

PATLEPAM commemorates 25th year with online forum on environment sustainable recovery post pandemic

The Philippine Association of Tertiary Level Educational Institutions in Environmental Protection and Management (PATLEPAM) celebrates its 25th anniversary with an online forum in collaboration with the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and the Climate Change Service (CCS) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

With the theme, “*Sustainable Recovery Strategies in the Environment and Natural Resources Sector for the Better Normal: Challenges for the Academe*,” the webinar aims to present potential recovery strategies to mitigate the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic not only to public health, food systems, economies, but also education.

Over the years, PATLEPAM has played a crucial role in empowering higher education to be more determined and equipped in implementing efforts that will help establish sustainability in school campuses and improve the quality of the environment.

It strives to update institutions on curriculum development and materials in the integration of environmental concerns, information exchange, technology transfer, inventory of regional institutional capabilities, needs in environmental protection and management, and human resources development in the different regions of the Philippines.

According to DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones, “There is no scale that can help us measure the importance of education and the role of the academe against the uncertainty of epidemiology. Institutions of higher education should create and disseminate knowledge and engage more closely with policymakers and communicate their best insights to citizens and the media in a clear and accessible manner to ensure that their research is informing democratic life and governance.”

Atty. Leones added that the innovative teaching approaches of the academe combined with the policy mechanisms instituted by the government may shape policies that will spare lives and hasten economic recovery and sustainable development, especially during pandemics.”

Yearly, the 300-member association of higher educational institutions convenes to tackle initiatives and programs on air pollution and solid waste management, water resources conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and community resiliency, sustainable development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, and other environmental concerns.

This year’s webinar, already a challenge in itself for bringing participants from all regions in a virtual classroom, will discuss crucial topics on environmental impacts brought about by COVID-19, solutions, and environmental sustainable recovery strategies for the Building Back Better program of the government.

The Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR serves as the permanent secretariat to the PATLEPAM. ###