

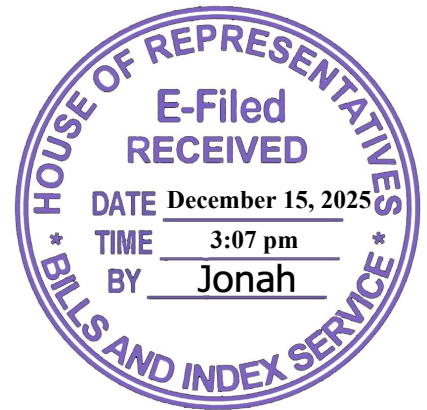
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6869



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines stands on the frontlines of the global climate crisis. Every year, our people brace themselves against powerful typhoons, floods, landslides, droughts, and the steady rise of our seas. These hazards do not only claim lives, but they also erase livelihoods, damage public infrastructure, threaten cultural heritage, and weaken the ecosystems that sustain us. They drain government resources, deepen existing vulnerabilities, and slow our march toward a sustainable and inclusive future.

Congress has long acknowledged the gravity of this challenge. Republic Act No. 9729, the Climate Change Act of 2009, declares climate change a matter of national security, a threat that strikes hardest at the poorest and most vulnerable. Republic Act No. 10121, the DRRM Act of 2010, mandates a holistic, proactive, prevention focused approach to disasters. These laws chart a strong direction for resilience.

Yet a crucial gap remains.

The country still lacks a permanent, science driven, multidisciplinary national institute solely dedicated to climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, an institution capable of generating and integrating knowledge, transforming it into practical tools, and directly supporting national and local decision makers. Current efforts, though well intentioned and valuable, are often fragmented, project based, and vulnerable to shifts in administration and budget.

The University of the Philippines, as the national university, already carries the mandate to be the country’s premier graduate, research, and public service institution. With its nationwide network and deep pool of scientific, technical, and

policy expertise, UP is uniquely positioned to host the nation's foremost center of excellence on climate and disaster resilience.

Congress has successfully adopted this model before. Republic Act No. 11572 created the Philippine Energy Research and Policy Institute (PERPI) as an independent, multidisciplinary research body attached to UP, ensuring impartiality, rigor, and long-term continuity in energy policy research. PERPI's design proves that the Philippines can and should rely on academic institutions for strategic, future oriented, national level expertise.

This bill builds on that proven model. It proposes to strengthen and elevate the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute into the University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute (UP NCRI), a permanent, nationally mandated hub for climate and disaster resilience research, foresight, innovation, training, and public service. The UP NCRI will produce user-friendly tools and knowledge products for government and communities, support academic and training programs, and maintain an interoperable Resilience Knowledge Platform accessible to the public while observing data privacy and security laws.

A core feature of this measure is the institutional integration of Project NOAH, one of the country's most widely trusted and transformative DRRM innovations. Project NOAH has already proven the lifesaving power of near real-time data on rainfall, flooding, and other hazards, hazard modeling, and accessible digital platforms that are essential for early warnings. But as a project-based initiative, it has been vulnerable to funding gaps and institutional uncertainty. This bill secures its continuity, ensuring that Project NOAH's platforms, including hazard and risk dashboards, early warning tools, and analytical applications such as WebSAFE, are safeguarded, upgraded, and continuously expanded.

Through the UP NCRI, with Project NOAH as a flagship program, the country will finally have a stable, science anchored national home for resilience that will:

- (a) Deliver science based, multi-hazard PROBABILISTIC risk information, tools, and advisories to national agencies, local governments, and communities, in full complement to PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, NDRRMC, the Climate Change Commission, and others;
- (b) Institutionalize a national system for resilience focused research, foresight, and knowledge integration to support anticipatory governance

- (c) Develop open, interoperable, and user-friendly platforms that translate complex climate and hazard data into actionable guidance for communities
- (d) Build a multidisciplinary corps of experts, from engineering, science, and law to statistics, economics, social sciences, public health, and more, mirroring the strong institutional design of PERPI;

Funding follows the same model Congress has already established for other UP based institutes. Initial requirements will be drawn from the existing UP Resilience Institute and other valid UP funds, while long term operating expenses will be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under UP, without prejudice to external research grants. These respects established principles governing public and trust funds held by UP and ensures alignment with UP's mission.

