

## **Cleaning the Air for a Safer Climate: What Would it Take? Philippine Environment Month Celebration 2009**

13 June 2009, Saturday, Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center,  
North Avenue or Quezon Avenue Entrance, Quezon City

### Cleaning the Air for a Safer Climate: What Would It Take

Cleaner air, safer climate. With the growing concern and appreciation of the Filipino people towards our environment, soon enough, and without a doubt, we will all be living in a safer, cleaner, better Philippines.

Studies of Metro Manila's air quality revealed that a major bulk of its pollution load comes from motor vehicles. Compared with the industrial and area sources, the two pollution resulting from vehicle emissions increase more rapidly and its effects are more prevalent and adverse to public health, particularly among the young and the elderly. The evident bad news is that the quality of air we breathe today has deteriorated.

The good news is that the government, in partnership with the other sectors of society: the academe, non-government organizations, media, religious groups, business sector, private organizations, is doing something about it – and the better news is that you can also be of help.

With the recent passage of the Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 008 (Republic Act 9512), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), targets college students as we highlight this year's Environment Month celebration with the theme **“Cleaning the Air for a Safer Climate: What Would it Take?”**, based on the World Environment Day theme, *“Your Planet Needs You – UNite to Combat Climate Change”* set by the United Nations Environment Program.

Here are simple acts we can do for cleaner air and a safer climate:

#### **Go Smoke-Free**

- Use clean fuels for cleaner air and healthier environment.
  - Clean fuels such as biofuels, ethanol and compressed natural gas emit fewer pollutants.
- Maintain your vehicle's engine to clean the air by:
  - Checking cleanliness of your car's air cleaner
  - Changing oil periodically
  - Checking steering wheel free play

- Following recommended tire pressure
- Keeping wheels properly aligned
- Making sure that battery, alternator, voltage regulator and fan are in good working condition
- Making sure that brakes do not drag or bind
- Checking fuel line connections
- Not overloading your vehicle
- Have airconditioning units of your vehicles tested to check if refrigerant is ozone-friendly.

### **Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle**

- A healthy lifestyle means saying no to smoking.
- Smoking damages nearly every organ in the human body, and is linked to at least 10 different cancers.
- Quitting smoking is one of the best things you can do for yourself and your loved ones.
- Yes to good health! Go organic.
- Prepare your food the environment-friendly way.

### **Conserve Energy, Clean the Air**

- Increased consumption of electricity means more burning of fossil fuels by power plants that contributes to global warming
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Use energy-efficient lighting, equipment and appliances

### **Ways to Beat Climate Change: Waste Not!**

- Avoid burning of garbage. Practice waste segregation, reuse and recycling.
- Choose recycled products.
- Choose products with recyclable packaging.
- Reuse paper bags.
- Recycle paper, plastics and materials
- Print and photocopy on both sides of the paper.

### **And a Lot More!**

- When traveling alone and not in a hurry, take the mass railway transit or any form of mass transport instead of your car or a taxi.
- Walk or ride a bike when traveling short distances.
- Plant trees and ornamental plants in your surroundings. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen.
- Share rides with your neighbors, officemates, and friends.

- Plan your trips.
- Have your vehicle's emission tested prior to registration.

This year, the DENR, thru the EMB, wishes to reach the minds of the creative and visionary youth, as they realize their dreams of a perfect environment for the Philippines through vivid colors reflected through their paintings – and in essence, building a canvas out of the real world.

The event is scheduled to be held on June 13, 2009, Saturday, beginning 9 a.m., at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Amphitheater in Quezon City, in celebration of the Philippine Environment Month.