

PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Permanent Mission in Geneva

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PH ADVANCES EFFORTS TO COMBAT GLOBAL PLASTIC AND e-WASTE TRAFFICKING, VOWS PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT IN UN CONFERENCE



DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna (rightmost) explains PH efforts to address illegal importation of hazardous e-waste and shared best domestic practices in the implementation of Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conventions by Philippines during a side event during the Conference of Parties.

Geneva, 09 May 2025 – In response to growing international calls to end plastic pollution and address e-wastes, the Philippine delegation led by DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna along with other representatives from DENR-EMB and the Philippine Mission in Geneva, actively participated in the 2025 Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conference of the Parties (BRS COP) held from 30 April to 09 May 2025.



With the theme “***Making Visible the Invisible***”, COP 2025 highlighted the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and the broader challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Undersecretary Cuna took part in the **High-Level Roundtable on Global Collaboration for a Pollution-Free Planet**, advocating for strengthened multilateral cooperation and the Global Framework on

Chemicals (GFC) to enhance national policies for sustainable waste management.

Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Efforts

A multilateral roundtable, chaired by Norway, brought together Brazil, Switzerland, South Africa, France, India, and the Philippines to exchange lessons from INC-5. Undersecretary Cuna emphasized the need for strong health provisions, national implementation policies, and financial support for developing nations.



(l-r) PH delegation led by Undersecretary Cuna (4th from left) meet with Minamata on Mercury Convention Secretary-General Monica Stankewicz (3rd from left) (from l-r) Mr. Richard Gutierrez of Minamata Secretariat, GPM Attache Via Alexis Perez, GPM Minister Felipe Carino III, Mr. Joel Maleon of EMB-DENR, Undersecretary Cuna, SG Stankewicz, DENR Assistant Secretary Jackie Caanan, and Mr. Irvin Cadavona of EMB-DENR.

Protecting Vulnerable Communities Through Collaborative Action

In a side event hosted by IPEN, Undersecretary Cuna showcased the PCB-WEEE project, a collaboration between UNIDO, GEF, and EcoWaste Coalition, aimed at protecting women and children in marginalized communities from exposure to persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other hazardous chemicals. Key interventions included:

- Formalizing the WEEE dismantling sector,
- Designing a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSD),
- Developing training modules for dismantlers,
- Distributing personal protective equipment (PPE), and
- Creating sustainable business models for affected communities.

Advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Through International Cooperation

Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Carlos D. Sorreta underscored the importance of sustainable funding mechanisms, technology transfer, and research investments to empower developing nations in implementing the BRS Conventions. He urged collective international action to introduce safe alternatives, enhance institutional capacity, and strengthen underserved communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by hazardous waste exposure.

Through proactive engagement in policy discussions, strategic partnerships, and knowledge-sharing, the Philippines continues to champion global efforts for a safer, pollution-free future. END



DENR Director Joel Maleon speaks as panelist in a side event during the Conference of Parties of Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conventions where he explained government efforts to effectively address electronic and electric wastes and the rising incidence of illegal online trade of commercial products with hazardous chemicals, such as mercury in cosmetics and dental amalgams.