

GMA may join climate change meet

President Arroyo is planning to participate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark next month to lead developing nations in prodding industrialized countries to make drastic cuts in their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said arrangements are being made for the President's attendance to the summit but added "it's not yet final."

Palace officials said Mrs. Arroyo might also make an official visit to Spain after the summit.

"The position of the Philippines on the climate change issue is that we will go for what is binding and legal for all countries," Remonde told the government-run *Radyo ng Bayan*.

"We don't want promises only (from countries) that they cannot fulfill," he said.

The Copenhagen summit has 15 days to hammer out a new treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol and set new and deeper cuts in GHG emissions. World leaders are expected to vote for the new treaty.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Yvo De Boer earlier met with the President in Manila on the matter.

"Climate change has begun to manifest itself and will do so increasingly in the future. Those at the frontline of climate change, including low-lying archipelago nations like the Philippines, will be hit the hardest by climate change impacts. But evidently the scale of the problem demands enhanced global action," De Boer said.

He expressed optimism that world leaders would find a comprehensive program on various concerns, including enhanced action to assist the most vulnerable and the poorest to adapt to the impacts of climate change; ambitious emission reduction targets for industrialized countries on an individual basis; and financial and technological resources for both adaptation and mitigation actions on developing countries. — Paolo Romero