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Davao: Civil society, academe probe on climate change, justice and trade

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Members of the Davao City Climate Change Action Network (DAVCCAN), Development Round Table Series, the Stop the New Round Coalition and other interest groups will look into climate change issues and examine solutions to the climate crisis at a forum to be held on 24 November, at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao.

Recent global disasters show that 99 percent of the casualties due to climate change occur in poor and developing countries, such as the Philippines, and are suffering the brunt of climate change but contributing only to 1 percent of greenhouse emissions while industrialized countries continue ignoring climate change negotiation agreements.

This is one of the concerns to be discussed by Larry Lohmann, an environmental expert based in the United Kingdom, who is conducting a speaking tour in the country from 28 November to 3 December 2009 with the theme “ In Search of Just Solutions to the Climate Crisis.”

Lohmann is a founding member of the Durban Group for Climate Justice, an international network of independent organizations, individuals and people’s movements who reject the free market approach to climate change. He works with The Corner House, a UK-based research and advocacy organization.

His books include *Pulping the South: Industrial Tree Plantations in the Global Paper Economy* (with Ricardo Carrere) (Zed, 1996) and the edited volume *Carbon Trading: A Critical Conversation on Climate Change, Privatization and Power* (Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 2006).

Journals which have published Lohmann’s articles include the *International Journal of Environment and Pollution*; *New Scientist*; *Race & Class* and *Science as Culture*; *Organizations and Society*; *Asian Survey*; and, *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*.

The Davao leg of the speaking tour is coordinated by the Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao (AFRIM), Inc. in collaboration with the Focus on the Global South-Philippines and members of the Davao City Climate Change Action Network, a coalition composed of schools, government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations and individuals chaired by Councilor Leo Avila, and by the Development Roundtable Series and Stop the New Round Coalition in Mindanao, civil society alliances which are concerned on Mindanao agriculture, food, environment, and trade issues.

The convenors recognize the urgent need to discuss climate change concerns and strategies needed to be implemented at the local, national and international levels. The rising trend of typhoons, floods, landslides, and other water-induced disasters in the Philippines has also become a Mindanao-wide concern. The island is vulnerable to these disasters with the increased activities on logging, mining, and intensive land use changes and conversions including massive plantation expansions into forest and agricultural lands.

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