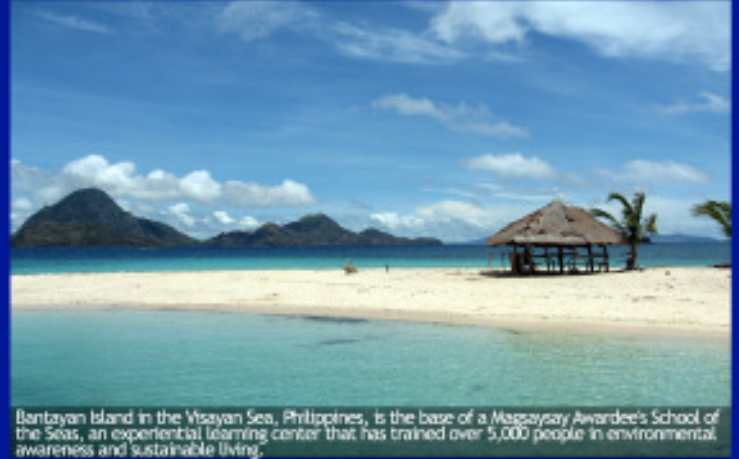


MANIFESTO ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION



Friends of Nature, an environmental NGO founded and led by a Magsaysay Awardee has sought to preserve the golden monkey's unique habitat.



Bantayan Island in the Visayan Sea, Philippines, is the base of a Magsaysay Awardee's School of the Seas, an experiential learning center that has trained over 5,000 people in environmental awareness and sustainable living.



Volunteers of the Japan Association for Greening Deserts, led by a Magsaysay Awardee, planted more than three million trees, restoring agriculture in the deserts of Inner Mongolia.



A Magsaysay Awardee's pioneering legal action in India protects the famed Taj Mahal from the ill effects of pollution and imposes regulatory measures for industries around the monument.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY LAUREATES

Ramon Magsaysay Laureates Manifesto on Climate Change Action

Climate change is the most serious and pervasive threat that humanity faces today. It will change everything.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has declared that the “warming of the Earth’s climate system is unequivocal” and that this warming is attributed to the dramatic rise in human-induced greenhouse gas emissions since the mid 20th-century. IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report presents new evidence that climate change is dramatically affecting Asia.

Climate change is changing our world. All our aspirations to eradicate poverty and inequality, achieve social harmony, and realize sustainable development for our present and future generations, are at risk. Rising temperatures, accelerated sea level rise, extreme weather events, enhanced climate variability, rainfall anomalies, and the melting of ancient glaciers will seriously affect Asian nations that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Such consequences will affect health, agriculture and food production, water resources, forests and river basins, marine and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity and the critical natural resource base of many communities in Asia. Ultimately, it is the poor that suffer disproportionately from resource degradation and natural disasters.

Climate change is not only an environmental issue. It is also a social, economic, and political issue that knows no borders. And while some continue to debate the science, massive populations in Asia, especially the millions who live along its vast coastlines, or who are dependent on the great rivers that flow from the Tibetan plateau are constantly threatened by the scourges of climate change. It is time to act now.

Taking urgent collective action to combat climate change is a common yet differentiated responsibility for all nations. For Asia, this inter-generational commitment to fight climate change is a rare opportunity for our societies to stand together and build a common future for all nations.

Mutually inspired by our common vision to promote “greatness of spirit in selfless service to the peoples of Asia,” we urge governments and the rest of the world to action, both in mitigating climate change and helping our communities adapt to its adverse impacts. Sustained access to clean and renewable energy and efforts to stop deforestation need to be supported as long term efforts to avert climate change. Clean energy development will also create new jobs for Asian workers.

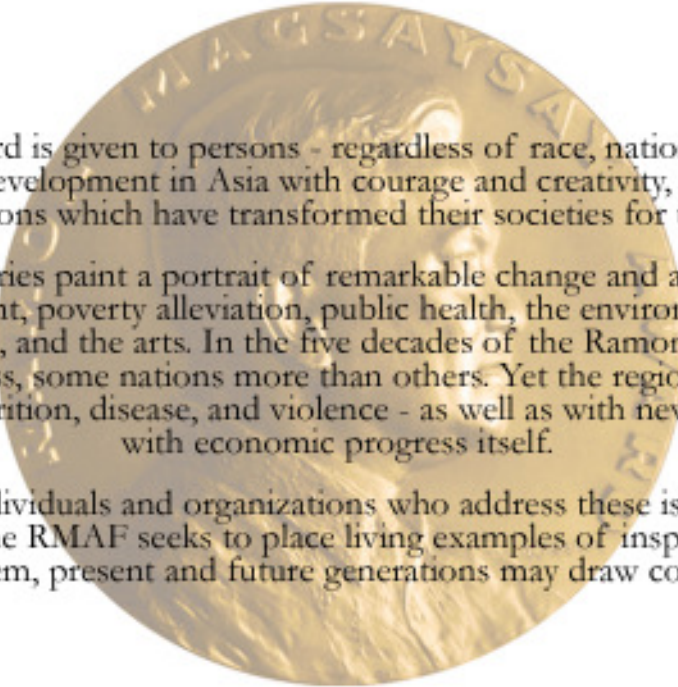
Filled with the greatest hope, we commit ourselves to constructing a regional architecture for cooperation encompassing scientific, economic, technological, social and practical actions to achieve climate security. We urge the governments of Asia to energetically support the global negotiations to achieve a successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol.

