

Recap March 2021

Water is everywhere. In fact 70% of the world is composed of water, from seas to lakes, to rivers and creeks. Aside from this, a person dies with just 3 days of not drinking water. Therefore, valuing water is valuing not only our life but our future.

To promote environmental awareness and recognize the value of water, the Environment Management Bureau (EMB) in Region IV-A (Calabarzon), through its Environmental Education and Information Section (EELS) conducted a webinar to promote environmental awareness and recognize the value of water on March 22.

The online activity, entitled "Valuing Water" is aimed to educate the audience on how each can help protect the environment by learning its value and how to conserve and protect such resource.

Its end result target include its audience - composed mainly of government employees from Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) offices and Local Government Units (LGUs), Pollution Control Officers of private industries and teachers from Calabarzon Region, to help disseminate and educate their communities of the lessons and practices learned to best protect the environment.

"Hopefully, they will be inspired to replicate and develop their own programs which will help further the cause of environmental protection," said EMB Calabarzon Regional Director Noemi A. Paranada.

Among the seminar able and competent resource speakers include Manila Bay Program Focal Person Engr Wilfredo Billones (Topic: Water: Its Sources, Uses, Importance and the Value of Water to our Economy, Society and Nature).

His lecture also included classifications of water based on intended beneficial use and primary parameters used in classifying fresh waters. During his lecture, Billones pointed out that taking care of our water is a shared responsibility and not DENR's sole responsibility to maintain cleanliness and to protect these water sources.

Another resource speaker, Billi Dumaliang, who is an Officer and Trustee of Masungi Georeserve Foundation Advocacy (MGFA), shared his experience on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Change Maker Awards.

MGFA was declared winner on Water Change Maker Award with their project dubbed as "Restoring Forgotten Watersheds". Dumaliang also laid down some challenges on their advocacy, their partners and best practices on environmental conservation which, they hope, will be emulated by others.