

2 February 2010 - Ambassador Sergio Duarte, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's High Representative for Disarmament, today expressed his deep appreciation to the Philippines for organizing an international workshop in preparation for the 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Ambassador Duarte, who represents the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of disarmament, was very appreciative of our efforts to bring together international disarmament experts and negotiators to discuss how best to succeed at the Review Conference," Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan said.

Ambassador Cabactulan is the President-elect of the 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which will be held this May at the United Nations in New York.

Ambassador Duarte was one of the 90 participants from government, international organizations, think tanks and NGOs at the Philippine Workshop which was held at the New Renaissance Hotel in Makati on 1-2 February 2010.

Ambassador Duarte acknowledged the importance of the Workshop in helping identify key issues and approaches for the Review Conference, Ambassador Cabactulan said.

"Ambassador Duarte and I both agree that the discussions over the past two days, though informal in nature, were very fruitful, meaningful and informative," Ambassador Cabactulan said, adding "the views exchanged, in a frank and informal manner, help to enlighten everyone and contribute to greater confidence leading to the Review Conference in May." END