

Young dynamic environmentalists recognized as EMB *'Youth Envi Icons'*

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) recently named three Filipino youth leaders as *'Youth Envi Icons'* for demonstrating leadership and promoting meaningful crusades in environmental management and protection.

The search for *'Youth Envi Icon'* launched this year by the EMB is in commemoration of the International Youth Day every August 12 of each year, as endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 17, 1999.

The winners of the *'Youth Envi Icon'* 2020 were selected from 16 candidates aged 18-25 by a jury of environmental advocates following a nomination from the EMB Regional Offices nationwide.

The first batch of EMB's *'Youth Envi Icons'* is Mr. Adrian Camposagrado of Region 6, the founder of the Estrawngheroes, an environmental group that campaigns for the banning of single-use plastic; Mr. Paul Lester Dellosa of Region 5 who established an advocacy-focused clothing brand CICCADA; and Mr. Ryl Lyron Patayan of Region 13, a youth leader with initiatives focusing on waste management and coastal mangrove planting and clean up.

The contenders of the *'Youth Envi Icons'* were judged based on their leadership and commitment, innovativeness, notable achievements, and their plans and vision.

EMB Assistant Director Vizminda A. Osorio said, "We are at the helm of change and as we grow older we want to pass the baton to individuals who are dynamic, creative, and will always stand by what is right for the environment."

All the 16 youth contenders who participated in the search are united by their common aim: to work for the good of the environment and promote sustainable living.

The search for *'Youth Envi Icon'*, envisioned to be a vehicle for young people to lead the way in pursuing meaningful and immediate solutions to environmental crises that we are facing such as climate change, water, and air pollution, looming improper solid waste management, biodiversity loss, among others will be implemented by EMB from hereon and support the advocacies of these young environmentalists.

Engr. Paul Pangilinan, Commissioner-At-Large of the National Youth Commission, as one of the judges of the search, encouraged the winners to serve as an inspiration to fellow young people in pushing forward the environment and climate agenda.

"Now more than ever, the country needs the youth's creativity and innovativeness in finding solutions and ways to solve emerging challenges," Pangilinan said.

The virtual awarding of the EMB *'Envi Youth Icon'* 2020 held on December 11, 2020, maybe viewed on the EMB Central Office official Facebook page. #

