



**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



Speech of

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Delivered during the 7th Ministerial Meeting held on
14th December 2018 in Manila, Philippines

Chair,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Heads of Development Agencies,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning, Selamat Pagi, Gut Pela Moning, Bondi and Magandang Umaga!

At the outset, let me express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Philippines for successfully hosting the pre-Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), 14th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-14) and 7th Ministerial Meeting. My deepest gratitude as well to the Chair of the CTI-CFF Council Ministers (COM) and Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) for the guidance and support it has given to the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to carry its role, most especially during the challenging times. May I also to take this opportunity to thank the Chair of CSO for the trust and confidence it has given me to be designated as the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director upon the nomination of the Government of Indonesia.

Further, our deepest appreciation to the continued commitment from CT6 Member Parties towards achieving the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) goals and objectives. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the Development Partners – US Government, Australian Government, the Asian Development Bank, GEF, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Conservation International, and Coral Triangle Center for the support provided for the Review and to contract consultants to undertake the Review of the RPOA. Again, thank you to the Australian Government for the support provided to develop the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the development of the Regional Plan of Action 2.0

Chair,

Indeed, 10 years after the Coral Triangle Initiative Leaders Declaration on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security and adoption of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) which sets the foundation for CTI's long-term vision and goals to protect the socioeconomic and environmental assets of the Coral Triangle region, some important and critical steps have been taken by CT6 member countries and development partners to address risks and threats to a robust and sustainable coastal and marine ecosystem such as poor governance, increasing pressures on natural resources from population growth and economic development, climate variability and change. The programs have continued to strengthen and firm up its policy and regulatory framework; continue to create a "CTI" brand identity in the region as well as in other international groupings and platforms; improved ecological indicators in selected sites where most investments have taken place; tested number of replicable and scalable

tools and approaches such as ecosystems-based fisheries management (EAFM); brought together a strong partnership and network of technical and financing partners willing to continue investments in critical nature assets; put in place mechanisms to learn and share knowledge across the region; recognized the key leadership roles of women in sustaining marine resources in the region; and importantly established a regional secretariat, which is supported by financial contributions of the CT6 Member Parties themselves.

Chair,

This year alone, the CTI-CFF through its Technical Working Groups, Governance Working Groups and Cross-cutting Theme Working Groups have implemented 14 activities that will further advance and promote the goals of the CTI. The CTI-CFF also participated in nine (9) international activities to share with the world its success stories and tools on food security, sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem resilience. Indeed, we are all reaping the gains of the hardwork we had done and continue to do for the CT Region. The CTI-CFF continues to cement its partnership with the Development Partners by collaborating in various activities that is aligned with the goals of the RPOA. Just recently, the CTI-CFF has been accepted as a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) at the 33rd ICRI General Meeting in Monaco. This is a manifestation of CTI's recognition in other international groupings and creation of new alliances to integrate the efforts in full alignment with the concept and best practices of approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources. Further, the Agreement on the Regional Secretariat of the CTI-CFF CTI was registered and recorded with the United Nations Secretary General which further

increases the 'profile' of CTI in the international platform and would open the pathway for further possible cooperation with international bodies under the UN.

But clearly, we need to pull up our sleeves for there are still more work to be done. The result of the RPOA review recognizes the needs for reshaping and refinement to keep up with the times and challenges.

Chair,

As such, the need for redesigning RPOA version 2.0 and CTI System in 2019 is of great importance to increase its effectiveness, relevance, and agility. Updating the RPOA is important to ensure CTI-CFF maintain its relevance as a regional platform to put oceans at the forefront of regional and national policy agenda in achieving significant progress on Sustainable Development Goal 14 – life water; related SDGs and emerging issues in the Coral Triangle. It is important to note that climate change continues to be a major issue that needs more emphasis together with sustainable financing to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods while conserving the marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle region. The RPOA version 2.0 would also serve as the six member countries continuous commitment to safeguard the world's richest marine resources and ensure the income, livelihood and food security particularly of the more than 130 million people living in coastal communities at the CTI-CFF Leader's Summit in 2020.

Chair,

As the CTI heads toward redesigning its RPOA and system, it is paramount that CTI continue to work collaboratively with its Member Countries, diverse development partners, non-government organizations and communities as well as with other

regional and global grouping to learn and share insights that would have great impact to marine and coastal preservation as well as contribute to poverty reduction and food security. We hope that our Development Partners, who have been with us through the highs and lows of the implementation of the RPOA, will still be with us as we chart the future of the CTI Region.

Chair,

With these few remarks, I again would like to thank Chair of the CTI-CFF Council Ministers (COM) and Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the CT6 Member Parties, as well as the Development Partners for their unwavering support to CTI.

Chair,

Allow me also to give commendation to the staff of the CTI Regional Secretariat for their commitment, hard work, and dedication which enabled us to deliver the targets for the year and the past years. I am confident to say that the turbulent times is over and we are facing the year ahead with keen spirit, confidence and trust that we can surmount any challenges with all your continued guidance, cooperation and support. I have taken this role as CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director with sincere and genuine commitment to transparency, and accountability, innovation and open communication and continuous improvement.

Chair,

Rest assured that CTI is committed to provide the enabling environment for better articulation and coordination among marine environment-related national strategies and action plans of its member countries. CTI also committed to intensify its efforts

through the help of the Regional Secretariat to further advance and promote marine conservation and protection of the Coral Triangle.

Finally,

I thank you for your attention.