By establishing the University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute and integrating Project NOAH into its core mandate, this bill strengthens the country's long term institutional foundation for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. It anchors our resilience efforts in the nation's premier university, ensures continuity across administrations, and provides a stable, science-based platform that will help safeguard Filipino communities for decades to come.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CLIMATE
RESILIENCE INSTITUTE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the *“University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute Act.”*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the right of the people to life, safety, human dignity, and a balanced and healthful ecology by reducing loss of life and damage to property, livelihoods, infrastructure, cultural heritage, and ecosystems from climate- and weather-related hazards, and by building the resilience of communities to disasters and climate change impacts.

In this regard, the State adopts a holistic, comprehensive, integrated, and proactive approach to disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation, grounded in scientific evidence, multi-hazard assessments, and inclusive participation of all sectors, especially local communities.

Towards this end, it is the policy of the State to promote, support, and institutionalize multidisciplinary scientific research, innovation, and capacity building in climate and disaster resilience, and to ensure adequate, predictable, and sustained investments in

resilience-building measures in both the public and private sectors. The State shall encourage innovation, localization, and community empowerment through education, participatory governance, and the recognition of indigenous and local knowledge systems, and shall monitor and evaluate disaster and climate risk governance outcomes through evidence-based metrics, transparency mechanisms, and public accountability.

SECTION 3. Establishment of the University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute. — Pursuant to the national policy of promoting scientific research and innovation for climate and disaster resilience, there is hereby established a University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute, hereinafter referred to as the “Institute” or the “UP NCRI.”

The existing University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UP RI) is hereby converted into, and shall henceforth operate as, the UP National Climate Resilience Institute. All its applicable mandates, programs, appropriations, assets, and personnel are deemed absorbed by, and subsumed under, the UP NCRI, subject to University of the Philippines (UP) rules and regulations and relevant civil service laws.

The specific organizational placement of the UP NCRI within the University of the Philippines System, including whether it shall operate as an autonomous institute attached to the UP System or under a particular constituent university, shall be determined by the UP Board of Regents, consistent with existing laws on the creation of research centers and institutes in UP.

SECTION 4. Mandate and Objectives. — The Institute shall serve as the premier national center for climate resilience research, innovation, capacity development and public service. It shall have the following objectives:

- (a) To conduct cutting-edge, policy-relevant, action-relevant, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research on climate science, climate change impacts, hazard and risk assessment, and climate-resilient development pathways;
- (b) To develop, maintain, and continuously improve nationwide multi-hazard probabilistic risk assessments and hazard mapping and modeling, building upon and institutionalizing the outputs of Project NOAH;
- (c) To provide technical support, tools, and recommendations, in collaboration with other academic institutions and partners, to national government

agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and local communities for DRRM planning and climate change adaptation and mitigation (DRR-CCAM) which includes, but are not limited to land use, infrastructure, agriculture, water resource management, public health, and ecosystems management;

- (d) To design and implement degree programs, training courses, and capacity building activities in climate and disaster resilience in collaboration with relevant UP constituent universities and colleges, and other higher education institutions;
- (e) To promote open, interoperable, and secure data standards and platforms for climate and disaster risk information, subject to data privacy and security laws; and
- (f) To foster multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration among scientists, engineers, social scientists, health professionals, planners, and other practitioners in the Philippines and abroad.

SECTION 5. Integration of UP NOAH Center into the NCRI. —

- (a) Integration and Supervision. — Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards), including its operational systems, models, platforms, data repositories, applications, and research programs, as may currently be hosted or supported by the University of the Philippines or other agencies, is hereby integrated into, and placed under the administrative and operational supervision of, the UP National Climate Resilience Institute. Project NOAH shall serve as the integrated disaster prevention and mitigation program of the UP NCRI, employing science, research, and technology to generate accurate, reliable, and timely data to support informed decision-making for DRRM activities.
- (b) Functions. — In line with its mission and consistent with existing mandates of national forecasting and warning agencies, Project NOAH shall:
 - (1) Develop and maintain an integrated platform that provides open access, to the greatest extent practicable, to updated hazard and risk information, including but not limited to near real-time weather data, flood and landslide hazard maps, storm surge inundation maps, and the identification of local critical facilities;

