

National Clean Up Month and International Coastal Clean Up Day celebration goes virtual

To commemorate the National Clean Up Month and International Coastal Clean Up Day, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region IV-A (Calabarzon) conducted a two-day online training on pollution loading estimation and watershed modeling in September.

Spearheaded by Certeza Infosys Corporation – a professional consultancy company which provides high-value products and services across the entire geo-information spectrum and specializes in data acquisition, data processing, imagery analysis and interpretation among others, was held to enhance online training participants on physical and technical surveys, streamflow measurements, watershed modeling and water supply analysis.

The featured resource speakers were all affiliates of Certeza who supervises different projects in connection with pollution loading estimation and watershed modeling.

The main goal of pollution loading assessment is to evaluate the water quality, pollutant loads, and effect of untreated sewage discharges from the major rivers within Cavite province draining to Manila Bay.

The step-by-step process and technicalities of pollution loading estimation was discussed by Dr. Nathaniel Alibuyog, Senior Specialized and River Engineer Specialist.

He also introduced a comprehensive software called ArcGIS (Geographic Information System) and SWAT (Soil and Water Assessment Tool) – an integrated software designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of each participant related to the survey, discharge measurement, watershed modeling and water supply analysis.

A hands-on training was conducted thereafter on the application of ArcGIS.

Spoken Poetry on Ozone Protection held

To be one with the world in altering the effects of climate change, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region IV-A organized a spoken poetry contest in September this year.

The contest, which was opened to all environment-loving amateur spoken word enthusiasts and artists who are residing in the Philippines, is not only the Bureau's take to commemorate the National Ozone Layer Protection month but help public awareness and support to protect the ozone layer through measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it.

Some 30 entries, all original compositions – whether in Filipino or English, were submitted.

The criteria for judging includes Message/Content (20%), Relevance to the theme (20%), Delivery and Performance (20%), Creativity/Originality (20%), Clarity and Diction (10%) and Overall Impact (10%).

A total of 5 entries emerged as winners.

Getting the 3rd price was Mathew San Agustin ("Ngayon and Oras", 3rd place), while Airon Sire Andan ("Tahanan) and Dannie Oscar-Cruz ("Laban: Kalusugan, Kinabukasan) were tied on second place.

Landing on first includes Blue Aldred Fatala's "Liwanag sa Dilim" entry, as well as Kenneth Llabres' "Samalamig."

Three others were chosen and received a certificate of recognition and cash prize.

EMB Calabarzon commemorates World Environmental Health Day via Webinar

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region IV joins the world in celebrating the World Environmental Health Day with a Webinar to promote awareness on pressing environmental health issues, to forge cooperation between countries on areas of environment and stimulate action among stakeholders last September.

The "World Environment Health Day" observance on September 26, which was first established by the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) which day was adopted by the Philippines, as signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, aims to underscore the influence of environmental risks and issues on the health of people.

This year's theme: "Kaligtasan at Kalusugan sa Kapaligiran, Bida sa Pagbangon ng Lipunan" emphasized the importance of maintaining good environmental health and proper safety and sanitation towards the nation's recovery from Covid-19.

Online forum speakers include Dra Anna Lisa Ong-Lim, a Medical Doctor and Section Chief of Infectious and Tropical Disease Section of the Department of Health (DOH) who updated the participants of the country's pandemic situation and proposed measures when one contracted the virus.

EMB Calabarzon OIC Chief of Chemical and Hazardous Waste, Permitting Section Marie Junn Cuasing, on the other hand, talked about the proper handling of household infectious waste which includes used face masks, syringes and test kits.

The last to talk was Engr. Bonifacio Magtibay, Technical Officer of Environmental and Occupation Health of World Health Organization (WHO).

Magtibay discussed the Philippine Environment and Government Responses to the Environmental Issues and other methods of coping up during this pandemic.

A total of 100 participants joined the event.

EMB 4A conducts webinar on Environmental Laws to DENR offices

As part of its wide range of knowledge dissemination activities through capacity building, training and education on environmental protection, the Environment Management Bureau (EMB) in Region IV-A (Calabarzon) conducted a refresher online seminar on environmental laws aimed for increased knowledge on EMB mandates.

The EMB 4A, through its Ecological Solid Waste Management and Environmental Education and Information Section (EEIS) organized the summit to provide an opportunity for DENR employees and local government units (LGUs) to clarify and better understand some provisions of the law.

Themed "Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Paghilom: Ikaw, Ako, Tayo and Kalikasan, the webinar (entitled "Environmental Laws 101: A Refresher Webinar), this webinar is the final leg of this year's Virtual Environmental Summit.

Among the topics discussed, with the roll of speakers, include: RA 8749 (Philippine Clean Air Act) – Engr. Adonis Tamaro, EMB4A OIC of the Air Permitting Section; RA 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004) – Engr. Wilfredo Billones, EMB4A Manila Bay Focal Person; RA 6969 (Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990) – Engr. Marissa DC Malabana, EMB4A OIC of the Chemical and Hazardous Waste Monitoring Section; and RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000) - For. Corazon C. Gasapos, the RESWMC.

The entries for the Spoken Word Poetry contest to commemorate the National Ozone Protection Month were also showcased during the event.

During the webinar, selected LGUs shared their best environmental practices which others may learn from and modify, such as compliant to their community requirements like segregation at source, discipline and good governance, as well as a strong commitment to making the most out of their generated biodegradable wastes, among others.

Some 133 participants, coming from EMB employees, PENROs, CENROs, MENROs and the private sectors, attended this online event.