



DENR-EMB launches environmental laboratory

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) launched its environmental laboratory on June 24, 2022.

The strengthened and upgraded laboratory facility is housed in a three-floor building inside the DENR Compound. The layout of the laboratory ensures complete and effective separation of incompatible work areas, and is provided with safety equipment such as fume hoods, emergency showers and eyewash stations, fire extinguishers, chemical spill kits, etc. Also, the facility has an array of analytical instruments and equipment used for various environmental analytical measurements. The laboratory was launched to make it better known to the public that the DENR has a facility that would cater to the needs for environmental laboratory services and research required in the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws.

The first floor of the three-storey laboratory building is where the Organics Laboratory and Bacteriological Laboratory are situated. The Air Laboratory is located on the second floor while the third floor is for the Inorganics Laboratory that is intended for analysis of inorganic parameters in environmental samples. An annex building houses the Toxicity Testing Laboratory.

The laboratory was recently designated as a Core Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Laboratory in the East Asian region under the POPs Monitoring Network in East Asia



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(POPsEA) Project due to its capabilities to conduct analysis of POPs which is vital in the effectiveness evaluation requirement of the Stockholm Convention.

DENR Officer-in-Charge, Undersecretary Joselin Marcus Fragada Jr. commended the efforts made by the bureau for building an environmental laboratory capable of providing high-quality and reliable analytical laboratory services.

“EMB, the first and so far, only government agency to establish the Dioxins and Furans Laboratory in the Philippines that provides support in the government’s pursuit of alternative interventions in environmental issues, such as on solid waste management,” Fragada said.

According to EMB Director, Engr. William P. Cuñado, the laboratory will not just be an area for analysts to perform calculations and review results of analyses for inorganic and bacteriological constituents but also an area for analysis of various persistent and non-persistent organic pollutants in environmental matrices. The functions and services offered by the laboratory depend on each floor. He also stressed that ERLSD personnel have undergone several training activities to intensify their knowledge and stay updated with the latest methodologies to build confidence in the laboratory services that EMB offers to its clients.

“With the DENR-EMB’s laboratory, we can now provide more relevant and clear reporting of data that we can use for policy development and better decision-making. With the shift to online services, the Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division (ERLSD) has likewise strengthened its support in the enforcement of environmental standards and policies,” Cunado said.

During the launching ceremony, The EMB Central Office Laboratory was granted with the Certificate of Authority to Operate (CATO) a Chemical Laboratory by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) - Board of Chemistry (BOC) as a testament of its commitment to comply with the requirements under the Chemistry Profession Act of 2015. The CATO was awarded by the PRC-BOC Chairperson, Dr. Adoracion P. Resurreccion, and members, namely Dr. Soledad S. Castañeda and Ms. Ma. Theresa C. Cayton.

For interested parties and clients, you may visit www.emb.gov.ph.