



1 February 2010 - Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo today urged nuclear experts and negotiators to achieve significant progress on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, given the current positive climate towards ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

Secretary Romulo opened the two-day Workshop on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), "Working Towards a Successful 2010 NPT Review Conference", attended by over 90 experts from NPT countries.

"We have a world no longer divided when it comes to ending the scourge of nuclear weapons. We have the critical mass to finally be rid of those weapons. The 2010 NPT Review Conference will be an important venue towards this end," he said.

The Philippines will assume the Presidency of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May 2010. Ambassador Libran Cabactulan, a career diplomat, will chair the conference in New York on behalf of the Philippines.

The workshop aims to contribute to the consultation and deliberation process prior to the Review Conference. It will also assist delegations, particularly those from developing countries,

in their preparations.

Secretary Romulo encouraged experts and negotiators to freely exchange ideas to enhance preparations for the Review Conference and achieve better understanding of perceptions of and approach to critical issues.

"We hope that this Workshop will be marked by vigorous and open elaboration of ideas that will chart ways forward and give a sense of the priorities that need to be addressed in the Review Conference. In this manner, we could have an honest look at where we stand now and ultimately, a better idea of where our shared vision of a nuclear weapon free world could lead to creative solutions, tangible agreements and attainable results," he added.

The NPT is an essential cornerstone in the global pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It was designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to further the goal of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Present at the workshop are United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Sergio Duarte, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization Mr. Tibor Tóth, representatives from governments and international organizations, NGOs and think tanks, and the chief negotiators and key experts on NPT issues. END (Photo by: Tony Bosa, DFA-PISU)

