



and

PCED

Philippine Center for
Economic Development

present a seminar on

“Silence on Climate Change and the Fury of Natural Disasters”

By

Dr. Vinod Thomas

4 March, Friday

4:00-5:00 p.m. – Room 303

Abstract

Climate change arguably remains the biggest threat the global community faces as it embraces a more sustainable development pathway. Dr. Vinod Thomas will share his insights on the reality of climate change and how it impacts on natural disasters based on his forthcoming book, *“Silence of Climate Change and the Fury of Natural Disasters”*. The study highlights the relationship between the increase of climate-related natural disasters worldwide, and proxy variables representing climate change— temperature, precipitation and atmospheric accumulation of carbon dioxide - as an underlying global factor. Moreover, the study shows that changing global climate conditions—represented by atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration - are significantly associated with both hydro meteorological disasters (floods, storms, heat waves) and climatological disasters (droughts, wildfires), after controlling for population exposure, people’s vulnerability and local climatic conditions. Dr Thomas’ presentation, which will feature special emphasis on the Philippines, will also touch on the past flaws in development thinking that have led to the neglect of environmental concerns. Finally, the discussion will highlight important lessons learned regarding sustainable development, and will end with some policy directions to consider as we move forward.

About the speaker:

Dr. Vinod Thomas is Director General of Independent Evaluation at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He reports directly to ADB’s Board of Directors through the Development Effectiveness Committee and oversees the assessment of ADB’s development effectiveness on its strategies, policies, practices, and procedures, and related evaluation activities that include knowledge generation, evaluation capacity development among developing countries of Asia, among others. Prior to this, Dr. Thomas was the Director General and Vice-President of the Independent Evaluation Group at the World Bank (WB). His career at the WB spanned 35 years of economic and development work at various positions that include Country Director for Brazil and Vice-President, Vice-President of the World Bank Institute and Chief Economist at the East Asia and Pacific region. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago and has authored numerous books, journal articles and reports. His research interests are on climate change, safeguards, TFP, economic development, to name a few.



Free and open to the public

For group attendance, please contact Ms. Gloria Lambino, UPSE Economics Research Center
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