



## **National convention concluded on environmental stewardship through Multi-partite Monitoring Teams**

Industries and stakeholders from the energy and power sector, mining and other sectors who participated in the recently concluded National Multi-partite Monitoring Teams' (MMT) Convention strengthened its commitment in responsible planning and management of resources through sharing of best management practices in project implementation for environmental sustainability.

The national convention, attended by around 600 members from about 151 industries tackled guidelines for the MMTs continual improvement; strengthening of disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation; harmonization of policies on the establishment of MMTs and presented, among MMTs the best practices in compliance monitoring, validation, and reporting.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Secretary Juan Miguel T. Cuna said, "Over the years, the MMT has been a successful mechanism in eliciting stakeholders' participation in self-regulation to protect the environment and fostering partnerships among industries, local government units, non-government organizations and communities."

Atty. Cuna, who also heads the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) said, "Our role as MMTs should not waver and we should continue to promote environmental responsibilities, including legal and regulatory accountabilities to ensure that a sound and standard environmental quality is maintained in every industry operating in the country."

The MMT national convention, with this year's theme "Revitalizing the Functions, Roles and Responsibilities of MMTs" addressed various issues such as the streamlining of processes in the mining sector as contained in DENR Administrative Order 2015-02, the Harmonization of the Implementation of the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System and the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 in Relation to Mining Projects."

The energy and power sector focused on the establishment of carbon sequestration programs and how the MMTs can actively participate in monitoring the tree planting activities of various project proponents.

Likewise, industries from the other sectors discussed on clustered MMTs for Non-Environmentally-Critical Projects.

Now on its fifth year, the MMT National Convention held on April 12 and 13, 2016 in Manila was staged by the EMB-DENR. ###