



### **EMB-DENR Names and Recognizes Most Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Schools of 2015**

As part of the celebration of the National Environmental Awareness Month this November 2015, the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR), will recognize the national winners of the 2015 National Search for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Schools in awarding ceremonies set at the Fisher Mall Activity Center in Quezon City.

The competition, which started in 2009 and currently in its fourth leg as an every two-year activity is organized by the Environmental Management Bureau, together with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and private sector partners.

Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, DENR Assistant Secretary and Concurrent EMB Director, described as overwhelming the call for entry for the fourth leg of the nationwide competition, which aims to recognize educational institutions with the best eco-friendly and sustainable programs and practices.

“We were amazed by their creativity and their commitment in implementing eco-friendly practices,” Cuna said.

He added, “We need to start teaching our kids as early as we can to take responsibility in safeguarding our environment. Schools are dynamic focal points of learning and powerful vehicles of change. Parents and teachers can work together to spread the wonders of living an environmentally-smart lifestyle.”

For the first time, Land Bank of the Philippines joins the activity for the Green Leadership Awards. Smart Communications joins the activity for the fourth consecutive year, as part of their Kabalikat program. Other partners include One Meralco Foundation Inc., and Nestle Philippines.

For the elementary school category, the national winners are: Divisoria Elementary School in Santiago City, Isabela (first place), Ara-Ajl Elementary School in La Carlota City, Negros Occidental, (second place), and Bonuan Boquig Elementary School in Dagupan, Pangasinan (third place)

For the high school category, the national winners are: Bintawan National High School in Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya (first place), Baguio City National High School in Baguio City (second place), and Sumoroy Agro-Industrial School in Palapag, Northern Samar (third place).

For the college category, Foundation University in Dumaguete City Negros Oriental won first place, St Paul University in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental and University of La Salette in Santiago City, Isabela both won second place, while the Central Bicol State University in Pili, Camarines Sur, won third place.

First prize winners get P50,000.00 and will automatically receive P25,000.00 for the Landbank Green Leadership Award, P40,000.00 for second prize winners, and P30,000.00 for third prize winners.

The Nestlé Water Leadership Awards will also be given to schools for their water conservation initiatives. A P20,000.00 prize will be given to the national winners in the elementary, high school, and college levels, while P10,000.00 and a certificate of recognition to all regional winners.

The national winners for the Nestlé Water Leadership Awards are the following: Bonuan Boquig Elementary School in Dagupan Pangasinan (elementary category), Divisoria High School in Santiago City, Isabela (high school category) and University of the Cordilleras in Baguio City (college category).

This year, the Meralco Energy Leadership Awards of One Meralco Foundation will once again recognize schools that promote practices and initiatives in electrical safety, energy efficiency and conservation. P20,000 will be given to the national winners, while P10,000 will be given to the regional winners.

The national winners for this award are the following: Bonuan Boquig Elementary School, Dagupan, Pangasinan (elementary category), Tiwi Agro-Industrial School in Tiwi, Albay (high school category) and Universidad de Zamboanga in Tetuan, Zamboanga (college category).

The search is part of the Philippine initiative in support to the ASEAN Environmental Education Plan 2014-2018, and ASEAN Environment Year 2015, with the theme, “Empowering the Youth for a Green ASEAN Community”.

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