

DENR-EMB seeks to obtain ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) led by the Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division (ERLSD) took the first step to prepare EMB laboratories nationwide to be accredited by the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) to ISO/IEC 17025:2017, or the General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

For the first cycle, the ERLSD rolled out a three-day Awareness and Documentation Training through Microsoft Teams last September 30 to October 2, 2020 that was participated in by other EMB laboratory personnel from different regions in the country as well as representatives from selected divisions and offices in the Central Office.

During the training, EMB Director William Cuñado said the accreditation and certification of the management systems based on internationally accepted standards has gained significance among institutions worldwide.

“Obtaining and maintaining these certifications provide a means of assuring the general public that government institutions also maintain management systems geared towards delivering products and services of highest quality,” Cuñado said.

Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 attests that laboratories operate competently and generate valid results, thereby promoting confidence in their work both nationally and around the world.

It also helps facilitate cooperation between laboratories and other bodies by generating wider acceptance of results between countries. Test reports and certificates can be accepted from one country to another without the need for further testing, which, in turn, improves international trade.

“With our laboratory testing activities and services in EMB being vital in the fulfillment of our mandates, there is also a need to provide additional assurance to our clients of the quality of the data and results generated by our laboratories as well as for third-party testing laboratories which we regulate under the DENR Environmental Laboratory Recognition Scheme,” Cuñado said.

A succeeding training on method validation and verification and laboratory quality assurance and quality control will be conducted by November of the current year.###