

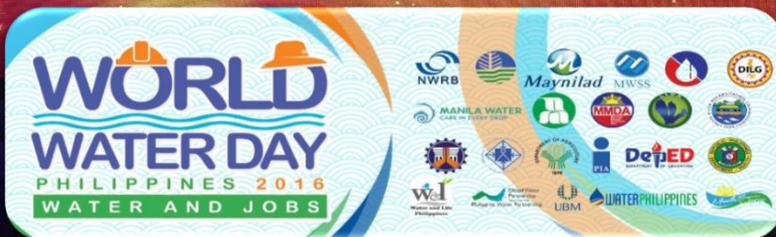


First Prize Video Contest: UP Diliman College of Fine Arts



EMB Water Champion: Bonoan Boquig Elementary School, Dagupan, Pangasinan handed to its Principal by EMB Assistant Director Eva C. Ocfemia

World Water Day AWARDS 2016



Second Prize Video Contest: AMA Computer College, Paranaque



Third Prize Video Contest: AMA Computer College, Paranaque

DENR, OTHER PARTNERS CELEBRATE WORLD WATER DAY

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), various offices, establishments and other partners join countries around the world in celebrating World Water Day on March 22, with the theme “Water and Jobs.”

This annual event focuses on the importance of freshwater and advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources through environmental activities staged by the DENR, its offices and other partners, to draw public attention on the critical water issues that are becoming national issues.

“Celebrations like this remind us to strengthen our efforts and initiatives in the protection and preservation of water bodies through integrated actions among agencies and organizations. This also gives us the opportunity to assess the progress and share best practices in the rehabilitation efforts of our water resources”, DENR Assistant Secretary and Concurrent Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Director Juan Miguel T. Cuna said.

With these agenda, the EMB-DENR, through its National Capital Region office, spearheaded various activities for to celebrate World Water Day such as Waterways/“Estero” Clean-up Drives in Metro Manila, Information Lecture Series on Effective Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management, and Lakbayan sa La Mesa Dam and Olandes Sewage Treatment Plant in Marikina City.

Meanwhile, the EMB Central Office also initiated the “Water and Jobs 60-Second Video Contest” to raise awareness on the importance of water to human life with focus on the connection between water and the decent work agenda in moving towards sustainable development.

The video contest which was open to college students in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon, had for the top prize, a Fine Arts student from the University of the Philippines whose entry centered on water conservation through aquaponic gardening.

Aquaponic gardening is a process of raising fish and growing vegetables together in one integrated system. The fish waste provides organic food for the growing plants and the plants naturally filter the water in which the fish live. Aquaponic gardening uses 90% less water than soil-based gardening because the water is re-circulated and only water which the plants take up or evaporates is replaced.

The second and third prize winning videos dealt with the cleaning of estuaries and declogging of drainages, respectively. These efforts embody the harmonized and consistent initiative of the EMB-DENR in improving the quality of water bodies in the country and to institutionalize good sanitation and solid waste management practices among estero communities.

The World Water Day also celebrated ‘Water Champions’ who are staunch supporters of the agency’s advocacies of on water management for sustained economic growth and development through continued protection and preservation of the country’s water bodies.

For the EMB, the World Water Day ‘Water Champion’ was accorded to the Bonoan Boquig Elementary School in Dagupan, Pangasinan for the school’s exemplary performance in water conservation through the establishment of rainwater harvesting facilities, vertical tower gardens, as well as planting drought-resistant plants.

The school also integrated environment-related programs in their instruction, research and administration and in recognizing environmental initiatives.

These environmental drives also made the school a ‘Champion’ in the elementary school category of the 2015 National Search for Sustainable and Eco-friendly Schools nationwide. ###