

EMB CULMINATES TRIPLE ENVIRONMENTAL CELEBRATIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2022 WITH LUNTIANG PUSO ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR



In celebration of November 2022 as the National Clean Air Month, the National Environmental Awareness Month, and the National Climate Change Consciousness Week (November 19-25), the Environmental Management Bureau, through the Environmental Education and Information Division, conducted the Luntiang Puso Environmental Fair on November 29, 2022, at Park Inn by Radisson North Edsa, Quezon City.

In his welcome message, Engr. Marcelino N. Rivera, Jr., OIC-Chief of the Environmental Quality Management Division (EQMD) (on behalf of Director Engr. William P. Cuñado), said that our love for planet Earth and our country is not complete without having a "green heart" or "Luntiang Puso", through three values: bayanihan (cooperation), pagtitipid (prudence), and malasakit (empathy).

The first half of the program was dedicated to the Envi Lokal Innovation Forum, which featured environmental technologies and innovations from the EMB Game Changer Innovation Award finalists.

The presenters were: Mr. Erwin Saballa of Biotech Farms Inc. with his innovation, "Biotech Fiber Tray Plant-Molded Fiber Technology", Mr. Charlito Cañesares of the University of Mindanao, with his technology, "Improvements of the cyclone separator performance for wood waste combustion by an aggregation chamber", and Mr. Jonathan Co of Sentinel Upcycling Technologies who presented on "Upcycling of Post-Consumer-Sourced, Third Party Validated Single-Use Packaging".

Mr. Saballa, Mr. Cañesares and Mr. Co were also the respective first, second and third place winners of the EMB Game Changer Innovation Awards, which the Bureau spearheaded in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Messages of support were also given by the competition's judges: Engr. Reynaldo L. Esguerra of the DOST's Industrial Technology Development Institute, Engr. Rivera of the EMB-EQMD, and Engr. Bhona Oñate of the EMB-Solid Waste Management Division.

Mr. Val Amiel Vestil of the Association of Young Environmental Journalists (AYEJ) who served as the segment's moderator also shared to the audience his expertise on the use of modern media, including social media platforms in promoting environmental protection and climate action. Meanwhile, Dr. Dexter Galban, Assistant Secretary for Youth Affairs and Special Concerns, discussed the importance of youth collaboration in climate action.

The Luntiang Puso Environmental Fair also recognized and honored the 2022 EMB Youth Envi Icon: Youth Champions in Climate Action. The awardees were: Adem Inovejas for his project, "Plastic Bottle Boat Community Application"; John Daniel Layno for "Plantopia", and Ms. Emilyn Antonette Salan for her project, "Isla Paraiso".

The National Youth Commission (NYC) also acknowledged the competition's Special Awardees: Zia Sagoso ("Adopt a River Project"), John Daniel Layno ("Plantopia"), and Aaron Ocaña ("Hukad Han Binhi). The judges for this year's leg were Mr. Dennis Mendoza (NYC), Mr. Mark Tinao (De La Salle University) and Ms. Liz Silva (DENR Climate Change Service), who also gave their messages of support.

The audience members were also treated to song numbers by Ms. Marianne Santos and Ms. Crystal Kayte Valdez, two of the EMB's Kantalikahan Environmental Singing Ambassadors.

In closing, Assistant Director Engr. Vizminda A. Osorio shared that caring for the environment is always a shared responsibility. "Every unique and best effort should be recognized and serve as an inspiration for everyone to do their part for the environment. Let us continue sharing the spirit of "Luntiang Puso" to our fellow Filipinos," Engr. Osorio said. ###