DENR-EMB is now ISO-14001:2015 certified

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR– EMB) recently acquired its ISO 14001 version 2015 Environmental Management System (EMS) certification as part of efforts of its leadership to enhance its continuous compliance with existing environmental laws and demonstrate good environmental stewardship.

According to Engr. Metodio U. Turbella, EMB Director, the certification to the new ISO 14001 version shows EMB’s commitment to integrate environmental management practices in its operations aimed at reducing pollution and improving productivity through more efficient use of resources.

“As a regulator, we need to continuously check on our level of environmental performance and ensure that we walk the talk. Transferring to the new version was not an easy task, but it showed how committed we are in enhancing our systems and improving EMB’s overall efficiency,” Turbella said.

The EMB got its first ISO 14001:2004 certification from TUV SUD Management Service in Germany back in 2004. It applied for re-certification and was awarded by TUV Rheinland in 2014. Since 2017, EMB started preparing for the transition to the ISO 14001:2015 version.

The EMB has also sustained its implementation of programs and operational control procedures on Chemicals Management, Electricity Conservation, Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Management, Fuel Conservation, Paper Conservation, Solid Waste Management, Water Conservation, and Water and Air Pollution Control and Hazardous Waste Management.

ISO 14001 sets out the criteria for an environmental management that allows organization to follow an effective EMS. It is an internationally recognized symbol that ensures an organization complies with applicable environmental laws and regulations.
ISO 14001:2015 is the new version of ISO certification for EMS that proposes an increasingly strategic approach to environmental management. Among the key changes in the revision are requirements for strategic environmental management, leadership, protection of the environment, lifecycle thinking, communication, and documentation.

The final version of ISO 14001:2015 was published in September 2015. Organizations already certified to ISO 14001:2004 have three years from the date of publication to transfer to the new version. This transition period ends in September 2018. ###