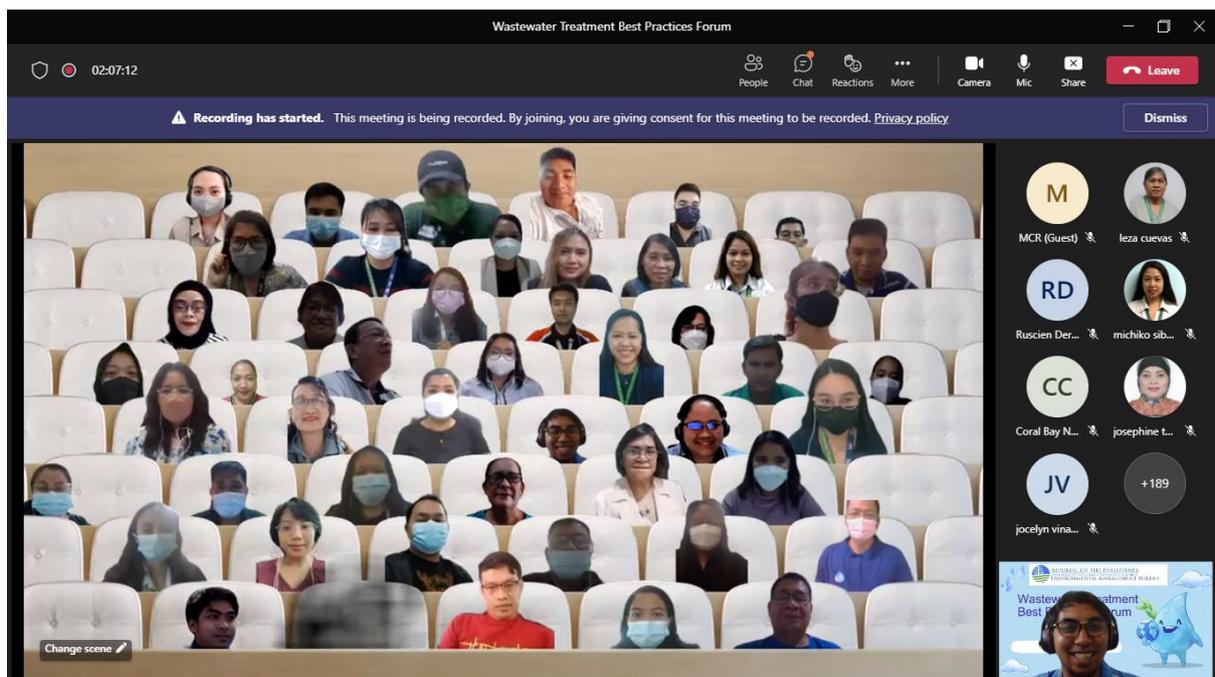


## EMB CONDUCTS WASTEWATER TREATMENT BEST PRACTICES FORUM



In celebration of World Water Day on March 22, 2022 and the Philippine Water Week from 15-22 March 2022, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), through the Water Quality Management Section and Environmental Education and Information Division, conducted the Wastewater Treatment Best Practices Forum on 30 March 2022, via Microsoft Teams.

The Forum was attended by the private sector and industry partners, employees from the EMB Central and Regional Offices, as well as other stakeholders.



In his welcome message, EMB Director Engr. William P. Cuñado highlighted the importance of proper wastewater management in attaining clean and safe water resources, as well as achieving environmental compliance especially among industries. "There are many instances where operating wastewater treatment facilities are not safe for the environment, which can be a threat to various freshwater and marine ecosystems, the quality of soil, and even our everyday drinking water. That is why there is a need for us to discover best practices in wastewater treatment and management," Cuñado said.

The following served as resource speakers in the said Forum: Engr. Carlo Cadagat of V-4 Swine and Poultry Farms, Inc. in Bacolod, Negros Occidental; Engr. Mark Earldaniel Requinta of San Miguel Polo Brewery in Valenzuela City; Engr. Ian David Matias of Mega Fishing Corporation in Dumagasa, Talisayan, Zamboanga City; Engr. Fritzhelle Gernale of the Cebu IT Park Sewage Treatment Plant and Water Pump House in Cebu City; Engr. Briccio T. Abela of Coral Bay Nickel Corporation in Brgy, Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan; and Engr. Mark Lister Madres of the Sarangani Energy Corporation in Barangay Kamanga, Maasim, Sarangani Province.

In their presentations, the said resource speakers shared the best practices of their respective establishments in wastewater management, treatment, and discharge; pollution prevention and control, sewage treatment and coastal resource assessment, as well as other environmental best practices.

According to data gathered by the EMB from 25 September 2017 to 31 January 2022, domestic sewage accounts for 47.09% of the total classification of wastewater treatment facilities nationwide, followed by commercial at 27.35% and industrial at 22.01%, and centralized treatment facilities having the smallest percentage at 0.54%.

Pursuant to Republic Act 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004), the DENR thru the EMB shall be responsible for the issuance of Wastewater Discharge Permit, which states and specifies the prescribed wastewater discharges from any facility or project to ensure management of water quality, as well as the monitoring and control of discharges into bodies of water.

Engr. Vizmindia A. Osorio, Assistant Director of the EMB ended the program by saying that there are a lot of possible and practical solutions in treating and reducing, if not eliminating, wastewater, as clean and safe water is not just a privilege, but a right that everyone deserves to enjoy.###