaptability Against Climate Change."** This initiative was an attempt to look at optimizing the capacity of mangrove stands in order to eventually help coastal communities adapt to the effects of climate change.

One of the key activities of the project, the **3<sup>rd</sup> State of the Mangrove Summit: Central and Eastern Visayas**, is an important venue that brought together key decision-makers and mangrove managers on the ground to discuss the status of their local mangrove forests in the context of vulnerability to sea level rise. It was also an opportunity for the stakeholders in the region to learn from the results of the project.

The OML Center wishes to commend Ateneo de Manila University, its scientists and researchers for continuing to look for answers, and for challenging the boundaries of knowledge. However, science and technology alone will not provide the solutions to our problems. When we apply this knowledge, make it usable, and transform it into practical action, which are understood by groups of people who can respond and do something, only then can we say that we are able to make a difference.

  
**RODEL D. LASCO, PhD**  
*Scientific Director*  
Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and  
Disaster Risk Management Foundation, Inc.