

News Release

DENR, clean air advocates hold LGU environment conference

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in partnership with various clean air advocates is holding a two-day conference to empower local government units to clean the air and address climate change.

The conference, according to DENR Secretary Lito Atienza, is in celebration of the 10th year implementation of Republic Act 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999.

“Seen as one of the most important clean air events of the year, this conference provides an excellent opportunity for our partners in the local government, business, civil society and the international development community, to revisit the implementation of the Clean Air Act. By helping us reassess its implementation, together we can learn from past oversights and create a practical and doable roadmap for us to realize our goals of a cleaner and safer environment,” he said.

Dubbed the “National Conference on Empowering LGUs to Clean the Air and Address Climate Change Through Partnerships,” the conference will feature experiences of local governments in implementing clean air programs and initiatives. This will be held on June 23 to 24, 2009 at the Skyline Riverbend Hotel, Marikina City. Some 300 LGU representatives and other participants are expected to attend the said conference.

Among those who will present their clean air practices are Mayor Benhur Abalos of Mandaluyong City, Mayor Tomas Osmeña of Cebu City and Mr. Danny Vilas, president of the Association of Metro Manila Environment Officers. Other highlights include launching of the Ligtas Hangin Campaign, Best Practices Award and the signing of the Clean Air 10 Declaration by the participants.

The Philippine Clean Air Act was signed into law on June 23, 1999 by Former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada. The law provides for a comprehensive air pollution program which combats pollution from industries, motor vehicles and other sources.

The clean air conference is organized by the DENR, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Education, Department of Interior and Local Government, Partnership for Clean Air, the United States Agency for International Development – Energy and Clean Air Project, and other partners of the Ligtas Hangin Campaign.