SIGNED AND ENDORSED BY THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY LAUREATES:

- Benjamin Abadiano*, Philippines, 2004
Fazle Hazan Abed, Bangladesh, 1980
Angel Alcalá, Philippines, 1992
Prakash Amte and Mandakjni Amte, India, 2008
Eduardo Jorge Anzorena, Japan, 1994
Ahangamage T. Ariyaratne, Sri Lanka, 1969
Atmakusumah Astraatmadja, Indonesia, 2000
Bayanihan Folk Arts Center, Philippines, 1965
Chandi Prasad Bhatt, India, 1982
CARD MRI (Jaime Aristotle Alip), Philippines, 2008
Sheila S. Coronel, Philippines, 2003
Ek Sonn Chan, Cambodia, 2006
Hilario Davide Jr., Philippines, 2002
Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Philippines, 1972
Ikuo Hirayama, Japan, 2001
Lakshmi Chand Jain, India, 1989
Therdchai Jivacate, Thailand, 2008
Ka Hsaw Wa, Burma, 2009
Shoaib Sultan Khan, Pakistan, 1992
Bharat Koirala, Nepal, 2002
Krisana Kraisintu, Thailand, 2009
Asma Jahangir, Pakistan, 1995
Deep Joshi, India, 2009
Bienvenido Lumbera, Philippines, 1993
James Michael Lyngdoh, India, 2003
Ma Jun, China, 2009
Eva Fidela Maamo, Philippines, 1997
Ahmad Syafii Maarif, Indonesia, 2008
Teten Masduki, Indonesia, 2005
Mahesh Chander Mehta, India, 1997
Nuon Phaly, Cambodia, 1998
Antonio Oposa Jr., Philippines, 2009
Oung Chanthol, Cambodia, 2001
Press Foundation of Asia (Juan Mercado), Philippines, 1991
Grace Padaca, Philippines, 2008
Mahabir Pun, Nepal, 2007
Laxminarayan Ramdas, India, 2004
Syed Adibul Rizvi, Pakistan, 1998
Jesse M. Robredo, Philippines, 2000
Jovito R. Salonga, Philippines, 2007
Sima Samar, Afghanistan, 1994
Dita Indah Sari, Indonesia, 2001
Zacarias Sarian, Philippines, 1974
Tasneem Siddiqui, Pakistan, 1999
Shantha Sinha, India, 2003
Anton Soedjarwo, Indonesia, 1983
Sombath Somphone, Laos, 2005
Pomnyun Sunim, South Korea, 2002
Moncompu S. Swaminathan, India, 1971
Washington Z. SyCip, Philippines, 1992
Tang Xiyang, China, 2007
Ton That Thien, Vietnam, 1968
Richard William Timm, Bangladesh, 1987
Chung To, Hongkong, 2007
Jon Ungphakorn, Thailand, 2005
Prateep Unsongtham-Hata, Thailand, 1978
Mechai Viravaidya, Thailand, 1994
Prawase Wasi, Thailand, 1981
Vo Tong Xuan, Vietnam, 1993
Yu Xiaogang, China, 2009

The Manifesto on Climate Change Action was initiated at the ASIA FORUM which brought together fifty Ramon Magsaysay laureates and over 200 Asian leaders and visionaries from different sectors, coming from over 20 countries across Asia. The conference dialogues focused on forging partnerships and building sustainability towards addressing transboundary issues of poverty, environment and social conflict.

This manifesto will be submitted to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.



The Ramon Magsaysay Award is given to persons - regardless of race, nationality, creed or gender - who address issues of human development in Asia with courage and creativity, and in doing so have made contributions which have transformed their societies for the better.

Collectively, the Awardees' stories paint a portrait of remarkable change and achievement in areas as diverse as rural and urban development, poverty alleviation, public health, the environment, governance, education, business, human rights, culture, and the arts. In the five decades of the Ramon Magsaysay Award's existence, Asia has made great progress, some nations more than others. Yet the region continues to grapple with problems of poverty, malnutrition, disease, and violence - as well as with newer problems that have come with economic progress itself.

In continuing to recognize individuals and organizations who address these issues with extraordinary vigor, integrity and selflessness, the RMAF seeks to place living examples of inspiring leadership and service before the public. From them, present and future generations may draw courage, challenge, and hope.

Honoring greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia.

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