



DENR-EMB TO HOLD FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE LAGUNA LAKE MANAGEMENT

To account for and assess the ecological capacity of the largest inland body of water in the country—the Laguna Lake Basin, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), in cooperation with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is holding the “*Lake Ecosystems Assessment in the Philippines: A Science and Policy Forum for a Sustainable Laguna Lake Management*” on November 22-23, 2016 in Tagaytay City.

The forum aims to promote the “ecosystem-based adaptation” strategy as a “key tool both for slowing climate-change and adapting to its consequences, at the same time supporting sustainable development”, according to EMB Director Gilbert Gonzales.

The Laguna Lake region is considered a highly critical ecosystem that encompasses not only Metro Manila but also houses the most vulnerable provinces and municipalities to climate change and resource degradation. Over-extraction and over-consumption of the natural resources within the region have made it vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate change-related calamities.

The forum also targets to provide key stakeholders, especially local governments, an understanding of the value of the lake vis-à-vis resource consumption, livelihood security, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will allow them to use the ecosystem-

based approach in shaping their policies that will have profound implications to the overall health of the lake basin and the communities who directly rely on it.

“Ecosystem-based adaptation” ensures the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity. This involves a paradigm shift in the country’s deeper appreciation and wise utilization of its resource-rich ecosystems, Gonzales added.

The event is part of the Climate Change Consciousness Week (November 19-25) that is being celebrated annually pursuant to Proclamation No. 1667, dated November 18, 2008. The Proclamation aims to create awareness on global warming and climate change by pursuing broad and intensive public information and educational campaign to secure the collective cooperation of private and public sectors at all levels in finding solutions to this concern. ###