

NCDA participates in the High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting of the Final Review of the Asia and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities in Jakarta, Indonesia



NCDA Deputy Executive Mateo A. Lee, Jr., delivered a statement highlighting the efforts of the Philippine government to support the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Incheon Strategic Framework to Make the Rights Real in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The National Council on Disability Affairs participated in the High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting of the Final Review of the Asia and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities hosted by the Government of Indonesia, in Jakarta and online from October 19-21, 2022. The meeting organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reviewed the progress and achievements made in the decade (2013-2022), fostered consensus on new strategic directions, and renew commitments by ESCAP members and associate members to disability rights and disability-inclusive development in the Asia-Pacific region, leading up to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In his statement, Director Lee said that *“for the past decade, the Philippines has developed and included the concerns of persons with disabilities in the Philippine Development Plan 2016-2022 after the midpoint review and moving forward to 2023-2028. The vision of the 2040 Philippine government is to make Philippine society achieve a high level of the upper middle class in terms of economic performance and ensure persons with disabilities are among the vulnerable groups that be given priority in access to inclusive education, employment and livelihood thru communication technologies and to secure food security during natural calamities and disasters since the Philippines is vulnerable to climate change. The Philippines as a member of the Asean Sub-region would like to state that the advocacy of the Bali Declaration in the Asean Decade of Persons with Disabilities has adopted the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 which is the ASEAN framework to ensure that member States of the ASEAN will implement the UNCRPD consistent with its vision of ASEAN people-centered community bonded as one.”*

Director Lee also highlighted the legislative measures passed by the government including RA 11650, RA 10524, RA 10070, and RA 11228. *“These legislative measures are the Philippine commitment and expression of support in recognizing the persons with disabilities are part of the Philippine society and are the holder of rights,”* he stated. In closing, he congratulated the UN ESCAP for organizing the intergovernmental meeting to have the final review. Director Lee participated in the different round table



Director Lee attended the High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting of the Final Review of the Asia and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities in Jakarta, Indonesia. Mr. Anthony Bosi, a staff of NCDA assisted him during this event.

discussions, particularly on 1) Harmonization of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2) Innovative partnerships and engagement of persons with disabilities, 3) Emerging issues and opportunities, and 4) Tracking progress towards the achievement of disability-inclusive development.



Director Lee with Ms. Sara Minkara, U.S. Special Advisor on International Disability Rights (Adviser to US President Joe Biden).



Director Lee with the Indonesia Social Affairs Minister Tri Rismaharini (Risma) during the Exhibition of Product Center of PWDs in Bogor, Indonesia.



Digital electronic cane shown to Director Lee, a product made by Indonesia during the exhibit on October 21.