

DENR-EMB joins Earth Day 2016 celebration

2016 marks the 26th year of the Earth Day celebration in the Philippines. The Earth Day Network Philippines, Inc. (EDNPI) in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) lined up activities in support of the global celebration of Earth Day on April 22 and also the local observance of April as Philippines' Earth Month.

This year's theme was "Trees for the Earth. Let's get Planting. Step up and Deliver, #GreenEnvironmentGawingForever."

On April 22, the DENR along with its bureaus and attached agencies which includes the Environmental Management Bureau supported the Covenant Signing in line with the United Nations climate change agreement adopted in Paris, France also known as Conference of Parties (COP) 21. The event was participated in by various stakeholders from the academe, government, private sector and the civil society.

DENR Assistant Secretary, Atty. Michelle Angelica D. Go, provided the updates on the commitment made by the Philippines to the COP 21 followed by the Roadmap towards the Nationally Determined Contributions to be presented by Dr. Emmanuel de Guzman of the Climate Change Commission. In support of this, the DENR through the EMB discussed its plans to institutionalize greenhouse gas inventory as in the country.

Simultaneously, the Coalition of Clean Air Advocates Philippines (CCAAP) in coordination with the EMB Air Quality Management Section conducted FREE MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION TESTING activity entitled "STOP AIR POLLUTION BEFORE IT BEGINS... CHECK AND MAINTAIN YOUR CAR NOW" at the EMB Central Office, DENR compound, Visayas Ave., Quezon City.

The event was attended by EMB Assistant Director [Eva Ocfemia](#), Air Quality Management Section Chief [Jean Nilo-Rosete](#), CCAAP representatives Michael Aragon and Jojo Verano and the owners and operators of school buses in National Capital Region, government as well as DENR-owned vehicle-drivers, among others. About 50 diesel-fueled vehicles availed of the free emission test wherein all of the tested vehicles passed the emission standard.

After the covenant signing, Earth Day advocates joined the afternoon celebration dubbed, "Sandiwang (Isang Diwa sa Pagdiriwang ng Kalikasan)" at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife grounds. Various exhibits and musical performances formed part of the celebration along with the annual environmental prayer and chant to save Mother Earth as the main part of the program.

On April 23, the DENR in partnership with the Earth Day Jam Foundation held the Earth Day Jam, the longest-running, free concert for the environment on SM by the Bay at SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

Earth Day Jam President, Lou Bonnevie, with local bands and artists performed starting 6pm while incorporating messages of support for the protection of the environment.

On April 26-28, the DENR in partnership with EDNPI and Department of Education – Region 1 conducted an Earth Day Youth camp in Ilocos, Norte. The camp aimed to enjoin students' active participation and elicit local action and practices in environmental protection.

To cap-off the Earth Month celebration, EDNPI will hold the "ProEarthRun" now on its third year. Pro Earth Run is an advocacy run to encourage people to Protect, Respect, and Oversee the sensible and sustainable care of Mother Earth, the proceeds of this event go to the continuing environmental programs of EDNPI.

Earth Day Network Philippines, Incorporated is the local counterpart of the global Earth Day Network International. It is a network organization composed of government agencies, non-government organizations, private corporations, academic institutions, religious groups, and environmental advocates

that campaigns for environmental citizenship and spearheads the annual April 22nd Earth Day Celebration in the Philippines.

President Corazon C. Aquino also issued on April 16, 1990 Proclamation No. 553 making Earth Day officially celebrated in the Philippines every April 22.

Proclamation 1482 issued on April 10, 2008 also declared the month of April as the Philippines' Earth Month with the DENR as the main convenor.###