

EMB CONDUCTS 2023 DENR ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY RECOGNITION SCHEME ASSESSORS' TRAINING



As part of strengthening efforts in implementing DENR Administrative Order 1998-63 (Guidelines for the Designation of DENR-Recognized Environmental Laboratories), the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), through the Environmental Laboratory Services Division (ERLSD) conducted the 2023 DENR Environmental Laboratory Scheme Assessors' Training on April 24-28, 2023.

The training, which was held in Hotel Casiana, Tagaytay City, was co-organized by the EMB CALABARZON Regional Office. Laboratory personnel from the EMB Central and Regional Offices as well as assessors and resource persons from professional associations participated in the training.

In her welcome message, EMB CALABARZON Regional Director Noemi A. Paranada (on behalf of EMB Director and Concurrent Asst. Secretary for Field Operations Engr. Gilbert C. Gonzales), emphasized the importance of the Environmental Laboratory Recognition (ELR) scheme in the implementation of environmental laws and the Bureau's mandates. In addition, she also highlighted the role that ELR assessors play in ensuring that inspection and assessment activities are compliant with DENR standards and basic auditing norms.

Resource speakers from the EMB Central Office facilitated the discussions on auditing techniques and practices, Recognition and Designation requirements, preparation and presentation of assessment observations, and the use of the ELR Online System for preparation of reports and assessment findings. Likewise, the attendees also participated in a Mock Assessment to apply the different concepts and processes in actual laboratory inspection and assessment activities.

DENR Recognized Environmental Laboratories are laboratories that are authorized to generate environmental data in connection with the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

System, environmental monitoring, and research activities in support to the formulation and implementation of policies, criteria, guidelines, rules, and regulations.

In closing, EMB OIC Asst. Director and Concurrent Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Division (EIAMD) Chief Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul said that laboratory analysis is at the core of the Bureau's regulatory functions. "Ensuring that assessments are conducted by highly skilled and competent laboratory assessors is vital in guaranteeing that only qualified laboratories are given the DENR Recognition," Engr. Sajul said.

The participants of the training are expected to take part in a series of upcoming laboratory inspection and assessment activities beginning the month of May 2023, in partnership with the EMB Central Office laboratory assessors.

For the list of DENR Recognized Environmental Laboratories nationwide, visit the EMB ERLSD's website at <http://emb.gov.ph/erlsd-elr>. ###