

SILWAY RIVER AND SARANGGANI BAY WQMA GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS CONDUCTED EDUCATIONAL TOUR AT ILOILO CITY



Members of the Governing Board of the Silway River and Saranggani Bay Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAs), as well as their Technical Secretariat conducted an educational tour in Iloilo City last April 28 to May 1, 2016. The said educational tour was part of the governing boards' capacity building, through experimental learning, discovering challenges and solutions, as well as developing best practices and innovations.

The Saranggani Bay opens up to the Celebes Sea on the Pacific Ocean, and is located on the southern tip of Mindanao. In fact, the province of Saranggani, which was created in 1992, was named after the bay. It was officially designated as a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in 2009, as per DENR Administrative Order 2009-12.

On the other hand, the 20-kilometer Silway River includes a watershed that runs across 9,000 hectares of prime and productive agricultural lands, and is also a source of water supply for surrounding communities. In 2010, the Silway River was designated as a WQMA by the DENR Administrative Order 2010-10.

Each WQMA is composed of a governing board, headed by a Regional Director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), while its members are composed of provincial and local chief executives, as well as representatives of national government agencies, duly registered non-government organizations, business and water utility sectors.

A WQMA is designated by the DENR, in coordination with the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) using appropriate physiographic units, such as watersheds, river basins, or water resources regions with similar conditions, and have common interest or development programs, as per Republic Act 9275, or the Clean Water Act.

Other WQMAs located in Mindanao are the Tumaga River in Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro River Basin and other Adjacent Rivers in Cagayan de Oro, Davao River in Davao City, and the Taguibo River in Butuan City.###

