

EMB CONDUCTS NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP IN BORACAY



In line with Republic Act 9275, or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) conducted the National Water Quality Management Training Workshop at Hue Hotel and Resort, Boracay Island, Aklan, on 17-21 October 2022.

The said training workshop aimed to address the need to equip participants with up-to-date information, new knowledge, and strategies on implementing the Clean Water Act, as well as various programs and projects related to water quality, as one of the EMB's major mandates.

In her welcome message, Engr. Anne Marie A. Delariarte, Chief of the EMB Region 6 Clearance and Permitting Division (on behalf of Regional Director Atty. Ramar Niel V. Pascua) cited the success of the Boracay rehabilitation in relation to prioritizing water quality management.

"We give premium to our waterbodies. That is why we are thankful and appreciative of all your help, especially with what we have done for Boracay. Let us continue crafting solutions and share best practices in the implementation of the Clean Water Act," Engr. Delariarte said.

Likewise, EMB Director Engr. William P. Cuñado, in his message, shared why clean water, and water quality matters. "Clean water is not just life itself, but it is also our health, food, leisure and energy. Through this event, we aim to update and reconcile all the water quality management data from the Regional Offices up to the Central Office, provide updates on the current and proposed policies of the Bureau, as well as address issues," Cuñado said.

Resource speakers from the Environmental Quality Management Division- Water Quality Management Section (EQMD-WQMS) of the EMB Central Office spearheaded the discussions on topics including the Area Water Quality Management Fund, programs such as the Adopt-an-Estero/Waterbody Program, Philippine Environment Partnership Program and Industrial Ecowatch System, Pollution Load Assessment, Attainment and Non-Attainment Areas, Guidelines on Pollution Control Officers' Accreditation, and Requirements for Wastewater Discharge and other Permits through the Online Permitting and Monitoring System (OPMS).

Representatives from the EMB Regional Offices were also given the opportunity to provide updates as well as issues and concerns on the implementation of Clean Water programs, as well as the planned programs and activities of their respective regional offices for CY 2023.

In closing, Engr. Marivic E. Yao, OIC of the WQMS thanked the participants from the Regional Offices and assured them that the Central Office will always provide them with the necessary support and assistance. "We will be practical in addressing all issues and concerns. Let us continue establishing cooperation in the implementation of the Clean Water Act," Engr. Yao said.

Also included in the training workshop was a site visit to the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of Boracay Island Water Company and Boracay Tubi System: two of the water utility and sewerage system service providers in Boracay. ###