**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH**

By: Assistant Secretary Marcial Amaro Jr.

Official Representative of Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez

EXCELLENCY JOHN PUNDARI, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE, EXCELLENCIES AND DISTINGUISHED HEAD OF DELEGATIONS, DELEGATES, FRIENDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A PLEASANT AFTERNOON TO ALL.

ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE ALL THE DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE CORAL TRIANGLE SIX (CT6) COUNTRIES FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE 6TH CTI-CFF MINISTERIAL AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY OF PORT MORESBY.  THE PAST FOUR DAYS OF MEETINGS STRENGTHENED OUR RESOLVE TO SUSTAIN EXTRAORDINARY MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE REGION BY ADDRESSING ISSUES AND CONCERNS SUCH AS ON FOOD SECURITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

LET ME COMMEND ON BEHALF OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION THE EXCELLENT WORK BY THE NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOR TAKING ON THE CHALLENGES AS CHAIR OF CTI-CFF AND FOR LEADING THE SIX-NATION MULTISECTORAL COOPERATION FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS THAT CULMINATED IN HOSTING THIS 6TH CTI-CFF MINISTERIAL AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS.  THE OUTGOING CHAIR HAS DONE A GOOD JOB IN ADVANCING US IN THE REALIZATION OF OUR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS WHEN THE INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED IN 2009.

IT IS WITH GREAT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE THAT WE ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AS THE INCOMING CHAIR OF CTI-CFF FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.  DURING ITS TERM, THE PHILIPPINES COMMITS TO LEAD THIS MULTISECTORAL COOPERATION ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. A NEED TO REVIEW THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (RPOA) AND CT6'S NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (NPOA)

* TO GAUGE ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN MEETING NEW CHALLENGES AND IN MEETING CTI'S VISION IN LIGHT OF ITS TERMINATION ON 2020;
* TO PRIORITIZE ACTIONS NEEDED TO COMPLETE TARGETS BY 2020
* TO POSITION TO A SUSTAINABILITY MODE 4 YEARS BEFORE CTI'S TERMINATION IN 2020 BY PLANNING PROACTIVELY FOR PROGRAMS APPROPRIATE TO SUSTAIN AND DEVELOP AFTER ITS LIFE (2020)

2. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT (RS) WITH STRONG STAFFING STRUCTURE CAPABLE OF EVENTUALLY ABSORBING ROLES OF WORKING GROUPS, SUCH AS MONITORING AND EVALUATION, FINANCIAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT. TOGETHER WITH TWO (2) DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ON BOARD, RS IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER VIBRANTLY WITH ITS TOR.

3. A HOLISTIC AN SYNERGISTIC APPROACH FOR THE FIVE (5) THEMATIC GOALS CREATE A GREATER IMPACT, BROADER SCOPE, BETTER COORDINATION, COST EFFECTIVE AND GREATER INVOLVEMENT AMONG STAKEHOLDERS. THIS CAN BE MADE POSSIBLE BY RATIONALIZING SETS INDICATORS FOR CLUSTERED EFFORTS. A STUDY FOR EXAMPLE OF MERGING MPA GOALS WITH SEASCAPES, ALONG THIS LINE MAY BE EXPLORED.

4. TRANSPARENCY MUST BE ENGENDERED IN ANY PROCESS WITHIN THE CTI-CFF AT ALL TIMES.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUED COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE CT6 MEMBER-NATIONS, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND THE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT IN ALL OUR ENDEAVORS.  BY WORKING TOGETHER SINCE 2009 WE HAVE DONE A LOT AND HAVE GONE THIS FAR.  BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE TO BE DONE.

WE COMMIT THAT THE NEXT TWO YEARS OF CTI-CFF UNDER PHILIPPINE CHAIRMANSHIP WILL BE AN EXCITING ONE, CONSISTENT WITH OUR SLOGAN "IT'S MORE FUN IN THE PHILIPPINES".

THANK YOU AND MABUHAY!