- (2) Undertake research and innovation projects to advance the use of technology in disaster risk reduction, including the development of tools that enhance government and community capacity in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery;
 - (3) Strengthen and expand its early warning systems and digital applications, such as the Project NOAH web portal, mirror sites, and mobile applications including NOAH and Arko, to ensure that hazard information is user-friendly and accessible to all sectors of society;
 - (4) Sustain the operation and continuous improvement of the WebSAFE application and similar analytical tools, which provide decision support for the allocation of resources and emergency planning during severe weather and other hazard events;
 - (5) Promote an interdisciplinary and participatory approach in the design and implementation of disaster prevention and mitigation systems by integrating meteorology, hydrology, geology, engineering, information technology, social sciences, arts, and the humanities, and engaging communities and indigenous peoples where appropriate; and
 - (6) Support capacity-building initiatives, policy formulation, and community education programs that enable proactive and science-based disaster governance at both the national and local levels.
- (c) Assets, Data, and Personnel. — Subject to existing contracts, intellectual property rights, and applicable laws, the scientific, technological, and information systems, data repositories, software, platforms, and equipment of Project NOAH currently hosted or maintained by the University of the Philippines or other government agencies may be made available to, shared with, or transferred to the UP NCRI under such terms as may be agreed upon by the concerned institutions, following the pattern of how specialized centers within UP are equipped and supported.

Technical and research personnel with demonstrated expertise and track record in Project NOAH may be engaged or absorbed by the UP NCRI in accordance with UP policies and relevant civil service and personnel rules.

- (d) **Transition Arrangements.** — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the University of the Philippines, in coordination with concerned national agencies, shall formulate a transition plan for the full integration or close coordination of Project NOAH functions, platforms, and assets into the UP NCRI.

The UP NCRI shall ensure that Project NOAH remains a dynamic platform for innovation and collaboration, and shall continuously enhance its systems, data analytics, and technologies in line with evolving climate and disaster risks.

SECTION 6. Location and Network. —

- (a) **Main Hub.** — The main office of the Institute shall be located in a suitable site within a University of the Philippines campus to be determined by the UP Board of Regents, considering accessibility to national government agencies, research partners, and operational centers.
- (b) **Regional Hubs.** — Consistent with the national policy of promoting regional development and the role of UP campuses across the country in science and research, the Institute may establish regional nodes or satellite offices in University of the Philippines constituent universities, priority hazard areas, or strategic locations, subject to the approval of the UP Board of Regents.

SECTION 7. Powers and Functions of the Institute. — The Institute shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To undertake and support fundamental and applied research in climate and earth systems science, hydrometeorology, oceanography, geomorphology, environmental engineering, risk modeling, social vulnerability, and climate-resilient planning and governance;
- (b) To design, operate, and maintain information and communication technology (ICT) systems, observation and monitoring networks, and analytical facilities for climate and disaster risk assessment and early warning;
- (c) To develop and maintain open and user-friendly platforms and tools for hazard and risk information for use by national government agencies, LGUs, communities, schools, and the private sector;

- (d) To issue technical bulletins, risk advisories, and expert opinions upon request of, or in coordination with, relevant government agencies and LGUs, without prejudice to the statutory mandates of existing warning and forecasting agencies;
- (e) To provide analytical, consultative, and extension services to national government agencies, LGUs, civil society organizations, people's organizations, and the private sector on climate and disaster resilience;
- (f) To collaborate with colleges, institutes, and research centers within the UP System, including but not limited to engineering, science, social science, health, agriculture, forestry, and marine science units, in developing climate resilience curricula, research, and public service programs;
- (g) To enter into cooperative agreements, memoranda of understanding, and other arrangements with other universities, research institutions, government agencies, international organizations, and private entities for research, training, funding, and technology transfer, consistent with University of the Philippines policies and applicable laws;
- (h) To accept grants, donations, endowments, and contributions from domestic and foreign sources, subject to existing laws and University policies; and
- (i) To perform such other acts as may be necessary to carry out its mandate and the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 8. Governance and Administration. —

