

## **Environmental Summit Series (June and September) 2021**

The recent pandemic, which continue to hover among us and affect the way we conduct our businesses, did not deter the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Calabarzon Region, headed by its Regional Director Noemi A. Paranada, from fulfilling its mission to protect, restore and enhance the country's environmental quality towards an improved quality of life for present and future generations.

Albeit the changing community protocols and restrictions, the EMB Calabarzon was quick to adopt to the new normal challenges and conducted its series of Environmental Summit, in June and September of this year, via online – a first for the agency.

“We have a mandate to perform, pandemic or not, we have to think of ways for our campaigns, activities and projects to proceed above and beyond the pandemic curve,” said RD Paranada.

The first of its series, conducted end of June this year, was the agency's take to celebrate the nationwide Environment Month, while a quick follow-up was conducted in September.

Both themed “*Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Pghilom; Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan*” (We act and heal as one. Me, You, We are the Environment), the first event is aimed to bring the Local Government Units (LGUs) and private stakeholders to engage in a meaningful conversation and collaborate based on best environmental practices and undertakings.

During the event, RD Paranada reiterated to some 370 participants the importance of being resilient in this time of pandemic and being able to still carry out the respective responsibilities with regards to taking good care of the environment.

Celebrity and multi-awarded actor John Lloyd Cruz also participated for added inspiration to the participants.

Cruz highlights the concept of environmental and biodiversity protection even at the time of pandemic. He also reminded participants of the shared responsibility to make our planet a habitable, greener and healthier environment.

It was also in this event when LGUs and private stakeholders were recognized for their best practices. The awardees, which were thoroughly selected based on the guidelines per category, were:

### **A. Best Practices in Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Operation**

1. Silang, Cavite
2. Carmona, Cavite
3. Calatagan, Batangas
4. Mauban, Quezon

### **Recognition on the Proper Operations of Materials Recovery Facilities**

1. Mendez, Cavite
2. Liliw, Laguna
3. Rizal, Laguna

### **B. Best Practice in Composting Operations**

1. Atimonan, Quezon

### **C. Best Practices in Recycling**

1. Santa Cruz, Laguna
2. Teresa, Rizal

### **D. Best Practice in Biogas Digester Operations**

1. General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite

### **E. Best Practice in Sanitary Landfill Operations**

1. New San Mateo SLF, Rizal

### **F. Best Practices in the Closure and Rehabilitation of Dumpsites**

1. Magallanes, Cavite
2. General Trias City, Cavite

### **Recognition on the Proper Closure and Rehabilitation of Dumpsites**

1. Mulanay, Quezon
2. Tiaong, Quezon

### **G. Best Practice in Residual Containment Area Operations**

1. Catanauan, Quezon

### **H. Best Practices in Alternative Fuel Utilization**

1. Republic Cement (Batangas)
2. Republic Cement (Rizal)

### **I. Best Practice in Small Scale WtE Plant Operation**

1. CEMEX Philippines / Solid Cement

### **J. Best Practices on Solid Waste Management Programs**

1. Trece Martires City, Cavite – Solid Waste on Wheels
2. Binan, Laguna – Eco-bricks Making

### **Recognition of Industrial Parks**

1. First Philippine Industrial Park
2. Laguna International Industrial Park LISPP 1-4
3. LIMA Technology Center.

Corazon C. Gasapos, the OIC-RESWMC, rendered the closing remarks.

Meanwhile, the September online activity serves as a refresher to Regional environmental units in the LGU, Environmental Monitoring Officers (EnMOs) and some EMB 4A personnel on the various environmental laws such as RA 8749 (Clean Air Act), RA 9725 (Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004), RA 6969 (Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 2004), and RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

The online training was facilitated by Engr. Mark Fungo of ESWM Section, Ms. Anne Canceran and Ms. Crizena Remo of EEI Section while Regional Executive Assistant from the Office of the Regional Director formally welcomed the participants.

Training Resource Speakers include Engr. Adonis Tomaro - OIC of the Air Permitting Section (RA 8749), Engr. Wilfredo Billones - the Manila Bay focal Person of EMB4A (RA 9725), Engr. Marissa DC Malabana- OIC of the Chemical and Hazardous Waste Monitoring Section of EMB 4A and For. Corazon C. Gasapos – RESWMC (RA 9003 or the Ecological Waste Management Act of 2000).

During the activity, the LGUs were given opportunities to present also their best practices.

Erlay Reasonada, the MENR-Officer of Mauban, Quezon shared how their humble municipality adopt best environmental practices in compliance with RA 9003. She said that segregation at source, discipline and good governance were the keys on achieving their milestones.

While General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite, thru their MENR-Office, Mr. Michael Templonuevo, highlighted their commitment on making the most out of their generated biodegradable wastes. The LGU continuously utilizes the donated composter sets by the EMB Central Office in producing fertilizers. He also presented the Biogas Technology – where generated biodegradable wastes are processed to generate methane gas which is used as alternative fuel.

Again, Corazon C. Gasapos rendered the closing remarks.