



DENR JOINS THE 5TH PHILIPPINE ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUMMIT

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the DENR joined the Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP), and other partners in co-organizing the 2016 Electric Vehicle (EV) Summit. The two-day summit, with theme “Investing in the EV Industry towards a Sustainable Transport and Closer Regional Economic Integration” held on April 14-15, 2016 at the Multi-purpose Hall, Meralco Fitness Center, Pasig City, was attended by EV Summit exhibitors composed of local and international entities together with about 500 different automotive professionals, government officers, business and non-government organizations’ representatives.

The mainstreaming of EVs in the country’s road network is the major strategy advocated in the summit. This effort intends to reduce dramatically, if not to totally eliminate, pollution coming from motor vehicles. The latest EV technology presented is the Tesla S Vehicle, powered by Lithium-ion batteries, which can run about 300 kilometers for every two-hour electrical charge.

According to Mr. Rommel T. Juan, President of EVAP, the EV industry when taken to the next level, by incorporating positive developments in the areas of EV production, sales, technology, projects, infrastructure development, battery charging and swapping arrangements, mass transport operations and financing, can make the Philippines as the EV hub in the region.

Mr. Juan pointed out that in the last 12 months, E-trike manufactures jacked up production outputs due to demands that needed to be met. Apparently, EV projects bloomed, like those in Ateneo and UP campuses, and in the local government units (LGUs) of Bacoor, Cavite, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Mandaluyong, Manila, Quezon City, Las Piñas and Boracay. Presently, about 100 E-trikes are now plying the roads of Mandaluyong City.

Mr. Rene D. Pineda, president of the Partnership for Clean Air, Inc., pledged to support EVAP efforts since this organization intends to help reduce the environmental impact of road transport in the Philippines.

Atty. Jonas R. Leones, DENR Undersecretary for Environment and International Environmental Affairs, and OIC-EMB, in concurrent capacity, welcomed EVAP's support as the DENR strengthens its endeavors, plans and programs to address air pollution in the country. In the message of DENR Secretary Ramon J.P Paje, which Atty. Leones delivered, the attendees were informed that the DENR in June 2015 implemented the Euro 4 fuel standards for new motor vehicles, to lessen sulfur emissions. To safeguard air quality, not just in Metro Manila, the DENR also maintains and calibrates 74 Air Quality Monitoring Stations. As of November 2015, the DENR had also monitored the emissions of 8,635 firms, or 96% of the target of 9,029 for 2015. In addition, the public attendees were informed of the effort to mitigate climate change, such as the implementation of the National Greening Program which planted close to 1.5 million hectares of denuded lands with trees that will absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide while producing fresh oxygen.

In the press briefing, EMB Assistant Director Eva S. Ocfemia mentioned that in addition to the ongoing roadside apprehension of smoke belching vehicles, the Metro Manila Development Authority No Contact apprehension scheme will include violations of the anti-smoke belching policy in order to maximize the government efforts in addressing pollution from motor vehicles.

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