

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda
Message for the Conference on “Philippine Studies: Exchanges between Filipino and EU-based Scholars”
07 June 2023

Thank you for inviting me to this year’s “Philippine Studies: Exchanges between Filipino and EU-based Scholars” conference. It is my honor to be with our scholars today.

You know, I always get excited when events involve programs that are close to my heart. These include the Philippine Studies Program at the University of Namur. Today, I am even more excited to hear that several studies that will be presented today include topics on climate change, water management and agriculture, and natural disasters in the Philippines.

As an environmentalist myself, I am looking forward to listening to our scholars talk about their respective findings and using our insights from today to craft new and perhaps better policies that will address issues involving these topics and the Filipino people.

To date, we have several Philippine laws that aim to address issues related to these topics: Republic Act No. 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009, RA No. 10174 or the People’s Survival Fund, RA No. 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act, RA No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act, and RA No. 8749 or the Clean Air Act.

These are only some of the policies that I authored and sponsored to strengthen our advocacy, and as a continuous learner, the work never stops.

This only goes to show how important studies and scholarly exchanges are in the process of legislation. Without our scholars, we would not be able to draft sound, systematic, and relevant policies that would address the Filipino people’s problems. We would be making mistakes and our efforts would be useless.

So, thank you to our scholars for being part of the foundation of our nation’s legislative system. It is truly an honor to be among your circles, and it is my pleasure to be working with all of you.

Once again, thank you for inviting me.