**Mayon Volcano Bulletin**
22 February 2000
7:00 AM

Since the last bulletin of 4:00 PM yesterday until this morning, several significant changes in the activity of Mayon Volcano have been noted. The lava dome on the crater floor continues to grow due to intrusion of fresh magma. Compared with previous measurements, the lava dome increased its width by about 12 meters and its height by about 5 meters. Incandescence of the lava accumulation on the crater can now be clearly attributed to detachment of surface lava fragments which consequently expose the hot interior of the dome. From about 6:30 PM yesterday until the present, the intermittent crater glow also appears to be brighter than previous observations.

Beginning 8:03 PM yesterday, discrete fragments were seen to detach from the lava dome. The lava fragments initially rolled down along the Bonga Gully to a distance of a few hundred meters from the summit. However, by 3:00 AM today, the detached incandescent lava fragments have rolled out much farther, reaching between two to five (2-5) kilometers downslope from the summit.

At 6:10 AM, a portion of the summit crater at the SE sector collapsed, resulting to a brownish ash column reaching an approximate height of 400 meters and drifted southwest and northwest.

The foregoing observations indicate that continued growth and expansion of the lava dome have resulted in portions of the dome straddling the unconfined southeast portion of the summit crater. As a result, the southeast sector of the dome becomes more and more unstable with continuous intrusion of lava. With increased intrusion of lava into the dome, portions of the dome will become unstable and subsequently collapse to generate pyroclastic flows. In addition, PHIVOLCS identifies the following near-term scenarios:

1. Lava will flow out into the Bonga Gully,
2. Some explosive activities will generate pyroclastic flows that will be initially channelled by the Bonga Gully.

Initially, these activities will occur within the 7-kilometer radius from the crater.

In view of the relatively high unrest at Mayon, PHIVOLCS reiterates Alert Level 3, meaning that a hazardous eruption is **possible within weeks.** Residents beyond the seven (7) kilometer radius Extended Danger Zone but within eight (8) kilometers of the summit in the southeast sector are advised to be very alert and to be ready to evacuate in case volcanic flows threaten their areas. At this point, PHIVOLCS has not yet made any further recommendation for evacuation but this situation may change any time in response to critical volcanic events. PHIVOLCS will inform the public as soon as possible of the latest developments on Mayon Volcano's condition and provide the appropriate advice.

**PHIVOLCS**