



Planning and Development Research Foundation Inc. (PLANADES) Executive Director Dr. Engr. Tabassam Raza was invited as resource speaker in the conference titled “Klimabukasan: Student-led Multi Sectoral Climate Conference,” hosted by UST UNESCO Club, a University-Wide Organization in the University of Santo Tomas that aims to strengthen the nationalism among members by developing a sense of empathy through diverse activities, projects, and community development programs. The event held at Blessed Pier Giorgo Frassati Building, University of Santo Tomas, Manila dated March 10, 2026.



The conference themed “No Peace without Climate Justice! A Multi-Sectoral Climate Conference,” is organized in response to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, Climate Action, which addresses the escalating climate and ecological crises, particularly their growing impacts on vulnerable communities in the Philippines.

This two-day symposium aims to examine the wide-ranging effects of climate change across multiple sectors of society. It will explore how these impacts intersect—affecting communities, economies, ecosystems, and governance—and how collaborative, cross-sectoral approaches can help address these challenges. Through expert discussions, knowledge sharing, and policy dialogue, the conference seeks to identify practical solutions and strengthen collective action toward climate justice and sustainable resilience.



*Dr. Tabassam Raza delivering his speech at the Klimabukasan: Student-led Multi Sectoral Climate Conference*

Dr. Tabassam Raza spoke on the current status of the Philippines in adapting to climate change. He addressed the country's progress in climate change mitigation and the importance of advancing a just transition within the field of urban and regional planning. He emphasized that achieving climate resilience requires not only technical interventions but also inclusive planning processes that ensure social equity and sustainability.



*Dr. Tabassam Raza summarizing his presentation with a topic on Legal Mandates, Status of mitigation in Local Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Nexus of Urban and Land Use, Development Planning and Climate Change, and Transition of Urban Planning*

Dr. Raza began by highlighting the existing legal mandates and policy frameworks established by the Philippine government to guide climate action. He discussed several relevant planning laws and institutional mechanisms that support climate change mitigation and adaptation.



*On Left: Dr. Tabassam Raza with the various participants on the right as he discussing the status of mitigation within the Local Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).*

The status of mitigation within the Local Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) was also mentioned. Dr. Raza emphasized that climate change mitigation strategies integrated into local land use planning must be aligned with global and national development frameworks. He highlighted the importance of ensuring that CLUPs support the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to climate action, sustainable cities, and resilient communities.



*Dr. Tabassam Raza discussing the Nexus of Urban Land Use, Development Planning in the Philippine context while the students and participants from the right actively listening.*

Through this alignment of global frameworks and national legislation, Dr. Raza stressed that CLUPs can serve as a critical instrument for advancing sustainable development, strengthening disaster resilience, and supporting a just transition toward climate-responsive urban and regional planning in the Philippines. He discussed the Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA) process which is an evidence-based approach in the Philippines used to identify, analyzed, and managed risk from natural hazard and climate for local planning.

In his overall assessment, the Philippines has a robust mandates and increasingly detailed for risk-informed, climate-mainstreamed urban planning, and is explicitly aligning mitigation delivery with just transition framing. The binding constraint is now less about policy absence and more about local capacity, financing quality, enforcement, monitoring, and social equity in implementation.

Dr. Tabassam Raza, expressed his sincere gratitude to the University of Santo Tomas UNESCO Club for providing the opportunity to engage in a meaningful discussion on the mainstreaming of Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).



*Dr. Tabassam Raza, center, receiving a token of appreciation as a guest speaker from the students and members of UST UNESCO Club.*

The event proved to be a successful and enriching gathering, as it brought together panelists from various sectors—including academia, government, civil society, and environmental organizations—to share their perspectives, experiences, and insights on addressing the shared challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation. Through this diverse representation, the discussion highlighted the need for collective action, interdisciplinary collaboration, and inclusive decision-making in confronting the growing climate crisis and advancing sustainable development initiatives.