

LGU ECO-CHAMPIONS RECOGNIZED IN 1ST PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT



Fourteen local government units (LGU) nationwide were recognized as LGU Eco-champions by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) thru the Environmental Management Bureau, and the Green Convergence, a coalition of networks, organizations, and individuals who are advocates of safe food, healthy environment, equitable economy, and sustainable development, at the closure of the recently organized the First Philippine Environmental Summit, with the theme, "Breakthroughs and Innovations Toward Sustainable Development".

Assessing various contributions and excellence of LGUs in adopting and practicing environmental sustainability, the LGU Eco Champions' Project, looked at LGUs' compliance to 13 environment and natural resources' concerns namely: Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Climate Change Act, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, Environmental Impact Assessment Law, Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act, Local Government Code, Environmental Governance, Moratorium on Timber Cutting, National Greening Program, Tree Planting Program, Organic Agriculture and other programs.

For the National Capital Region, the awardees were as follows: Makati, Parañaque, Pasig, Quezon City, and Valenzuela.

Part of Makati City's Development Plan for the 21st Century (Makati21), is the implementation of various environmental initiatives by the local government, in order to address the need for shelter, job creation, and improvement of the city's well-being. Meanwhile, Parañaque City's vision of providing a sustainable and eco-friendly

community, is being done through the help of community members, with the City Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENRO).

The cities of Pasig, Quezon City, and Valenzuela likewise give paramount importance to nature and the environment, in making their communities not only liveable, but also progressive, through effective legislation

For Luzon outside Metro Manila, the awardees were:

Ligao City in Albay for its Coastal Resource Management (CRM) Program, and the establishment of a Task Force for Illegal Fishing, Fishery and Aquatic Resources Protection;

San Fernando in La Union, for implementing and enforcing various environmental laws, and being ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System) and 9001 (Quality Management System) certified;

Albay Province, for its Green Economy Program, which focuses on greening programs and climate change research;

Lucban in Quezon Province, for promoting ecotourism and implementing Ecological Solid Waste Management Programs; and,

Municipality of San Mateo in Isabela, for promoting the use of Material Recovery Facilities in schools and barangays, as well as the presence of a Municipal Eco-Park.

For Visayas, the awardees were: San Carlos City (Negros Occidental), for the promotion of solar power, renewable energy and watershed management; and Negros Occidental Province, for implementation of various environmental laws through the help of the local government.

Meanwhile, the Municipality of Bacolod in Lanao del Norte, was the awardee for Mindanao, for its greening program, coral reef ecosystem management, and preservation of natural resources.

Aside from their compliance to Philippine environmental laws, the said awardees were also recognized for their efforts and contributions in environmental policy making, solid waste management, biodiversity management, renewable energy solutions, and promotion of eco-tourism, among others. ###