



### **PATLEPAM celebrates its 20 Years with the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Environmental Educators' Conference**

The Philippine Association of Tertiary Level Educational Institutions in Environmental Protection and Management together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), recently held its Second International Environmental Educators Conference last November 25-26, 2015 at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City, Philippines. The conference was assisted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the University of the Philippines in Diliman and Universidad De Manila.

With the theme Higher Education Institutions: Building Pathways towards a Sustainable Future, the event was attended by different presidents, chancellors, and educators from different universities and colleges nationwide, together with guest delegates from Brunei Darussalam, India, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The guest speakers for the conference for the first day were Ms. Ella Deocadiz, Chief of the Research and Development Division of the EMB-DENR, speaking for OIC-Office of the Director Eva Ocfemia, Commissioner Ruperto Sangalang of the Commission on Higher Education, DENR Assistant Secretary for Planning Michelle Go, and the Dr. Ampai Harakunarak, Head of the Environment Division from the ASEAN Secretariat.

Plenary speakers for the first day were Dr. Corazon PB Claudio, Co-Chair Management Association of the Philippines –Committee on Climate Change, Disaster Prevention and Sustainability, Dr. Jose Bacusmo, Former President of Visayas State

University, Mr. Ritchie Van Angeles, Disaster and Risk Management Officer of Pasig City, Ms. Vera Lee Mendoza from St. Louis University, Engr. Jesus Reyes, Vice President of Corporate Affairs from Nestle, and Engr. Pura Pedrosa from the SEED Institute.

The guest speakers for the second day were Mr. Mahesh Pradhan for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ms. Amelia Dulce Supetran for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Dr. Jurgen Bischoff from SWITCH Asia Philippines. Dr. Ruth Guzman, PATLEPAM's Chair of the Board of Directors, welcomed everyone to the event on both days.

The conference highlighted the importance of the UNEP Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES) objectives and initiatives through a call for papers that focused on its themes such as Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Education, Health and Governance, Ecosystem Services and Resource Efficiency, and Waste and Chemical Management. These were the points of the participants, with oral and poster presentations divided into different sessions for the two succeeding days. A workshop on GUPES for the participants was also held after the sessions to build up the GUPES initiatives for the regional universities and colleges.

An awards ceremony in appreciation of the key movers of PATLEPAM throughout its 20 years was also held during the second day of the event.

A field visit to the Villar SIPAG (Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance) in Las Piñas City was arranged for the participants to close the conference.

The event is a yearly assembly organized by PATLEPAM, with the EMB-DENR through its Environmental Education and Information Division. ###