- (a) **Executive Director.** — The Institute shall be headed by a Director who shall be a recognized expert in relevant fields such as climate science, DRRM, environmental engineering, or related disciplines, and who shall be appointed by the UP Board of Regents upon recommendation of the President of the University, in accordance with UP rules.
- (b) **Advisory Council.** — There shall be an Advisory Council of the Institute, which shall advise the Director on technical, administrative, and strategic aspects of its functions, modeled on the advisory structures of existing UP research institutes. The Council shall be composed of:

- (1) The President of the University of the Philippines, as Chairperson, or his/her duly authorized representative;
 - (2) The Chancellor of the UP campus hosting the main Institute hub, as Vice Chairperson;
 - (3) Representatives, not lower than Assistant Secretary/Director level, from the following agencies, to be designated by their respective heads:
 - Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
 - Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA);
 - Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS);
 - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
 - Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); and
 - Climate Change Commission (CCC);
 - (4) At least three (3) representatives from civil society organizations, professional associations, or the private sector with proven engagement in climate and disaster resilience, to be appointed by the UP Board of Regents upon recommendation of the President of the University; and
 - (5) Such other members as may be determined by the UP Board of Regents.
- (c) The specific internal organization, staffing pattern, and operating procedures of the Institute shall be determined by the UP Board of Regents upon recommendation of the President of the University.

SECTION 9. Research Outputs and Intellectual Property. — Consistent with established policies on research and intellectual property within the University of the Philippines and similar research centers, the following shall apply:

- (a) The University of the Philippines and the researchers of the Institute shall have joint ownership over patentable and copyrightable outputs, subject to University intellectual property policies;

- (b) Researchers involved in the development of such outputs shall be entitled to a fair share in royalties and other monetary benefits arising from their commercialization, under terms to be set by the UP Board of Regents, taking into account the public-good nature of climate and hazard information;
- (c) To the greatest extent possible, core hazard and risk information products, such as hazard maps and early warning data, shall be made publicly accessible free of charge, consistent with open data principles, while allowing for appropriate licensing of value-added services and tools.

SECTION 10. Funding and the Climate Resilience Fund. —

- (a) Initial Funding. — The amount necessary for the initial organizational and operational requirements of the Institute shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the University of the Philippines System and any available funds or grants that may be validly utilized for this purpose.
- (b) Inclusion in the General Appropriations Act. — Thereafter, the necessary amount for the continued operation of the Institute shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the budget of the University of the Philippines.
- (c) Climate Resilience Fund. — A special trust fund, to be known as the "Climate Resilience Fund," is hereby established for the support of the Institute, including but not limited to:
 - (1) Acquisition, operation, and maintenance of scientific and ICT infrastructure;
 - (2) Support for research projects, fellowships, and training programs;
 - (3) Compensation, honoraria, or grants to researchers, including those who are not regular employees of the University; and
 - (4) Other necessary expenses to carry out the purposes of this Act.

The Fund shall consist of:

- (i) amounts appropriated by the government for the Institute; (ii) grants, donations, endowments, and contributions from domestic or foreign sources; and (iii) income derived from the commercialization or

licensing of the Institute's research outputs, subject to University policies.

- (d) **Tax Treatment.** — Donations, contributions, endowments, subsidies, or financial aids in favor of the Institute shall, to the extent allowed by law, be exempt from donor's and/or income taxes and may constitute allowable deductions in full from the taxable income of the donors.

SECTION 11. Audit. — The books of accounts of the Institute and the Climate Resilience Fund shall be subject to periodic audit by the Commission on Audit, consistent with existing laws on government-owned or -controlled entities and state universities.

SECTION 12. Annual Report. — The Institute shall submit to the President of the Philippines, through the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and to both Houses of Congress, an annual report on its activities, accomplishments, research outputs, utilization of funds, and recommendations on policy, legislation, and programmatic measures to strengthen national climate resilience.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the University of the Philippines, in consultation with the DOST, CCC, NDRRMC member-agencies, LGU leagues, and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 14. Relationship with Other Agencies and Non-Diminution of Mandates. — Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or alter the legal mandates of PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, NDRRMC, CCC, and other agencies responsible for forecasting, warning, and disaster response. The Institute shall complement and support, not supplant, these mandates through research, innovation, and capacity building, and through the provision of technical support and tools as may be requested or agreed upon.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 17. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,